

## Case Study: Alumni

Rich, BSc Biochemistry

Graduation Year: 2005

**Job Title:** Partner Engagement Director

**Employer:** Teach for All / Teach First

**Department:** Partner Engagement



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

After I graduated from Imperial College in 2005 I joined Teach First's 3rd cohort of teachers and taught science at a secondary school in Hounslow, London. I found the 2 year experience extremely challenging but equally rewarding. After two years I wanted to gain some broader professional experience so I went to work as a consultant for a few years with BT Global Services. We managed the networked IT services for large multinational corporates such as Visa and Thompson Reuters. It was great to gain some corporate experience but the biggest lesson that I learned was that just working towards the bottom line wasn't enough for me. I wanted to get back into work that had a significant social impact. Therefore I joined Teach for All which is a global network of national organisations working to expand educational opportunity in their countries through enlisting their nations' most promising future leaders in the effort.

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- Rich

### What does your job involve?

Our partner organisations recruit leaders of all academic disciplines to commit to two years to teach in high-need areas and to work throughout their lives, both within and outside of education, to address the root causes of educational need. The network currently consists of partner organisations in over 20 countries around the world, including the UK, India, China, New Zealand, Mexico, Peru, Estonia and the US. My specific role is to act as the liaison between Teach First here in the UK (a founding partner of the network) and the rest of the Teach for All network. My goal is to help share the knowledge and experience of Teach First with the other organisations. At the same time, I aim to bring the learnings and innovations of our network partners back to the UK to improve our programme here. On a daily basis I interact with Teach First staff here in the UK and Teach for All and partner organisation staff around the world in order to make connections and facilitate the knowledge sharing process. Our work involves a high degree of relationship building, operating & managing and reasoning & strategic thinking skills.

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

I have always been, and still am, fascinated by science and biochemistry in particular and that is why I chose to study the subject at Imperial College.



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

I particularly enjoyed digging into cutting edge research on the inner workings of our cells and conducting my own lab based research towards the end of my studies.

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

Being a science student gave me the opportunity to develop a wide range of analytical and problem solving skills which are particularly helpful in my current role. It was also great to learn how to articulate complex problems and solutions in a clear and concise manner.

### **Were you involved in any extracurricular activities?**

Away from the lecture theatres and labs I was heavily involved in the college rugby club; a couple of highlights including defeating the Imperial Medics in the Gutterage Cup final and touring New Zealand in my final year.

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

I wish I had known, as I do now, that there are so many more options open to Imperial graduates than undergraduates tend to think. So many of my peers chose to head into the City - a fine career choice, don't get me wrong - but there is so much more out there if you're open to different ideas. Teaching in a challenging school in London taught me more about myself than I have ever learned in any other field. It opened my eyes to the huge injustice of educational disadvantage that is so prevalent in our country, but at the same time filled me with a great sense of possibility about what young people from all backgrounds are capable of achieving. That experience has opened up my career opportunities and now I'm fortunate enough to be working with passionate people from around the world towards a global vision that, within my lifetime, all children will receive an excellent education.

