

How did you choose your course and university?

My decision to study at WBS was hugely influenced by the Year 10 work experience that I undertook at Tesco's head office in Welwyn Garden City. During these two weeks I met several successful women across the business, all of which had coincidentally studied Management at Warwick Business School (WBS). Not knowing exactly which career path to take but being confident that I wanted to enter the business world, this seemed like a good first step – so that's when I started researching into the University of Warwick, hoping that one day I could be as successful in my career as these inspirational women.

For me the location of Warwick was also ideal since it was away from home but also be a reasonable distance away so that I could come back easily on a weekend. I also was keen to go to a campus university because it was important to me to have a student vibe and to really experience the university 'bubble'.

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Year of leaving: 2013

Course studied: BSC Management with Year in Industry



What was your favourite part of university?

My favourite part of uni was the freedom to study things that I am truly passionate about and have an interest in. The breadth of different modules that you can select varies with your course and your university, but I found that at Warwick in my second and final years I was given the freedom to choose subjects across so many different areas of business, as well as outside of the department – I took modules in Sustainable Development and German, both of which I really enjoyed studying in school, so it was so fun to be able to pick this up again at university whilst not directly studying those subjects.

What was the transition like between studying at school and university?

The transition between school and university wasn't as hard as I had expected. I think that this is mainly due to the fact I did my A-Levels at Hills Road, which feels like a mini-university campus already – at Hills we were given lots of responsibility and freedom, for example, to use our free periods how we wanted to and study where and how we wished. One of the biggest differences, however, was the amount of interaction you get with lecturers at university in comparison to your teachers at school; class sizes are much bigger and lectures are more infrequent than school lessons so you need to be lot more proactive in reaching out for support from lecturers!

What have you done since leaving university?

Since leaving Warwick I have started working at RB – a global company that makes big consumer healthcare brands such as Dettol, Nurofen and Durex! I'm currently one year into a 2.5 year-long graduate scheme where I have the opportunity to rotate across four areas of sales and marketing. Currently I'm working in sales as a National Account Executive for Boots looking after Nurofen (and other smaller brands such as Bonjela and Steradent). This includes negotiating on securing the best product placement in store, calculating the return on investment for promotions, briefing store displays, forecasting monthly sales, and more – it's amazing to have been given so much responsibility on such renowned brands this early on in my career!

If you have time, we have some additional questions:

Which, if any, societies were you involved with while studying?

Warwick Congress was a student-led conference which I was involved in over my first two years at Warwick and is where I made so many incredible memories. Founded by a close friend of mine who also studied at the Business School, we embarked in organising Warwick's largest student-led conference – the team managed to secure a number of renowned speakers from across business, law and politics, such as the former MP Sir Vince Cable! The whole team went on a trip Madrid shortly afterwards to celebrate the conference's success, which was one of the most memorable weekends of my time at Warwick.

How did you find the workload?

Whilst the workload at wasn't insignificant, I found that it was definitely a lot easier to manage by being more organised! Although the university didn't give me a planner like you get in school, I bought a diary for myself where I noted down my timetable and work etc. I found that this really helped me to stay on top of all of my academic work as well as my part-time job and other commitments like societies and social life.

What is definitely noticeable is that at uni you get a lot more preparation work before a lecture or seminar, so you really have to stay organised and make sure that you've done all of the pre-reading or exercises so that you are not left behind in the session. Unlike school where you're in lessons for pretty much the whole day, at uni you have a lot fewer hours of contact time; instead you are expected to fill this time with work like reading or writing assignments.

How did you financially support yourself while studying? *(One of the biggest concerns of young people is the amount of debt and expense of uni)*

In my first year of uni I applied for a part-time job working in a sandwich shop in the Students Union (SU). Warwick is a campus university and everything was really close so it was really easy to fit my job in and around my lectures and other commitments like societies etc. Working for the SU is a really good way to earn some extra money whilst at university – from my experience they are very flexible around your educational and social commitments, and having your job only a few minutes walk away from your lecture halls and halls of residence is so convenient!

Before starting uni I was particularly concerned about the amount of debt that I would get into from taking out a student loan. Now that I'm working, it really doesn't seem that scary or significant - the government takes a small amount from my salary to repay my student loan before it gets transferred to my bank account so I barely notice that it's gone from my monthly wage!

Any other comments...

As part of my degree I chose to take a placement year between my second and final year of studying. Although applying for jobs in second year whilst also studying was difficult, it was definitely worth it! I worked for a year as a Marketing intern at L'Oréal, which was undoubtedly the best decision I ever made; it was a fantastic way to learn about marketing in real life as well as solidifying that I wanted to work in a large consumer goods company in a marketing-related role. Having prior work experience also really helped me with my applications for graduate jobs – having already gone through application processes for placements, applying for grad jobs wasn't as daunting!

I would definitely recommend trying to secure some work experience, particularly if you're looking at careers in business. Getting real-life work experience can be really useful to help you understand which direction you want to take your career in and what type of company or industry you want to work for. Many universities have careers teams which can really help support you in your internship and job applications – I'd definitely recommend making use of their services and reaching out to them for support as they have lots of knowledge around what employers are looking for!