

Focus on Finance

Ellis Rooney – Finance Graduate

One month into my role at Thames Water I would like to take the chance to look back and share some of the exciting opportunities and difficult challenges I have faced allowing me to arrive at my current position.



Whilst Studying at the University of Plymouth for a bachelor's of science in Mathematics I came across various graduate programmes all claiming to offer a diverse range of skills and potential career paths to budding grads. However one company really stood out from the crowd, Thames Water. From my first point of contact I knew the recruitment process was going to be tough but rewarding and supportive at the same time. From optional response questionnaires to determine your working personality, telephone and even video interviews; the process was comprehensive and relevant. This all lead to the assessment centre day, where as a cohort of around 20 candidates we were put through our paces by not only the recruitment team but also key members of the senior leadership group within our specific business areas. After receiving the fantastic news in late April I was able to focus my attention on my studies and my final exams preparing me for my future career.

I joined Thames Water on the 8th of September with 20 other graduates from all different areas of the business including Customer Service, Operations, Asset Investment and a few others. We were welcomed to the company in the way of a three day induction in which we had talks from the four key business functions, interactive sessions to prepare us further for the office environment. Additionally we had the Chief Executive Officer Martin Baggs join us for an unplugged informal chat to give us his feel on how the company operates and what challenges we will be facing as a company moving forward.

Now a few weeks in I've been lucky enough to take part in some fantastic site visits and development sessions to help build my professional profile. For example we have visited the Olympic park where we got to see the outcome of years of hard work to be able to support the Olympic Games held in 2012 as well as how the team are now looking forward and working with the London Legacy committee to ensure the infrastructure is fully utilised.

One of my personal highlights was the Hyde Park sewer visit. I found the scale and intricacy of detail underneath the London streets amazing. Designed and built mostly in the Victorian era I was in awe of the functionality and aesthetics of the sewer system.

Looking forward I will be taking part in various courses tailored to me specifically with the objective of me reaching my potential. Some of these include a management development programme, negotiation skills and building a mentoring relationship to help work with me on specific development pieces. On top of this Thames has acquired the service of a bespoke graduate training company who have trained grads working for top companies throughout the business world and they will work with us to ensure we are progressing and learning constantly.

As a Finance Graduate the level of support goes even further! There is support and funding in place to allow graduates to study towards a CIMA and ACCA both professional qualifications that are recognised both in the UK and America. To accommodate this we are offered study days and professional tuition from a leading training provider as well as support from a finance mentor and buddy who have been through the same training and experiences.

For the professional qualification candidates must provide evidence that they have gained valuable experience from all areas of finance, for this reason the scheme allows graduates to rotate to different sectors such as Waste Management Accounting, Treasury & Risk, Internal Audit and Group accounting. However as a graduate you are in an ideal position where you can get around and gain a real understanding of how the company operates.

If you are looking for a company that honestly values its employees and puts personal development first then I would recommend Thames Water.

Check out our current vacancies at
jobs.thameswater.co.uk