

Name: Lucy Todd

Employer: European Commission

Occupation: Trainee

Studied: French Studies University of Birmingham,

GDL BPP Law School



Like lots of young Brits I spent a year before going to University 'finding myself' in various different parts of the world. I caught the travel bug and since then I haven't stopped; but I wasn't sure that a career abroad was a realistic goal and with my heart set on becoming a lawyer I had no idea how to combine the two. That said I am now sat as a trainee in the European Commission doing exactly that.

I am working in the Directorate General for Health and Consumers (SANCO) on product and service safety assisting on the revision of EU laws and the implementation of current laws every day. I also work on a rapid alert system on dangerous products and cooperation with China. I am able to combine my passion for languages, my fascination with China and my studies in law every day. My tasks vary enormously from carrying out legal research to attending meetings and conferences with representatives from all Member States and other DGs.

In addition to this I am the spokesperson for the trainees in DG SANCO and we have organised various events to allow the trainees to meet high ranking officials and political figures, a highlight was definitely SANCO's Director General. The traineeships office also ensures we have a great time; so far I have been to special trainee conferences both at NATO and the US Mission to the EU.

I would hate for anyone to think though that the traineeship is all work and no play, as this couldn't be further from the truth, the trainees committee and sub-committees work tirelessly to ensure our every evening is booked with social events for networking, charity, educational purposes and of course, just fun! In addition to this, Brussels is a great city to be young in, whatever your tastes for socialising, hobbies and sports, the city will provide.

After the traineeship I will return to the UK for my training contract and I really feel that this experience is going to allow me to hit the ground running as a trainee solicitor as I have learnt so many valuable skills that law school cannot teach. I have seen the law from an entirely different perspective than that of a law firm as I am on the other side of the fence as it were. At the end of the traineeship it will be 'au revoir' and not 'adieu' as I leave Brussels; the Euro scene that surrounds EU officials is not something I want to leave permanently!