

Supporting Enterprise – Industry Mentors

Mouchel

Overview

Amy Clifford – a BSc Geography student at Bath Spa University – will graduate with a range of specialist advice and guidance on how to enter a career in transport planning.

About the Project

Mouchel is a consulting and business services group that provides many of the design, managerial and engineering services that support modern society. The Transport Planning business unit provides services in support of a broad spectrum of client needs covering all modes of transport to ensure sustainable, efficient and cost effective solutions. To deliver these services Mouchel have developed teams of highly trained individuals whose skills range from socio economics to planning and policy evaluation; and from operations research to data analysis and validation through the use of complex traffic modelling tools. This unique mix of skills at both management and research levels has provided highly qualified project teams experienced in all facets of multi-modal transportation planning, analysis and advisory services.

Nick Winnard is a Senior Transport Planner at Mouchel and volunteered to participate in the Industry Mentors Programme.

As a BSc Geography student at Bath Spa University, Amy Clifford's career interests fell in the areas of transport policy, renewable and domestic energies, and transport planning. Amy applied to the Industry Mentors Programme as a means of accessing useful information for developing her CV and gaining experience and knowledge of the transport planning arena to extend her employment options.

Fast Facts

- Senior Transport Planner at Mouchel volunteers time and benefit of his experience
- In a difficult economic climate, mentoring advice has helped to identify different methods for entering a career in transport planning

Benefits

Bath Spa University's Industry Mentors Programme develops opportunities for students to receive expert advice, guidance and access to business practices from businesses and organisations in their chosen field. The vision is for the Industry Mentors Programme to be a career and work-related experience, which will raise a student's sights and broaden horizons, whilst also developing knowledge, skills and personal qualities that are valued by employers.

Outcomes

A mentoring partnership was agreed that would include contact through monthly meetings and email correspondence. Nick offered to advise Amy on potential training options and organisations in the industry, advise her on aspects of professional development and assist with reading Amy's CV and tips on interview techniques. Amy received a great deal of helpful advice from Nick on ways to gain additional skills that could give her a competitive edge in the employment market. Consequently, Amy has been able to focus her attention in the following areas:

- Develop general skills that would be useful in the work place to a high standard, eg Excel, Word, Access and Powerpoint
- Look into a course in GIS software, as it would be particularly useful in a field such as transport planning and would be attractive to potential employers.
- Enhance her CV and be of interest to potential employers by obtaining some experience of traffic counts work. In addition to gaining experience and useful knowledge in the transport field, this has the advantage of being fairly flexible, paid casual work that can fit around other commitments.
- Attend any transport-related presentations and seminars such as those provided locally by The Institute of Highways and Transportation (IHT), as they are open to everyone to attend and can provide good background knowledge.
- Contact universities with transport planning departments for professional training courses which may be of use.
- Keep up-to-date with transport planning issues through publications such as Local Transport Today.

Perspective

“Seeking to enter a new industry as a graduate with no prior experience can be a daunting prospect. The mentoring process provides an insight into our business and the sort of skills and knowledge that will be attractive to employers. Motivated and enthusiastic graduates are an asset to any business and therefore it is rewarding to be part of a process which utilises this energy and opens up new opportunities.

Bath Spa University’s Industry Mentors Programme is extremely well organised and efficient, facilitating the relationship between mentor / mentee without being intrusive. There is plenty of support on offer and there are opportunities for the mentor to develop their own skills further through mentor training. It has also brought to our attention the range of courses on offer at Bath Spa University that relate to our industry. Overall, it has been a positive and rewarding experience and I would highly recommend this valuable scheme.”

Nick Winnard
Senior Transport Planner
Mouchel



“Thank-you to the Business Support Office for all their help over the last six months, and to Nick for all of his advice and knowledge on transport planning! The programme has been helpful and I think that I have had much more help from Nick than I was expecting – he has given me an insight into various paths to transport planning, especially in relation to this current economic situation.”

Amy Clifford
Student Mentee
Bath Spa University

Bath Spa University’s Business Support Office acts as a catalyst for engaging with employers, providing enterprise opportunities for students and graduates, and maximising on the expertise of the university for the benefit of the local business community. For further information, contact the Business Support Office at businessenquiries@bathspa.ac.uk www.bathspabusiness.com