

YEAR IN INDUSTRY TESTIMONIAL



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FINANCE INTERN (BSC ECONOMICS & FINANCE)

Walt Disney



<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/sef/undergraduate/year-in-industry/>

We interviewed a student (BSc. Economics and Finance with a Year in Industry) who took a placement year with Walt Disney in 2023-24.

Read all about their experience here:

Why did you decide to take a year in industry?

The main reason I wanted to do a placement was to get experience. My high school guidance councilor stressed the importance of gaining work experience while in university since that is what most hiring managers will look for when recruiting graduates. I thought doing a placement was the best way to get that.

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

The most challenging part of the process was getting past video interviews as I would get quite nervous and stutter a lot. To get past this, I simply kept practicing. It also helps to have answers prepared to a few common questions that you can use.

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

You need to tailor your CV and cover letter to the role that you are applying for by using key words found on the job description. This may be more time consuming, but it increases the chances of you getting past the initial screening.

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

Apply early – most places hire on a rolling basis which means that the earlier you apply, the greater the chance that you will get the role.

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

A placement year is not for everyone. You need to weight the pros and cons of doing a placement and see if it aligns with your goals. For me, I really wanted to gain work experience and so it was worth taking a year out to do so.

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

Yes, I received countless rejections while applying. Unfortunately applying is a numbers game and you just need to keep trying until something works out. If you keep getting rejected at a certain stage of the application process, it might be good to analyze your strategy and see if there is something that you are doing wrong. There are countless resources available online to help you at each stage.

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

My favourite part of about my current role is my team. When you find a good company and good team within which you fit, working doesn't feel so tedious and daunting, even if your tasks are sometimes.

How will your year in industry help your career progression?

Doing a placement year helped strengthen my CV and gain key industry knowledge which will help in my career progression. Furthermore, it helped me better understand what it is like working a 9-5 job (including the basics such as work etiquette, how to write an email, etc.) and determine if this is the right career path for me.