

Nick Buttenshaw

BSc(Hons) Astrophysics, 2011
Sales Engineer,
Hamamatsu Photonics UK Ltd



Starting out...

As Nick forges an exciting career with Hamamatsu Photonics, the world leader in photonic technologies, he's under no illusion that his time at Hertfordshire greatly helped him on his way.

'It was a combination of both the academic and sporting facilities that drew me to Hertfordshire. Not only was the Physics and Astronomy department one of the best in the country (top 5 at least if I recall correctly at the time), with top class facilities like the Bayfordbury Observatory, but there were also excellent sports facilities on the campus, both of which were ideal for me.'

Speaking about his current role and how he uses his degree on a daily basis Nick added,

'I saw the job advertised through an agency, applied and got the job after two interviews! I'm always using my degree although not so much of the 'astro' part!

My role is more suited to someone with a straight physics, optics or electrical engineering background due to the nature of our products, so having an understanding of certain principles is vital.

Having a Physics or optics-related degree is very important for this role and you would not fare too well in this job without one!

World leading researchers

The key to success is maximising the opportunities available to you and Nick certainly followed this mantra during his studies at the University.

'The most useful aspect of my course was having the opportunity to use the lecturers and make the most of the knowledge and skills they have; being able to openly speak to them and get help and advice was invaluable. They are world leading researchers and so it would've been foolish to not use them!'

Memories

Of course University is about more than just the studies and Nick recognised the importance of this when he reflected on his time here.

'Honestly my best memories are, probably the social aspect. I enjoyed my studies greatly and immersed myself in it, especially in the final year, but the experience of being in certain societies and sports clubs, which included building lifelong friendships, made the experience all the more memorable.

'I also made great use of the Bayfordbury Observatory, which I highly recommend to any Physics/Astrophysics student!

'And as for the future, I hope to continue to develop as a successful sales engineer with the Hamamatsu team, maintaining and finding new and exciting business!'



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