

Case Study: Alumni

Matteo, MSc in Transport with Sustainable Development

Graduation Year: 2015

Job Title: Transport Planning Consultant

Employer: Steer Davies Gleave



Could give us some information about yourself and your role?

I attended Imperial College to study for my Masters in Transport after completing my degree in Architectural Engineering at Milan Polytechnic. After my undergraduate degree, I spent a year working in an urban planning consultancy in Milan before starting at Imperial College.

I started my career at Steer Davies Gleave in October 2015, after finishing my Masters. I work in the Transport Planning team, concentrating on highway and urban realm design, development planning and transport assessments. Since I joined I have had the opportunity to work on many exciting projects and I've contributed to some of the largest ongoing development and transport schemes in the London Metropolitan Area.

Steer Davies Gleave is a really stimulating and friendly environment: I have had a broad range of training opportunities and there is a good range of social activities. This has really helped me to settle in and feel part of the team as well as giving me the opportunity to get to know a lot of people across the Company.

The graduate development programme is a really well-structured programme of training activities spread throughout the first 18 months of employment. The programme covers a broad range of areas, from technical and consulting skills to industry and market awareness sessions. It also gives all the UK graduates the opportunity to meet regularly and learn from each other.

My daily work is quite varied and I have the responsibility to organise my time independently. I work with industry experts who are always keen to help me and share their technical expertise and knowledge. This is really important as team work is an essential part of working in a transport consultancy.

The skills I learnt during my Masters at Imperial College have been extremely valuable and I use my technical knowledge and analytical skills in the work I do at Steer Davies Gleave. I have found my academic background has helped me to take on responsibility from the outset in the projects I work on.

Steer Davies Gleave is a great place for career development. There is structured learning and development support, an opportunity to take on responsibility and work with leading experts in their fields.

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- Matteo



Could you tell us about your time at Imperial College London?

I really enjoyed the year I spent at ICL. I had lots of opportunities to enhance my technical knowledge through lectures, group work, seminars and conferences. I was able to get an in-depth insight into the UK transport industry, and this has been invaluable in my career.

I found the Careers Service really useful. They helped me understand the job application process and decide which career path I wanted to follow. I found the drop-in sessions that the Careers Service organises within the Department of Civil Engineering particularly useful: you get specific and tailored guidance and it's much easier to discuss your situation in person.

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

I would recommend students make the most of the time they have at Imperial. In particular, I would advise them to attend as many talks and conferences as possible. This will help them to get an insight on the current industry trends and start networking with professionals.

I would also suggest they regularly attend seminars held by the Careers Service and ask for advice on how to structure CVs and cover letters, how to approach recruitment processes and assessment centres. The guidance I received helped me be successful in several different interviews which gave me the opportunity to choose which job I wanted well before my graduation!