

## Case Study: Alumni

**Daniel, Mechanical Engineering (MSc)**

**Graduation Year: 2008**

**Job Title: Trainee Surveyor**

**Employer: Lloyds Register**

### What has been your career path up until now?

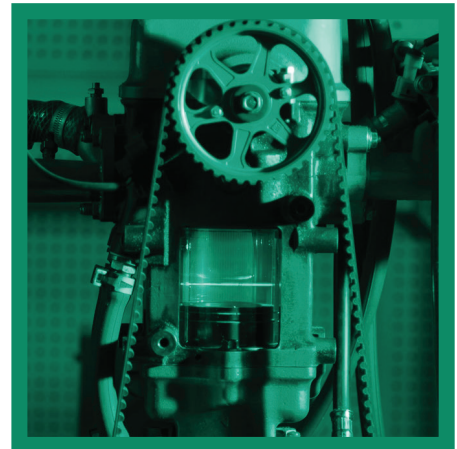
I chose to study Engineering because I wanted to make a difference to the world. Lloyd's Register prides itself on doing something that matters and I found this very appealing. As a member of the graduate training scheme everyone expects you to lead the way for the future and are therefore glad to invest time and resources in you. The scheme is organised to give you as much meaningful experience in the marine industry as possible and be ready to apply for chartered engineer status at the end. I spent the first three months of my training in an outport office working as a surveyor.

### What does your job involve?

In a typical week I will spend three days shadowing surveyors and two days in the office completing paper work and reading the technical rules. Every day is different and the variety is fantastic. Spending time with surveyors also gives you great opportunity to learn and get your hands dirty. I am currently learning the ropes of shipbuilding with a client of LR's. As well as understanding the process I have also been given opportunities to have a go at welding, quality control and electrical wiring. I love the diversity of the work and the pressures of ensuring high levels of safety are maintained. I find the technical papers and rules challenging to understand but there are always surveyors around to help you out and show you how it works in practice. You have to be proactive and questioning to get the most out of the work and good communication skills are a must. It is also essential that you are flexible geographically as you learn the most by seeing different places. You don't have to be an expert in the marine industry before you start, although if you don't like ships you are probably not right for the job!

### What are your future plans?

By the end of the two years training I hope to have a good idea about the area of the business I would like to get more involved with. Previously grads have gone in to a wide spectrum of jobs within the organisation including, management, technical specialists, field surveying and many more. Even the company CEO was a graduate trainee.



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- Daniel



### **What part of your course did you particularly enjoy?**

I found the practical aspects of the course particularly enjoyable especially the 3rd and 4th year projects. Projects give you an opportunity to apply what you have been learning in the lecture theatres and particularly encourage creativity and team work.

### **What skills did you develop within your degree that you find useful in your present role?**

The Mechanical Engineering degree at Imperial is very challenging; it does however prepare you well for life outside of university.

### **Did you use the Careers Service or go to Careers events (e.g. job fairs, employer talks)?**

In my final year I took my CV to the Careers Service to get some help with it. I thought it was pretty good already but they had some helpful things to say. I also found the Engineers Career fair useful for finding out about the range of job opportunities available within the engineering sector.

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

I would advise people to apply early and for lots of jobs - places for the best jobs are very competitive and when the employer has found enough suitable people they will probably close applications regardless of how good prospective students are. I would also suggest that students get as much work experience as possible. I found employers were really interested in what you have done. The UROP scheme is a good place to start if you are in first year. Lloyd's Register also do paid summer schemes. Finally don't let money be the only thing you consider when choosing a job, doing a job you enjoy and find satisfying is much more important in my experience.

