

Alumni Reflection

Mountbatten alumni Erica Davis graduated with her MBA in July 2011. She shares her story of post-MB life and how she used her degree in the business world to secure a position as first year business analyst.

I am a July 2011 MBA graduate alumni of Mountbatten Institute. Prior to becoming part of the 2011 Mountbatten class, I had completed my undergraduate degree in Information Systems with Arizona State University as well as worked two and a half years with American Express. After undergrad and a short term of professional work experience, I had come to a point where I desired to pursue greater growth both personally and professionally. I also desired an opportunity that would foster optimum growth by moving me outside my boundaries and challenge me in different ways. These desires lead me to begin seeking graduate school opportunities.

During the time I was researching graduate education opportunities, I had given careful consideration to different programs of choice. One of my many considerations was whether I would return to my previous undergraduate school or venture out to another program in the pursuit of the growth I was seeking. Many would ask why I decided to choose an unconventional program such as Mountbatten Institute to achieve my goals. My answer is that Mountbatten provided much more than just a degree. In addition to a degree, it provided a valuable all around experience that challenged and developed me in ways that conventional education MBA programs could not have. The Mountbatten Institute is a multi-dimensional experience consisting of three fundamental elements; formal education, international residency and educational travel and professional work experience.

One thing I most appreciated about my experience with the formal education provided through Mountbatten and St Mary's College University was the classroom and assignment format which lent to the development of critical thinking skills and application of academic theory. The design and delivery of the courses was different from typical formats that fostered more than just fact memorization. Academic course sessions were delivered in a very participatory format. Lectures were often held in a conversational manner. In addition, group and individual assignments which required the application of course concepts were integrated into each course segment of the MBA program. The concepts presented in each course were aligned with real-life business scenarios. This along with the critical thinking element built a relative link between academic theory and real life business practice. These elements made an exceptional and valuable educational experience. As everyone is well aware, the international nature of the world is at the forefront of business and personal lives as globalization continues to increase.

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Elephant Riding in Thailand



Visit to Stonehenge



Day out in Scotland



The opportunity to live abroad in London for a year as well as travel abroad is one of the characteristics of the program that makes it invaluable. My experience living and traveling in London was incredibly enlightening. Both London and greater Europe have ample amazing sites to see as well as events and activities to experience. I was able to take advantage of these numerous opportunities while I was living in London. Locally in London and greater England, I was able to see many world famous sites such as the London and Tower bridges, Parliament, Big Ben, Bath and Stone Hedge and the London Eye. I was also able to experience events such as the Notting Hill Carnival and the celebration Guy Fawkes Day.

As London is the central hub of Europe, I was also able to experience many other parts of Europe as well including Scotland, Spain, and Italy. In Spain I was able to witness the amazing works of Antoni Gaudi a famous architect in Barcelona. In Italy, I was able to view amazing sites such as the Rialto Bridge and Leaning Tower of Pisa. As I was part of the MBA program, I was afforded the opportunity to live in and experience travel in Asia as well. What I have mentioned is just a small snap shot of my travel and living experience abroad while in the program. More importantly, the opportunities afforded to me through Mountbatten allowed me to travel and immerse myself in different cultures which has enabled me to develop a unique awareness and appreciation for international business and cultures. In addition, it has developed in me the ability to be highly flexible and adaptable in changing environments.

Through my internship placement Mountbatten afforded me the opportunity to gain valuable experience with Deutsche Bank a large German global investment company. My placement was on the foreign exchange (FX) trading floor as a Middle Office FX analyst. This role naturally served as a compliment to my education in international business. This opportunity in itself was a very prestigious professional experience to add to my resume.

Experience on the trading floor and within the investment banking industry allowed me to make a direct connection between my education and the professional world. My assignment was very challenging and allowed me to build a diversified professional knowledge base and skill set that has proven valuable in my career development. More specifically, my work placement further developed my analytical and problem solving skills. While I worked with Deutsche Bank, I experienced a very positive and supportive environment which enabled my success in the position. The Mountbatten program has directly contributed to the recent success in my career. Upon my return home to the United States, I found my job search quite favorable. Many prospective employers and human resource recruiters took positive note of my experience with Mountbatten and were very impressed. As many businesses have a global presence, there is a demand for professionals with experience such as what is gained through the Mountbatten program. I was told that my experience with Mountbatten had set me apart from many other applicants. This is a testament to the value of the program. I have recently accepted a great opportunity and am now employed as a Business Analyst - IT Consultant with CGI. CGI is a Canadian based global IT and business process services consulting firm. My Mountbatten experience has not only assisted me in obtaining my next career move but has provided me invaluable personal and professional skill sets. CGI is a highly diverse company with a global presence. I have been able to leverage my experience abroad to work successfully in this company with diverse co-workers and clients around the globe. In addition, my personal skill sets developed during my time in Mountbatten such as exceptional adaptability and flexibility has contributed directly to my ability to successfully integrate quickly into my new working environment. Furthermore, the improvement of my critical thinking, analytical and problem solving skills developed during the program have proven very valuable in my new role as an analyst.