

Case Study: Alumni

Tom, MEng Aeronautical Engineering
Graduation Year: 2006

Job Title: Fluid Systems Technologist

Employer: Rolls Royce

Department: Fluid Systems



What has been your career path up until now?

I joined RR as an engineering graduate trainee on the Professional Excellence Graduate Training Scheme in September 2006. I completed six placements in different areas of Rolls-Royce, one in logistics and five in engineering, including a placement in Fluid Systems where I started my first line role in April 2008. One placement was a 3 month manufacturing attachment in Montreal which was an excellent experience. The graduate scheme was an excellent chance to sample different parts of the business and build up a useful network of contacts. Fluid Systems, where I currently work, look after all of the secondary flows in the engine, from fuel and oil to cabin bleeds and cooling and sealing flows - so the range of work is massively broad. I find the key skills are being able to work effectively in a team, having the technical nous to make sense of the numbers the computer is giving you and to be able to think through problems logically coming up with solutions.

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- Tom

What does your job involve?

A typical day consists of running various fluids models then communicating the results to the relevant people, e.g. Turbines, Compressors, Transmissions through meetings and reports.

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

I have used and built on the skills I gained at Imperial. I use them on a day to day basis and find as I get more specialised they are an excellent starting point on which to build future knowledge.

What are your future plans?

My future plans are to gain Chartership with RR in a technical role then move into more managerial jobs, ideally eventually becoming a Chief Engineer.

Name 3 things you like about your job:

- A variety of interesting and challenging tasks going on at any one time.



- The people at RR are all very helpful with some real experts on hand to answer questions and to learn from.
- A large graduate population to socialise with.

Anything you are less keen on?

- Rolls-Royce is a massive organisation so finding the right person to speak to or data you want can take a while.
- Initially I found all the processes and strict rules required to meet aerospace regulatory requirements to be bewildering.
- Adapting to work in an office environment after university took longer than I expected.

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

I chose Aeronautics at IC because of an interest in aeroplanes and aviation.

What part of your course did you particularly enjoy?

I enjoyed the group projects we did, especially the third year group design project where my team designed a light aerobatic jet aircraft.

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

The technical skills I developed have stood me in good stead at RR but also the team working skills gained from group projects are equally valuable in a large organisation.

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

I completed a summer internship at DSTL in the summer between my third and fourth year.

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities?

I played chess, competed on University Challenge for the college, ran the London marathon and was a student pilot member of the University of London Air Squadron during my time at IC.

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

I went to both the main and engineering careers fairs during my third and fourth years at IC.

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

Find out as much as you can about the company you intend to work for. Internships are an excellent chance to suss out whether a potential company is right for you. All of my interviews for jobs heavily questioned my extracurricular activities and any positions of responsibility I held in whatever activities I undertook. Apply to as many companies as possible so as to maximise your options when offers start arriving.