

Edward Statton**MA International Relations and Economics / 2008****Head of International Shipping and Counter-Piracy at the Department for
Transport in London.****Please can you describe your role?**

I lead a team that is responsible for the security of British shipping, including assessing risk and setting guidance to industry. We also contribute to national security strategy and policies for maritime security.

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

I think the biggest impact was timing. Although I wanted to work in the government sector, cuts in spending and recruitment freezes stymied that effort for a significant period. Rather than the assumed quick recruitment in to a 'professional' job I worked outside of what I would describe as a graduate-type job.

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

Go for it - it's interesting, varied and rewarding work. However, don't entirely focus on graduate schemes at the expense of other advertised positions. Like with any large organisation, you may find that getting a foot in the door opens up plenty of opportunities.

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

This current climate is unsettling and enormously uncertain. In 2008 I was able to undertake an overseas volunteer post but on returning to the UK in 2009 it took nearly two years to start my first position in government. Patience, perseverance and humility kept me going (and grounded). It is a marathon and not a sprint - consider every option and try not to get sucked into comparisons with your peers. I was living at home in the North East of England where the impact of the 2008 crash was acutely felt. Getting turned down for shelf stacking jobs was tough but you need to get back up.