

Sarah Paget

MA(Hons) History & International Relations

Events & Hospitality Officer

Please can you describe your role?

I manage clients, booking rooms and refreshments for meetings, conferences, celebrations and weddings. I see events from enquiry through to end event.

What experiences do you think have proved beneficial to your career journey?

I knew someone who volunteered at the cathedral who told me about the job. I worked for two temp/recruitment agencies on short term contracts of a few weeks to few months while job hunting. I returned to university and did an MSc and I am still unable to break into my chosen sector. I have continued to volunteer with Scouts since I left school and while I was at university I was part of the URNU. I have tried to keep my skills and experience varied to show I can be adaptable.

What impact did the 2008 financial crash have on your career path?

It was incredibly difficult to be hired as a new graduate. There was no government support and everyone wanted experience as well as a degree. I didn't have working experience in my sector. 12 years later I am still not in my preferred sector.

What advice would you give to students thinking about employment in your field?

Think carefully about the skills you have. Employment of any kind makes you more interesting to potential employers. Don't turn down a job just because it's not what you want to do. The life experiences and opportunities will still build your CV.

Is there any other advice you would like to give to current students moving from university to working life?

Recruitment agencies and temp positions are a great way to prove and build office skills. You also get the opportunity to "sample" job roles and industries through temp positions which could open up more opportunities or let you see a potential career path you hadn't considered.