Getting into digital forensics
Recent news stories have highlighted how electronic crime and fraud is on the rise, but what you don’t tend to hear about are those behind the news. Checca Aird is one of those people, working as a Forensic Data Analyst for global firm PwC.

‘Officially my role involves the discovery and communication of patterns of data, but it’s really so much more than that. I have been involved in software and system delivery, searching through call log data to support court cases, assisting companies going into administration, researching and using cutting edge technology, working with our investigations and disputes teams to uncover fraud, and it’s only my first year!’

Checca has been interested in digital forensics since she started her degree and once she began looking for jobs PwC was at the top of her list, having been involved in some of the most high-profile global electronic crime assignments, and being voted as the UK’s Top Graduate Employer in The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers survey for a record 12th year running.

Work and play
Even though you don’t need a technical degree to get into the Forensics department, Checca has found the knowledge gained from her course extremely helpful.

‘My background in software development has helped me immensely on system delivery projects, and I have built on the programming skills I learnt and use them practically every day. Having solid programming skills opens so many doors post university, and makes it much easier to pick up new technical skills, which is vital to employers.’

Outside of all the hard work, some of Checca’s best memories are connected to Freshers’ week and final year, and the friends that she made. ‘In my final year, I had the best house mates and that really made my year! It didn’t matter how tough an assignment was, or how poor we were, having a supportive group of people to live with who shared my goals and deadlines made it one of the best times in my life!’

Future plans and advice
For Checca, getting her role was down to technical experience and perseverance. ‘Although it took six months of applications and rejections before I was offered my job, my placement made all the difference when I was applying for a graduate role. You hear so many stories of unemployed graduates, but I know the jobs are out there, I was offered three! You just need to show the employers that you are what they want, and that you’ll work hard to achieve.’

The future is certainly bright for Checca, and she’s excited about where future opportunities might take her. ‘My current plans are to continue developing my technical and soft skills, but who knows where that will lead? I could work abroad for a year, or go back to being a software developer, or make my way up the corporate ladder. After all the exams, assignments, applications, and interviews to get here, for the first time I can sit back a bit and just enjoy where I am.’