

**Amy Gornall - BA Drama and Theatre Arts**

**Business Development, PR and Marketing Co-ordinator – Doris IT**



**How did you get your job?**

I began looking for a job in January of my final year but it wasn't until May that I applied to Doris, for a Business Trainee role. I wanted a position that would give independence and the ability to bring ideas to a team which would be listened to. With this in mind, I knew I'd be best suited to a smaller company. I wanted to learn as much as I could about real life business and not just what we'd been taught in university or what I'd heard from my dad!

I had to send my CV and a cover letter initially and then at the interview there was a Maths and English test, group exercise and one to one interview. After a couple of weeks, Chris (the company's Managing Director) rang me and offered me a job as her right hand woman!

**What does your role involve?**

Doris is a Talent Solutions provider for business and IT in the North West. My job involves a huge amount of organisation as I manage the Executive team's diaries, but the role has evolved a lot over the past 8 months. My role has gradually become more focused on events organisation, marketing and communications with customers, employees and potential new business.

**How has your degree helped you?**

My degree helped by preparing me for hard work! Skills I learnt and was forced to perfect at uni like time management, organisation and meeting deadlines have definitely been put to the test in my job. But in work it's not just your job that's on the line if you don't meet it - it's your whole teams!

Being a drama student, I had to do a lot of group work whether that was devising theatre performances, presentations or debating theatrical history and so I had to adapt to different situations, people and work environments. This has helped in my current role as I've had to adapt to take on a range of tasks.

I was heavily involved in the drama societies at uni and was fortunate enough to work with incredible people to put on fantastic shows throughout my three years. This gave me the opportunity to work with budgets, in huge teams to achieve the same goal and learn how to make work fun! This is really important when you know you're going to hit hard times and have obstacles to overcome.

My three years at The University of Birmingham were the best I could have wished for; I met amazing people and had a fantastic time on a beautiful campus. It was a great stepping stone and my degree definitely helped me launch my career in Business.

### **What was your experience of Careers Network at Birmingham?**

The thing I found most helpful was being able to contact Careers Network and ask them questions about my CV. You can speak to someone who's seen thousands of good (and bad) CVs.

I went to a couple of University careers fairs which opened my eyes up to how many companies there actually are out there. It's not all about the big names - look elsewhere and you'll have more of a chance as it isn't as competitive. You'll also make more of a difference as you'll be working closely, as I am, with the top of the chain of command. These people can say 'yes' or 'no' to your ideas and make things happen for you.

### **What experience did you have before you applied for your role?**

I've worked a lot of jobs since I was 15 – this is my 11th actually! I hate to be bored and love having a project to focus on. I've done waitressing, bar and receptionist jobs as well as internships at theatre companies and jobs through Worklink as an actor, usher and stage manager at the Bramall music building on campus.

I believe that it doesn't really matter what jobs you've had (unless the role is something very specific or technical) - it's about having the drive to get employed. The experience of a working structure, rules you have to adhere to and having a boss, gives you the skills and knowledge of how to behave in a working environment and shows that you're not afraid of hard work.

#### **Amy's top tips:**

- Don't be afraid to be creative in an interview, **definitely don't be forgettable** and have something to talk about that interests you besides the job you're applying for. We want to interview people with a personality because if we hire you we have to spend 8 (more like 10) hours a day with you!
- Please **read the website of the company** you want to work with - know what they actually do. Read the **Facebook and social media** of the company – know what event they went to yesterday. It's easy enough as we're all on social media anyway so make it time well spent.
- Working here I now understand how important the initial impression of the CV is. We get a lot of applications and it's all too easy for the busy HR team to bypass a CV because it's too long, cluttered or not up to date! **Get your application checked by Careers Network!**

Please get in touch with me, or Doris, if you're looking to launch your career in the North West IT or Business industries. Good Luck! [www.dorisit.com](http://www.dorisit.com) @ [DorisIT](https://www.instagram.com/DorisIT) [www.facebook.com/dorisrefreshingit](https://www.facebook.com/dorisrefreshingit)