

Gemma Fulton

BA(Hons) History, 2015

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From the past to the future

As the economic world continues to be uncertain, there has been an increased focus on the economic development of regions outside of London. Gemma Fulton's job with the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership is key to this local development, as she works to monitor and evaluate a series of key projects centred on strategic infrastructure, enterprise and innovation and skills and employment.

'This is my first job out of university. As part of my role I write monthly and quarterly reports to central Government, ensuring the sound financial and project reporting for each project and I am also project managing the LEP obtaining a new website. Before this, I worked as a project coordinator for a non-for-profit company alongside my degree. The experience I gained in my previous role definitely aided my application.'

Transferable skills

Even though having a degree was vital for Gemma to apply for her current role, she has found that the transferable skills she gained from her extra-curricular activities have made a real difference in the job. *'The skills I developed alongside my degree are vastly important – as a School Student Representative Officer (SSRO) I learnt to communicate effectively and*

negotiate with senior members of staff. The environment I work in is very top heavy, so I have to communicate with CEOs and Senior Executive members of staff on a daily basis. After being an SSRO, I have the confidence to liaise with these people in a work environment.'

Love Herts

For Gemma, it is the activities outside of her degree that made the University experience so special. *'My best memories are around being able to take part in so many opportunities outside of my studies. I was heavily involved in the Students' Union, leading societies, volunteering groups, as well as being an SSRO and a member of the Athletic Union.'*

She would advise everyone to get involved in as many opportunities as possible. *'Whatever course you do, make sure you gain as much work experience as possible alongside your degree. This may take the form of being a student rep, being on a society, AU or volunteering committee. Work experience doesn't always have to be tedious, and can often be quite enjoyable. I would not be in the role I am now if I did not partake in extra-curricular activities and part-time work alongside my degree, as my role now has nothing to do with my degree subject – which can be a good or a bad thing!'*



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