

UEA Graduate Career Profile: Market Data Business Analyst

What did you do after leaving university?

A few months after graduation I moved to New York to intern with the Investment Bank, UBS where I worked in the Equity Middle Office team on the trading floor working with the traders on one side and clients on the other. Due to the uncertainty in financial markets at the time unfortunately I was not hired after the internship and moved back to London where I took a job with Societe Generale in the Market Data team. After 1 year in this position I was promoted to a position in Tokyo with duties covering the Asian markets, which is the position I have held for the past 2 years.

Why did you choose your first/current graduate employer?

I applied for both of the positions I have held since leaving university because I wanted to establish a career in a global, diversified sell-side institution. I was attracted to the fast-paced, pressured work environment as I think it's most conducive to career and remuneration progression; employers in this industry are typically demanding but offer very good training and excellent career progression for good candidates.

What does your job entail?

My title is Market Data Analyst – the role is quite wide ranging; I am responsible for validating accuracy of multi-asset-class Market Data including fixed income and equity data from external vendors which are fed into the banks trading systems to build yield curves for example. This involves fielding a lot of data queries from traders. I'm also responsible for managing the relationship between my department, data vendors outside the business and front office stakeholders. Simultaneously I have a Business Analyst element to my role whereby I am responsible for sourcing new data requirements and negotiating prices and setting up contracts.

What opportunities for progression are there in your role?

There are opportunities to take on more responsibility within the same department or if you're well connected enough to move laterally within the organisation. To take advantage of progression opportunities you should try to be as mobile as possible.

Name: Alex Kersey

Employer: Societe Generale Corporate Investment Banking

Location: Tokyo, Japan

Degree: BSc Economics

Year of Graduation: 2008

Employer Careers Website:

<http://careers.societegenerale.com/sgcib/en/home.html>



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Alex's tips for gaining graduate employment

- Soft skills are more important than technical ability when looking for your first job; employers can impart technical knowledge but will only invest in people they want to work with
- When opportunities are thin on the ground or you don't meet the entry criteria for the job you really want to do, be creative. This means looking for a less conventional way into the industry you want to work in
- Internships are a good route into a permanent position
- Decide on what you want to do and know exactly why you want to do it; this will enable you to sell yourself to a potential employer which is difficult to do when you aren't 100% committed.