Arvin Bhurtun  
BSc(Hons) Computer Science, 2008  
Mid-Level Software Web Developer,  
www.findmypast.co.uk

Creative software development
In his current role, Arvin works as a Mid-Level Software Web Developer on the website http://www.findmypast.co.uk, which allows individuals to build family trees and look up their ancestry. ‘In particular, I work on the search project which provides search functionality and displays the data onto the site. We work using AGILE and SOLID principles with TDD, ATDD and BDD for testing and quality assurance. I am learning an exciting suite of technologies and thoroughly enjoying the whole experience.’

Having previously worked for SkyIQ, a division at Sky which specialises in analysing and interpreting consumer behaviour, Arvin decided to move into a more vibrant, mainstream web development team.

‘This is a step forward for my career aspirations to become a technical architect in the future. The new team is smaller but much more fun and encourages a lot of creativity, which creates a good, productive environment to work in. This means we have meetings in coffee shops and play with Nerf guns at work!’

Factors for success
Arvin sees his decision to take a placement year as one of the key factors in his early-career success. During his placement, Arvin was an IT service desk analyst for international law firm CMS Cameron McKenna LLP, where he helped to support the 900 lawyers based in the London office. ‘My degree was useful but most crucial was my work placement, as being in such a big company opens doors. It’s a cliché, but it’s true.’

He also stresses the importance of making the most of what’s available when job hunting, particularly using the careers office at the University, LinkedIn and professional recruitment agencies.

‘People forget that interviews are a two-way conversation, as well as an opportunity to show ambition. Particularly as you move up the career ladder, you need to know what you want and be able to ask for it’.

‘My goals have definitely shifted compared to when I first started working. It’s so important to recognise how your ambitions change and ensure that you continue to develop your knowledge and networks in order to help you move to the next stage in your career.’

Career path
After graduation, Arvin initially went to work for Experian on their graduate scheme. It allowed him to rotate around the company and experience data warehousing and ETL development, which helped him to decide to focus on .net applications. Arvin worked on this during his time at SkyIQ, focusing on the development of marketing and advertising solutions.

‘I had a great six years with SkyIQ in its various forms and learnt a lot about data and data structures. I was able to work with a range of partner companies to build target sectors for marketing emails, as well as get involved in reporting, intranet development, web services and web application development.’