

Case Study: Alumni

David, Physics (MSci)

Graduation Year: 2005

Job Title: Advisor

Employer: KPMG

Department: Business Effectiveness, Advisory



What has been your career path up until now?

After three years in the IT advisory practice, and qualifying as a Chartered Accountant, I transferred to the Business Effectiveness department. For the last eight months I have been working in Libya, leading the design and implementation of a future operating model for a central government agency as part of their national economic development.

What does your job involve?

A typical day usually involves meeting stakeholders to understand their vision for their future and gaining their support to our proposals, analysing information and generating recommendations, reviewing the work of team members and giving guidance, preparing and facilitating presentations and workshops.

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

I don't have cause to use the subject knowledge of my degree, but the approach and mindset it instilled in me is a huge advantage and one which I put into practice every day. The most important areas being a logical and clear approach to problems, generating recommendations and conclusions based on sound analysis, thinking within a framework and being able to model complex problems, and a firm appreciation of cause and effect.

Can you name three things you like about your job?

The three best things about my job are; breadth of work, working with a great team, and being trusted by our clients to make a real difference.

Is there anything you are less keen on?

The three worst things about my job are; travel, last minute changes, and tight deadlines.

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- David



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

When I chose my degree I thought I was going to continue in academia and study for a PhD. It soon became obvious to me that my future didn't lie in academia and I became increasingly interested in business. I really enjoyed the entrepreneurialism course I took in my fourth year, in conjunction with the business school, and this helped me make up my mind to apply for jobs outside academia. Unfortunately, this didn't leave much time and I had already missed the job fairs and employer presentations. Given I knew nothing about business it made sense to apply to a large successful organisation who would support me in studying for a respected business qualification, I applied to KPMG very late and signed my contract a few weeks before I started. I've never regretted it.

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities?

I was never interested in doing an internship; I spent my vacations away mountaineering or on expeditions which I organised with friends in the outdoor society with a large amount of support from Imperial, for which I am very grateful. Employers were particularly interested in committee positions on university societies and the expeditions I had been on.

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

Don't forget that you are choosing an employer, as well as them choosing an employee; ask lots of questions and remember that as an Imperial graduate you really are in a strong position. Remember in large organisation you are unlikely to ever see the person who interviewed you again and they don't necessarily even work in the same area of the business as you will. Before I accepted my offer I asked to spend half a day meeting the actual people I would be working with in my department, KPMG were happy to organise this.