

Thomas Hatton

Thomas Hatton works for the Royal Bank of Scotland in Commercial & Private Banking as an Assistant Director and shared these points from his career journey with Student Careers and Skills on 29th January 2016.

1) What did you study? When did you graduate?

I attended Warwick from 2010-2013 and read history and politics.

2) Compared with other students for whom going to university was more likely to be expected, did you experience any additional challenges?

When I grew up in Manchester there was no background of university in the family - Dad was a bus driver, Mum a carer, and both of my brothers chose not to go to university. I had a comprehensive education, then the local sixth form college, then onto Warwick. Without support of great teachers, I would never have been in a position to apply for a really well-respected university like Warwick; I probably would have stayed local and not moved away from home.

3) How did you overcome them?

One of the things which struck me when I came to Warwick was how developed in some people the sense of university hierarchy was, i.e., Warwick was good and therefore will lead on to a good graduate scheme in industry. Thankfully, I'm quite a confident person and made some very solid friends at Warwick. As such, I took an active part in clubs and societies: I was President and Chairman of Warwick University Real Ale Society and organised the annual on-campus ale festival; I got very much involved with student politics and was Deputy Chairman of Warwick Conservatives. In my second year of uni I did an internship with RBS (because everyone else was doing an internship!) and one of the things I remember during the rigorous application process was spending 30 minutes with my interviewer talking about Real Ale Soc, the festival (30k turnover / 70 volunteers etc.). I suppose the message here is that my extra-curricular interest formed a huge part of my application to a big bank which ended up in my gaining a place on RBS' graduate scheme – and I'm still here!

4) What advice or reassurance would you have for current students coming from an atypical background or facing additional challenges?

I know that if hadn't got the most out of Warwick when I was there, I wouldn't be here now. If I can in any way encourage people from the same background as mine to not be intimidated by the confidence of their peers, to see clubs and societies as opportunities to develop and not just to blend in, and to be aware of the vast array of opportunities open to a Warwick Grad, I would be very pleased.

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