

## Case Study: Alumni

Tom, MEng Electrical & Electronic Engineering  
Graduation Year: 2000

**Job Title:** Trader

**Employer:** Winton Capital Management

**Department:** Trading

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

I joined LIFFE on a IT graduate scheme after graduating from IC, after which I came to Winton Capital and was trained to become a trader. Currently I am working on redesigning a trading tool for the Traders.

### What does your job involve?

**Trading:** Life on the desk is pretty intensive (and fun!) and some days can go past in a flash. Winton has a 24 hour trading desk where we trade 140+ markets. As well as working trades electronically we liaise with Brokers/Banks to get the best prices available. In addition we are analysing markets for profitable spread trades and keeping tabs on news and figures that are published by governments. On top of this there are times when a discrepancy may arise that has to be dealt with deftly. With all this going on, I would say that the key skills required would be: the ability to prioritise tasks, be aware of market conditions across a number of sectors (how government data affects the market, how markets affect one another, etc), basic IT skills, the ability to communicate clearly and succinctly, and finally... keep a cool head.

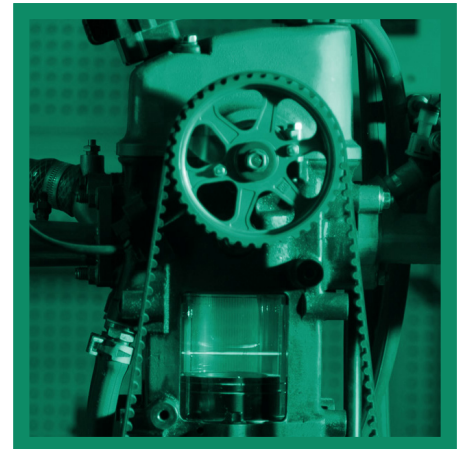
**Trading Technologies:** Recently I've made the transition into a more IT orientated role within Winton after 3+ years of trading. Over time, as we create and support more in-house systems within Winton, I decided to take a more active role in these technologies that were being introduced. This also gave me the opportunity to dust off my programming boots from my IC and LIFFE days and expand upon my technical knowledge.

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

The abilities that I use most predominantly in my current role that I honed at Imperial would be the analytical, technical, and programming skills.

### What are your future plans?

In the immediate future I intend to expand and refine my current skill set of programming languages. On a longer term basis, I would like to utilise this knowledge (as well as my trading experience) to influence the tools and technologies in use at Winton.



“It’s a steep learning curve picking up three programming languages at once...”

- Tom



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

The problem solving aspect, a variety of challenges, and my actions having an immediate impact on the lives of my trading buddies.

**Anything you are less keen on?**

It's a steep learning curve picking up three programming languages at once (and coping nevertheless)! With Winton doing so well and so many new staff joining I wish I had more time to get to know my new colleagues.

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

I did not have this occupation in mind when I chose the course but over time as I narrowed down the field within which I wanted to work I tailored my additional courses to fit the bill.

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

I enjoyed the project work where one was able to put to use the theoretical aspects of the degree.

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

The skills that I use on a daily basis which I developed within my degree have been technical analysis, programming, and interpersonal skills, as well as report writing and presentations skills.

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

Whilst at university I participated in a variety of societies/clubs - one of which involved writing and acting in a comedy in front of over a thousand people. Now that was exciting, especially when your wig falls off halfway through a line of dialogue.

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

Near the end of my degree I was attending presentations by companies on a weekly basis.

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

I found that Imperial College had an excellent Careers Service and offered numerous opportunities to meet potential employers at the regular presentations that were organised. I would recommend that graduates take full advantage of these facilities.