

Case Study: Alumni

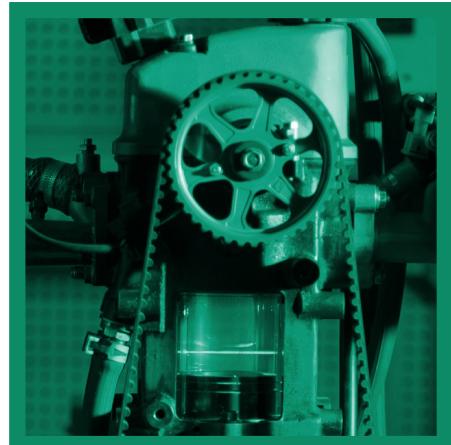
Tom, BSc Physics

Graduation Year: 2006

Job Title: Advisor

Employer: KPMG

Department: Business Effectiveness, Advisory



What has been your career path up until now?

I joined KPMG on their Graduate Advisory Programme in October of 2006; 3 months after completing my course at Imperial. The graduate programme involved a number of organised training courses aimed at introducing new joiners to life at KPMG as well as providing some background methodologies useful in the world of advisory. The Graduate Programme lasted 2 years and every 6 months I rotated to a new department within the advisory practice, experiencing Financial Management, Business Effectiveness, IT Advisory and People and Change. I now have a permanent position within Business Effectiveness. We undertake project based work for clients (other businesses) covering a range of business issues from reorganisation of their supply chain to setting up shared service centres for specific business functions. The work is done on client sites and as such there is a regular need to travel.

“Imperial was and still is a highly respected University and I wanted to have that status on my CV...”

- Tom

What does your job involve?

A project can be summarised as consisting of a current state analysis phase (understand what the client does today), a future state design phase (redesign what they do today to reflect what they want to do tomorrow), a gap analysis phase (understand the difference between the current and future state; identifying how to bridge the gap) and an implementation and monitor phase (make the changes and ensure that they are maintained).

Do you use skills that you obtained during your Imperial course?

The Physics course that I undertook at Imperial provided me with opportunities to develop and enhance the skills I use in my current role. The learning which I gathered through studying Physics has not been directly applicable but the transferable skills around it have been.

Name 3 things you like about your job:

Things I like about the job are responsibility from day one, and the variety of people you get to meet.



Anything you are less keen on?

Things that I am less keen on are continual travel, and lack of day to day contact with a big team due to being on client sites.

Did you choose your course with this particular occupation in mind?

I chose Physics at Imperial because I enjoyed studying Physics at A-level and wanted to learn more. Imperial was and still is a highly respected University and I wanted to have that status on my CV. I also really wanted to experience living in London.

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities?

Through the Physics course and my involvement in both the water polo and hockey teams, I further developed many transferable skills which I use on a regular basis at work. None more so than my ability to communicate complex and sensitive issues to a wide variety of audiences.

Could you give us one or more career tips for Imperial graduates?

You need to think of your CV /application form as an advert and really think about how to sell yourself. You need to consider what it is the company are looking for and ensure that your CV / application form ticks all the boxes. It is always good take on new responsibilities through extracurricular activities that you do. This shows that you can handle yourself in any given situation. Companies like people who show initiative and can think on their feet. What I did find useful was speaking to family and friends who had been through the process before me and using their experiences as a sounding board. I heard of KPMG through a friend on my Physics course who graduated the year before me and joined another of the big four accounting firms.

