

Year in industry Testimonial

Let's face it: taking a year in industry is not easy. Nothing in the whole process is. From coming up with hundreds of cover letters and answers to motivational questions, preparing for all sorts of interviews, receiving tons of rejections in a row without any explanation why or – perhaps even worse – at the very last stage. All of this during term and exam time. This is all very daunting. And for what? Adding a year to your course and spending it away from your friends when you could have done just a summer internship.

However, the benefits of taking an industrial placement are countless, especially in today's job market characterised by economic insecurity and huge competition. Recruiters want brilliant graduates who are ready for the job. Who know what it means to put your heart and soul in it. Better if they've already spent a year working with them.

Read what Grigorii has to say about his experience at EY and bear in mind – he was just like you last year: worried and unsure.

Name:	Grigorii Iakubson
Degree programme/Graduation year:	Economics and Finance with a Year in Industry/2024
Email:	g.iakubson@hss19.qmul.ac.uk
Role/Company you are working for:	Staff/EY

Why did you decide to take a year in industry?

The main reason I decided to choose a year in industry is to get an opportunity to know more about the profession I am mostly interested in. The knowledge I gain would help me to choose my 3rd year modules to develop skills needed for the chosen career pathway.

What was the most challenging part of any application for you? How did you overcome it?

My application process was quite long in terms of the number of stages and time needed to finish them. The most challenging part in EY application process was the real-life case with data analysis. I had 24 hours to format the data, analyse it and provide a solution with a nice presentation.

What have you learnt from the whole application process that will be helpful when looking for a graduate role?

I would say that the most important stage in an application process is a preparation which includes writing a CV, Cover Letter and solving cases and numerical tests. Being prepared gives you a chance to complete an application process successfully.

What is your opinion on the support and opportunities available at the School of Economics and Finance for finding an industrial placement? E.g. careers and application advice, relevant societies, fairs and events.

SEF made a great contribution to my successful entry into consulting. Career modules helped me with the CV and interviews, career fairs provided me with some insights of different industries and societies improved my soft skills.

What advice would you give to students who are looking for their industrial placements now?

I would recommend starting to read about different industries to choose the career pathway they are interested in. After they choose the right industry, they need to do research about the best companies and their departments. Every department has a unique set of skills it is looking for, knowing that they can focus on exact cases and tests during the preparation.

What would you say to students who are not sure they want to do a full year out of university?

I would say that it is a nice opportunity to decide whether they want to continue the education and go to masters or finish the bachelor and start working. Besides, they can get a graduate role offer during the year in industry which makes them more confident in their future.

Did you receive many rejections? What advice would you give to students having a tough time with rejections?

Yes, I got a tonne of rejections. I want to highlight that getting a rejection doesn't mean a student is not good enough; it usually means that a company is looking for a different person with different set of skills. Thus, reading about the role and company values should help students decide whether the company fits their skillset or not.

What are three things that you are enjoying the most about your current role?

- 1) I work in heavy industry consulting with the biggest mining/production companies
- 2) I got a promotion after 5 months of working and now I am a stream leader with the team of 4 people on a big project
- 3) Constantly improving my soft and hard skills, using helpful software (Power BI, Power Automate etc.)

How will your year in industry help your career progression?

I believe that my year in industry will help me to secure a nice role in consulting.