

NI Graduate Fair

For more details including a list of the exhibitors visit
www.nigradfair.org

EARLY ENGAGEMENT IS THE KEY TO FINDING YOUR DREAM JOB

Students seeking to give themselves a head start on the career front would be well advised to visit The Northern Ireland Graduate Recruitment Fair (NIGRF) on Tuesday 11th June in the Whitla Hall at Queen's University Belfast.

The event has been organised by Queen's Careers, Employability and Skills Service, in association with the University of Ulster, and offers students due to enter final year and graduates the opportunity to meet with a wide range of employers and hear directly from them about the array of graduate job opportunities available to them.

Nijobfinder caught up with Graham Dunn who is a final year student studying for a BA in Politics, Philosophy & Economics.

Graham said: "I went along to the NIGRF last year and was really impressed at the number of graduate employers in attendance and the breadth of job opportunities they had on offer. I was unaware of the breadth of employers and professions represented. There was such a wide diversity of employers offering real graduate opportunities."

WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO WORK?

"I have been successful in securing a prestigious Training contract with the global London-based

law firm Slaughter & May. For me, the key to securing my dream job was to engage early in the whole process of employability."

HOW DID YOU SECURE YOUR NEW ROLE?

"As students we are focussed on our studies, but we should remember that it's also important to take time to build our skills and our CV. I realised that is what really impresses employers and it set me apart from thousands of other students.

"From January to April of this year, I also undertook a BBC Internship with BBC NI Politics Unit. This was an excellent opportunity to work alongside talented people early on in my career. I would encourage every student to undertake an internship or any work-related placement opportunity."

WHEN DID YOU START TO THINK ABOUT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES?

"At the start of my second year I started to think about what career I would pursue. With a non-vocational degree like mine in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, I was unsure where I would go, but I attended some employer presentations facilitated by Queen's Careers, Employability & Skills Service. I realised I was attracted to commercial law. As a result of my efforts to build up my skillset, I made it through a rigorous application process and was successful in gaining my Training Contract

with Slaughter & May.

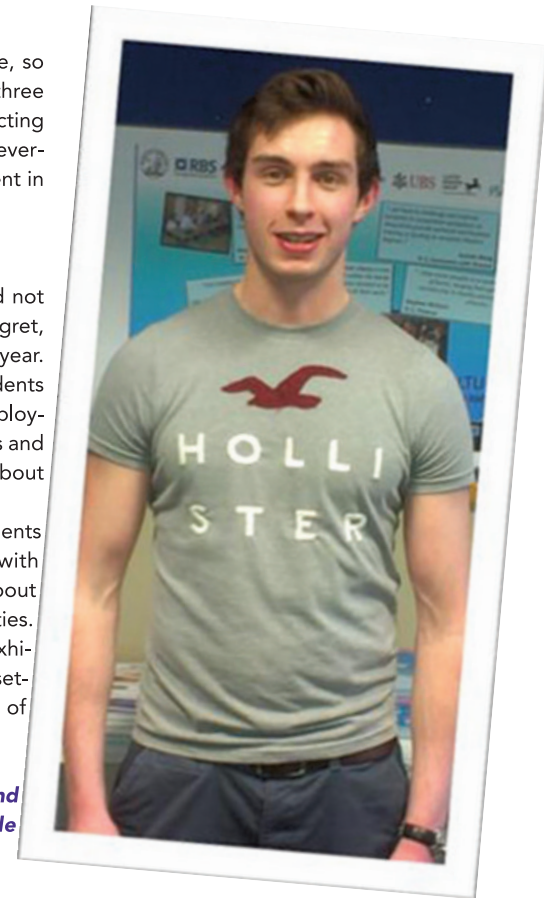
"And I am still keen to get more experience, so I'm heading off to Beijing shortly for three months. I arranged this myself by contacting some Chinese recruitment firms and, after several phone interviews, I was offered a placement in Beijing."

WHAT I'D SAY TO STUDENTS.

"For me the key was engaging early on and not leaving it until my final year. If I have one regret, I wish I'd engaged even earlier than second year. The opportunities that are available to students for various projects and placements with employers are an excellent way to develop new skills and to have strong, practical examples to talk about at interviews.

"I would recommend the NIGRF to all students as it's a superb opportunity to meet with employers and hear directly from them about the wide range of graduate job opportunities. You will be able to visit employers at their exhibition stand and talk directly in an informal setting to employer representatives about lots of graduate job opportunities."

Further information on the Northern Ireland Graduate Recruitment Fair is available online at <http://www.nigradfair.org/>



Tuesday, 11 June 2013, 11am - 3pm Whitla & South Dining Halls Queen's University Belfast