



ALICE HOBBS INTERVIEW

English Literature Graduate and Project Assistant at MACE.

SUMMARY: Alice Hobbs graduated from LJMU last year with an undergraduate degree in English Literature. After doing extensive research on different career pathways, she came across project management and the company MACE. MACE is a global expert in shaping the built environment - widely praised for its sustainability values.

She was part of a 6-week internship that was cut short so she could join the 2022 graduate scheme instead. She now has a job with MACE as a project assistant. Alice is impressed with the values of the company and is a good example of how transferable skills can allow students from different degrees to enter the Green Sector.

INTERVIEW:

IP: Hi Alice, could you tell me a bit about your education at LJMU and your career pathway as a graduate?

AH: I did my undergraduate degree in English Literature at LJMU. I gained a range of useful skills. One important skill I gained was critical thinking whilst working on projects, this allows me to form a great judgement and provide solutions to problems. Also, I gained communicative skills that help me when working with a range of different people and personalities across my projects.

So, with my career pathway, after doing extensive research on different careers and sectors, I came across project management. I was extremely interested in this and realised that careers in project management aligned very well with my personality and skill set. The pay range for jobs in this field was also something I was happy with. I didn't always see myself in this line of work though. I didn't have a clue what I wanted to do until I actually started my summer internship with MACE.

IP: Following on from this, how did you go from researching jobs to obtaining your current job role? What transferable skills from your degree do you find beneficial in this role?

AH: So, I got into my current job through a 6-week summer internship run by MACE. This was cut short though so that I could join the 2022 graduate scheme instead. The graduate scheme was great, they had a range of activities from developing business skills to group work on live case studies. I now work as a project assistant with MACE, soon to take a role as assistant project manager. Even though I had no previous experience in this field, other than the internship, my job offers extensive training and qualifications to further my knowledge and skill set. I suppose one of the most important skills I got from my degree was confidence and the ability to work with other people, as this is something we had to do many times during my time studying at university with group work. Also, as I previously mentioned, communication and critical thinking. One piece of advice I would have for students is to take as many opportunities as possible, even if you're not sure that you want to go into a job to do with the internship or course, you'll still gain experience and skills for your CV and LinkedIn.

IP: Did you learn about the Green Sector in university? How is your company connected to the Green Sector and do they advertise their sustainability values to employees?

AH: No, we didn't really learn about the Green Sector in university. I suppose English Literature isn't a degree commonly associated with it though. English Literature in particular is a degree that is good for many jobs, and so yes, I think it would be beneficial for students of all disciplines to learn about the transferable skills we gain and what jobs are available out there within all different sectors. I imagine it will also improve students' chances at being hired by companies in the Green Sector if they have an understanding of the topic and green skills.

So, MACE is a construction company. I work in the defence department rather than the actual construction. I do know that my company takes full pride in being a responsible business and advertises sustainable building. Even though the defence doesn't sound like it has anything to do with the environment, more military and security, they are actually dedicated to defending the planet too. Part of the defence sector is focused on advising about net zero carbon, sustainable building, biodiversity net gain, and things like that. They also have an entire section on their website with blog posts, articles, and videos, dedicated to showing how they are a responsible business. I suppose my job and career pathway are aiming for a greener innovative future. I think that if you're interested in a green job and a certain sector, then it's worth researching what green jobs are available with certain companies, or what companies in that sector have sustainable values that you agree with.