
Make plans for summer now!

By Susan Manti, HR Director, Deutsche Bank International Limited

Gaining the experience

Every young person embarking on their first experience of working life, whether direct from school or via university, should be aware of the opportunities available to them. Some students know exactly what they want to do and have already chosen a future career path. For others, they will still be thinking through a number of alternatives and options.

During your time at university, choices and decisions need to be made which will impact the direction of your career. At this time you should also try to gain experience in your chosen career paths. Or you should try alternatives. The best opportunity for this is to apply for Internship programs.

Internship Programs: What are they and why are they useful?

Some organisations offer Internship programs which give students the chance to experience what it is like to work in a particular industry or organisation.

It is important to apply for placements which offer real and meaningful work rather than just being treated as an extra pair of hands to help with low level tasks.

Deutsche Bank, for example, has a Summer Internship program. Students have the opportunity to gain a full introduction to our organisation and to learn about the opportunities we can offer to graduates. Each student is given real-life projects and assigned a mentor throughout their program. The students can also experience the social aspects of working life and attend staff social functions.

Internships not only allow you to experience the working environment but also develops self-awareness on your strengths and weaknesses, your likes and dislikes. You should take these into account when deciding upon both your preferred career path and the type of organisation you wish to join.

Graduate Schemes – fast track route

Graduate Schemes are a very good way of entering the working world. It is important to understand these are not just full time employment but also a personal and professional development opportunity. Find out what they have to offer in terms of training, employment package and how many places they have? If you are interested in travelling find out if this is possible.

Deutsche Bank's graduate program has a comprehensive and intensive induction held over six to eight weeks in London, where graduates from all over the world get the opportunity to meet other DB graduates as well as learn more about the organisation.

Preparation and Research

'Don't leave things to the last minute!' Coursework has deadlines and so do applications. Start 'shopping' around early - with any graduate or internship programs there are strict timeframes and criteria. Watch out you don't miss any deadlines!

It is important that you research the organisation, its size, what do they do and what they have to offer for students. Talk to as many different organisations as possible and find out as much as you can before making any decisions. And remember that interviews are two way processes – they are just as much about you interviewing your future employer as your future employer interviewing you. Good luck!

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