

Graduate Profile: Paul O'Flynn 2009



Current Employer: Intel

Position: Business and Systems Analyst

Studying BIS has been a life-changing adventure for me, and I never expected that I would end up securing a position in Intel only months after my graduation.

Key to this was the fact that for my internship in 3rd year of the BIS degree, I secured a position with Intel Ireland. At that time, I was unsure of what to expect and when I arrived it was a slight shock to the system to adapt to the corporate culture.

However, Intel offered great training and orientation that helps a student settle extremely well. The work was very much in line with what we were studying and I enjoyed it very much. I showed more interest in the consultant side of the work where I spent a lot of time as a business analyst and also as a systems analyst. The work was challenging and satisfying. I was in a department that was led by a manager who believed in reaching your best, and this has stood to me, even in everyday life. The internship also challenged me to develop my soft skills such as presentation skills, business writing and negotiations.

My experience of being on placement at Intel was the biggest factor in me securing my current position. As you can see from my job title I am now a permanent Business and Systems Analyst with Intel, the very roles that I worked in when I was there on student internship. Part of my role now is also as a Financial Analyst, and I now appreciate the value of having studied Accountancy and Finance as part the blend of BIS subjects. In fact, it is my mix of abilities and expertise in Business and Technology that enables me to succeed in this role. BIS really is about bridging the gap between technology and business, and companies like Intel have a real need for people who understand this gap.

Life at Intel:

The transition to full-time employment was fast and quite unexpected. I had begun the research based M.Sc. in BIS at NUI Galway and was expecting to spend the rest of the year as a full-time student. However, I was also tracking opportunities at Intel. An opportunity arose so I applied. I was called to interview and I put a lot of work into my preparation for each stage of the selection process. The lecturers in NUI Galway were a great support to me and they gave me some excellent advice.

Now it's life as an analyst in a dynamic, innovative and international company. Each day brings something new and I am constantly challenged to improve and innovate. As the 'end of quarter' nears it gets really busy, but it's all great. Without doubt, the fact that I was here on placement two years ago really made it easy for me to settle in and, as they say, hit the ground running. I am also continuing my research masters on a part-time basis.

Intel is an excellent company to work for. I'm thrilled to be here and I owe it all to the fact that I choose to do BIS. I'm here almost six months now and, to be honest, I'm still waiting for my feet to touch the ground!

My advice to prospective BIS students:

BIS in NUI Galway is a great degree, you can expect the best!

Take my word for it, the BIS lecturers in NUI Galway really mean it when they say:

“Serious About Success”

Engage with the degree from early in 1st year and make sure you get good grades. You will have to interview and compete for your placement place and your results will be key to you qualifying for the study abroad programme and to getting a great placement. You can do it!