

Sean Bryson

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EDUCATION

MA (Hons) History, University of Aberdeen

2016 – 2020

Courses include: The Scottish Wars of Independence; Enlightenment Compared: Ireland, Scotland, and Central Europe; Back in the Viking Homelands; and Eating History: Food and Culture from Coffee to Chocolate as well as options in History of Art and Swedish.

I will also complete a 3 week work placement at a National Trust of Scotland property as part of my History in Practice course.

St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena

2011 – 2016

A-levels: History (A), English (B), Art (B)

GCSEs: 10, including Maths, French and Geography at A or A*

WORK EXPERIENCE

Printed Collections Project Assistant, University of Aberdeen

July – Aug 2019

I completed a 10-week project in the University's Special Collections Centre as part of the Aberdeen Internship, an award-winning work experience programme. I led on a major reclassification exercise, taking account of political, geographical and cultural changes. This also gave me the chance to highlight interesting resources and areas for future research. I also assisted in stock checking and reviewed resources such as fact sheets for the team. At the end of my internship, I presented my project to professionals across the University, including vice-principals, and, with my fellow intern I also contributed to the production of a video on our experience over the summer which featured the Principal, Sir Ian Diamond.

Volunteer, Aberdeen City Archives

Nov 2018 – Apr 2019

I spent two afternoons per week in the City Archives, dividing my time between their two sites. I assisted the duty archivist in providing documents to and supervising archive users in the public search rooms, conducted searches on databases and answered requests by email. During my time there, I was able to handle many different documents, ranging from historical maps to church records and photographic collections and learnt about appropriate preservation and storage. I also learned how to make records accessible to academics, researchers and the general public.

Student Ambassador, University of Aberdeen

Feb 2017 – July 2018

I was responsible for conducting tours for prospective students and parents on their visit to the University, providing them with a positive and friendly image of the University and its facilities. I was also involved in the University Open Day where I answered queries ranging from giving directions to tips on the night life in Aberdeen.

Clerical Assistant, Northern Regional College, Ballymena

June – Aug 2016

I worked in the busy admissions office where I dealt mainly with enquiries from prospective students but also from parents. I was responsible for manning the telephone information line and answering queries through the website and email, giving appropriate course information, sending out prospectuses and referring more complex queries on to the Admissions Officer.

Customer Service Assistant, Sainsbury's, Aberdeen

Oct – May 2016

I worked on the check-out and on the sales floor where my duties were mainly to check stock levels and use-by dates. I made sure that all goods in my section were available and all shelves well stocked and tidy. I also dealt with customer queries in a friendly and efficient manner.

SKILLS

Communication – Through my roles as Student Ambassador and Clerical Assistant I have learned how to build rapport with people quickly. As Customer Service Assistant and Class Representative I have gained experience of dealing with queries and complaints in a friendly and diplomatic way. As part of my degree, I regularly write essays which has developed my written communication skills, as has dealing with formal and informal email enquiries at the University of Aberdeen, Northern Regional College and the City Archives.

Organisation – Juggling part-time jobs, volunteering and extra-curricular activities along with my studies has taught me how to manage my time extremely efficiently. I am meticulous in planning my work to ensure I meet all deadlines. This was particularly important during my Aberdeen Internship where I had a variety of tasks to complete to a professional standard with many competing deadlines.

Research – I have used a wide variety of sources for all my honours essays, often consulting original material. During my Aberdeen Internship, I carried out detailed research to be able to reclassify items appropriately. At the City Archives, I used my knowledge of available databases as well as the archive's holdings to answer queries and sometimes had to be imaginative in my approach to source appropriate resources.

Flexibility – Having experienced a number of customer facing environments, I have learned to deal with sometimes unusual queries and frequently go out of my way to provide the best possible service. As a Student Ambassador, I had no fixed hours and was often called in to cover shifts at short notice.

Teamwork – Having worked alongside experienced professionals in Special Collections and the City Archives, I greatly appreciate the opportunities to learn from others in my team while making a valuable contribution to the service provision. Through Cinergi I have also been involved in very creative teams where the contribution of individual talents was essential in completing our projects.

IT – I use Microsoft Office applications for all my course work and for supporting presentations as part of my degree. I also honed my PowerPoint skills through my internship poster last summer. I am familiar with a number of databases and I am an experienced user of e-journals and online search directories.

INTERESTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Class Representative/STAR Award – I was elected to this role in both my honours years. I am responsible for canvassing student opinion and taking all issues and concerns to the staff-student liaison committee. Last year, I was also awarded a Bronze STAR (Students Taking Active Roles) Award for my involvement for which I attended additional workshops to develop my skills.

Cinergi – I have been a member of Cinergi, the film-making society at the University, since my second year. I have been involved in researching, editing and even acting in several short films, one of which was shown as part of the Belmont Filmhouse's independent film night.

History – I have a keen interest in Scottish and Irish history and visit historical sites as often as possible. I have travelled around most of Ireland and managed to visit many historical sites along the way, including Newgrange. The highlight of my trip, however, was to see the Book of Kells at Trinity College in Dublin.

REFERENCES

Available on request