

Graduate Profile: Barry Dolan 2006



Current Employer: Distinct

Position: Management Consultant

I am a management consultant with Distinct and have been with the company for over 3 years. The company itself has grown quite a bit in that time. Distinct was founded in 2005 with 2 employees and when I joined in 2006 I was employee #10. At that time we had one small office on Baggot St in Dublin. Distinct now employs approximately 60 people and have large new offices in Dublin and London. Our prestigious client base includes Meteor, Microsoft, 3 Mobile, Bank of Ireland and RSA Insurance (formerly Royal & Sun Alliance). Since I started, I have been based in the insurance side of the business. My

clients include RSA Ireland, RSA UK and FBD Insurance. I work in two main areas, first being Business Intelligence. Over the years, I have worked on numerous Business Intelligence projects for my clients. These types of projects typically involve activities such as developing advanced balanced scorecards/dashboards that displaying key metrics for the client. Along with this I perform needs assessments and diagnostics to assess the gaps in the clients management intelligence infrastructure. My role is then to design solutions that add control and performance benefits.

The second area I work is in what we call operational excellence. Since joining Distinct I have become a certified Six Sigma green belt. Six Sigma is an industry standard management strategy for process improvement. Certification requires success in examinations that are designed to prove your excellence in

the quality management and statistical methods of Six Sigma. Certification has allowed me to work on many process improvement projects using all the tools from the Six Sigma toolset to design new processes that generating tangible savings for our clients.

Distinct is a great place to work and the general role of being a consultant allows great freedom in how you develop solutions. I am constantly challenged to be innovative and creative. I personally gained great experience by being put in the field early and this enabled me to further develop my core business skills.

BIS has proven to be a brilliant stepping-stone to a consultancy career. The B.Sc. BIS provided me with a solid grounding in project management and, probably most relevant to my own job, it provided me with the knowledge that companies are increasingly reliant on data driven decision making. In the business environment the ability to understand both IT and Business is an invaluable skill. One of the main features of my job is the development of Management Intelligence tools; the ability to understand business needs, identify the data to measure, the metrics to display and ultimately develop the tool have allowed me to carve a unique position for myself and become a very valuable member of project teams.

BIS is the foundation of my career. Its unique combination of technical skills and business knowledge gave me the opportunity to become valuable asset to my company.

Advice to prospective students:

If you have an interest in computers and business, I would certainly recommend BIS. The small class sizes allow you to make great friends and get to know your lecturers on a more personal level.

The placement provides you with unrivalled experience in a proper work environment and the facilities available to you on campus are second to none.

You don't have to have in-depth knowledge of business or accounting, similarly, you don't have to be a computer whizz kid, if you have an interest in business and enjoy using computers then BIS will take you from the ground up and leave a wide variety of career options open for you.