

Case Study: Alumni

Simon, MEng Aeronautical Engineering
Graduation Year: 2007

Job Title: Offshore Engineer

Employer: JP Kenny

Department: Offshore Engineering



What has been your career path up until now?

I stayed one month at Imperial to help write a paper which was based on my thesis. I then located to Moscow to learn Russian and teach English. This was cut short (I was only there for 6 months) as I was offered a job with JP Kenny to work on a Russian project based in London. I have been at JP Kenny since March 2008.

What does your job involve?

My job involves designing different aspects of a subsea gas pipeline. I use a program called MathCAD (similar to MatLAB) everyday. Computer skills are a real must, I have not had to use programming skills yet although they will come in useful later and to be able to understand what is happening in a program is, again, a real must. I also have to go back to basics with some analysis – this involves deriving from first principles bending moments, shear stresses, etc

so an understanding of the concepts and not just remembering the equations is required. I work with many people of all ages, most have at least a masters with a large percentage having a PhD to their name.

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

Everyday – Maths and computer programming, etc.

What are your future plans?

I am currently undertaking a project management course paid for by JP Kenny and so will hope to gain a few years technical experience before moving into a management role.

Name 3 things you like about your job:

The relaxed atmosphere - the company pays for the use of the local university football field on Thursday lunch times. You get an hour for lunch – I leave for 1 hour everyday (no eating at your desk!) Oh and you get paid for overtime!

“My job involves designing different aspects of a subsea gas pipeline.”

- Simon



Name 3 things you are less keen on:

Maybe it is because I am still relatively new but I can't fault anything, everything is better than all the other engineering jobs and coupled with a pay which is more like banking it is better than all the other jobs the graduates I know have.

Did you gain work experience or an internship whilst at ICL?

In my third summer I spent two months teaching English in Moscow before travelling onto the Middle East.

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities?

I was part of the University of London Air Squadron (ULAS) so my spare time was taken up with RAF activities. I was also a member of the Climbing club, Cross Country club and the Sailing club.

Did you use the Careers Service, or go to Careers events such as job fairs, employer talks etc.

I went to a couple in my second year. I used the Careers Service when applying for jobs after handing in my thesis in 2007. It was very VERY useful and I recommend everybody to use this service.

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

1. Become a member of a society at Imperial, any will do – it gives you something to talk about and shows team skills.
2. Use your summers! Don't just sit at home or go to a music festival. I say this because you won't get any more long summers! Also it looks good on your CV. If I didn't go to Moscow during and after my degree then I don't think I would be where I am now.
3. Try to organise things in the department. Companies are falling over themselves to come in and give talks – organise one in the department. This would be a good way to make contacts in the business world and could lead to an internship / job. On the same note, why not organise a 'school visit' to one of those companies?