Importance of Work Experience

During my second year of study at the University of Birmingham, I attended many Careers Networks workshops to decide my career path and I was encouraged by staff to join WorkLink for on-campus part-time jobs. After some applications, I secured a part-time job as a Student Database Assistant within the University of Birmingham Development Alumni Business Engagement team. My task was to carry out routine database administration in order to maintain a large dataset of over 160,000 University of Birmingham Alumni and external businesses. By the time Graduation came around, I had been working with DABE for 15 months, so I took the initiative to apply for jobs based on my extensive database experience.

Previous experience of creating a volunteer database whilst working at Islamic Help charity enabled my CV to stand out as it demonstrated my ability to research, manipulate and record data. Other experiences such as volunteering as a Private Tutor, a Welcome Team Member and a Space Utilisation Surveyor enhanced my generic and transferable skills i.e. communication, teamwork, time management.

Using my degree

My Theology and Religion degree gave me the opportunity to enter any sector as it is a broad degree in terms of careers. Studying Theology enhanced my understanding of complex information, enriched my critical and analytical skills, developed my research and writing skills and also advanced my ability to respect, appreciate and interpret the view of others – all skills which are absolutely key to succeed in the competitive job market.

Making use of Careers Network

I made use of Careers Networks since my second year at University as I realised university is not all about lectures - there is a whole other world out there to explore. I attended workshops, CV and Application clinics and the Summer jobs fair to enhance my job hunting skills. More significantly, I achieved the PSA (Activity) and completed the Graduate Careers Intensive course. The opportunities that Careers Network provides are endless – without their services, I would not be working at Trowers and Hamlins today.