

## Case Study: Alumni

**Simon, MEng Mechanical Engineering/PhD Mechanical Engineering**

**Graduation Year: 2003/2007**

**Job Title:** Researcher

**Employer:** Winton Capital Management

**Department:** Research

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

I worked for an engineering consultancy between submitting my PhD thesis and waiting for my viva. The work was not what I expected (it was almost entirely routine CAD work), so after roughly four months, I left to join Winton.

### What does your job involve?

At the moment I am analysing futures data, looking for trends which explain certain market behaviours. I work mainly with scientists, most of whom have PhDs or master's degrees in maths or physics. The environment has a very academic feel to it, and there is very little bureaucracy.

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

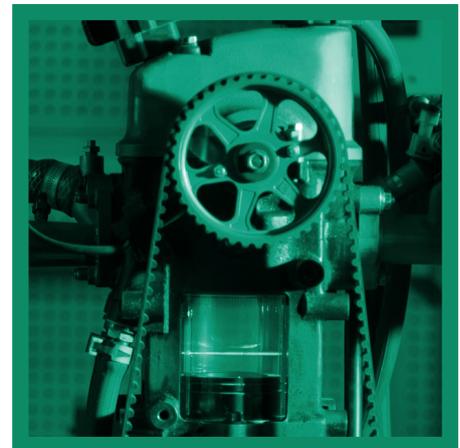
Yes, although obviously not the ones which are only applicable to engineering, e.g. materials. The testing phase of my PhD involved looking at relatively large datasets, which has similarities with what I do now, although what I do now is more exploratory in nature.

### What are your future plans?

My plan is to learn as much as possible.

### Name 3 things you like about your job:

- 1) Working with intelligent, motivated, friendly people who are interested in what you're doing and how you develop.
- 2) Infrastructure is good – things happen quickly if you ask for them.
- 3) Quite a 'flat' hierarchy, so you're immediately exposed to the very highest ranking people in the company, who seem interested in just about everything that people are doing.



**“The environment has a very academic feel to it, and there is very little bureaucracy”**

**- Simon**



### **Anything you are less keen on?**

Sometimes we run out of marmite, but somehow we struggle through.

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

No. I had little knowledge of the world of finance when I started my undergraduate degree, but as I learned more about it, I found that it was quite a scientific field, which has a great appeal to me personally.

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

My favourite part was the optional third year maths course, taught by Professor Elgin. The subject matter was fascinating, and it was very well taught. I also liked the computational continuum mechanics (CCM) and control courses.

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

Analytical skills (e.g. specific mathematical techniques for solving problems), the ability to work in a team, give presentations, and literature research on a given topic.

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

I had engineering related work experience during university, and various summer jobs.

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

I went to quite a few employer talks during my PhD, and visited careers fairs. The postgraduate careers fair is a particularly good idea. I also used the careers website to find companies that I could apply to.

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

I suppose the best advice I can give is to do your research. Look for information from a wide variety of sources – the careers service, company presentations, websites and books can give you information on what sort of careers are available.

