A testing day job

Working at SQS, the largest independent provider of software quality management and testing, Julian Cambridge’s role as a test analyst isn’t just about computer software. Even though his primary role is to create and use test scripts and scenarios to make sure that the software developed does its job, it’s also about making sure that the software has been designed to meet the business requirements set out by his client to match their company’s needs.

As a result, whilst he needs to be tech savvy, he also needs to have good interpersonal skills in order to get the job done. “I communicate with developers and business analysts, and work within a team of test analysts and a test lead. It’s crucial that we all understand the end requirements of the software and that we can work together to deliver the final software packages.”

However, communication skills are something that Julian has clearly been developing alongside his degree, with journalism and writing experience both at Hertfordshire and after graduation. “Whilst doing my Masters I got into doing columnnist work. I began writing for the University’s student paper, Universe, then onto the South London Press. I now continue this trait at SQS by writing published articles for their blogs and internal magazines.”

Future plans

Learning and studying has remained part of Julian’s career and he is hoping to complete further ISEB/ISTQB qualifications in the future, which he hopes will aim his progress into a senior test analyst role.

Julian recommends these qualifications for other alumni keen to get into a similar role. “I would recommend that other graduates look to achieve the ISQTB/ISEB Certified Tester: Foundation Level certification, as this is the minimum requirement to get into software testing. Some companies do offer to provide this training, so if this is the case make sure you take up the offer!”

As I joined as a graduate it was crucial that I had a Computer Science/IT related degree. The software module (Measures and Models of Software Engineering) taken in my MSc really helped.