

UK GRADUATE SUCCESS STORIES



Introduction

These case studies illustrate some of the graduates we have recently helped succeed in landing a graduate job.

Although they pursued varied roles in differing industries, the one thing they had in common was a fierce determination to succeed.

We love working with students and grads who really want to succeed.

We helped 54 graduates land their first or second job last year. A record for us. Our grads work across a wide variety of sectors from banking to political consultancy to cyber security.



— John M. Engineer to Investment Banker

Situation

John graduated with an engineering degree but came to us with his heart set on a career in finance. However, he hadn't participated in any bank internship programmes, now an essential prerequisite to be considered for a graduate role.

What we did and how we did it

While we knew John had the drive, intellect and work ethic to succeed, we needed to position him correctly and create a long-term action plan to get him to where he wanted to be.

We initially concentrated on communicating his transferable skill sets. A Bachelor of Engineering in product design with a focus on mechanical engineering is not necessarily suited to entry-level finance roles. James was nervous his background did not align him with or prepare him for what he ultimately wanted to do.

We helped him connect the dots between his technically rigorous degree and the intellectual demands of early financial training.

We explored his options within the banking industry

We needed to demonstrate to James the various options within banking and how they might best suit his hard and soft skills, and thus kickstart his career.

We coached John through his CV writing, job search and interview techniques

We recognised John's drive to get where he wanted to be and harnessed that in casting a wide net during his applications. This also involved meticulous CV rewriting and extensive cover letter work, reworking and adapting them for over 40 applications.

With a better understanding of how to frame his experience and relay this to interviewers, we saw John's performance dramatically improve.

We celebrated his career success

John landed a coveted position at a smaller investment bank. He has a strong action plan in place for his progression into a major bank.

"Half way through my degree I realised I did not want to become an engineer. I eventually decided that a role in banking would be my dream role. However with no internship experience I needed help. It was a tough three months as I applied for over 45 jobs but I did succeed and I know the work experience I gain will enable me to land a job in a top investment bank. I would not have succeeded without Graduate Coach's help"

- John M.



— Michael R.

Sports degree to Global Sports Charity

Situation

Michael, who is neurodiverse, came to us expressing his passion for the sports industry. With a wide range of experience working in the field for various smaller sports charities, Michael was after something more challenging to kick-start his career.

We helped Michael perform a Skills Audit, and coached him to be 'job-ready'

It was clear that Michael required extensive interview practice, which we embarked on immediately. We also worked hard on his CV after showing him how to translate his soft skills into something desirable to his chosen industry.

What Graduate Coach did and how we did it

We recognised that Michael's background and studies at an international business school in the US, could play to his advantage in applying to larger, multinational charities.

We celebrated his career success

We were delighted when Michael was accepted over several other excellent candidates for a position at a highly esteemed global sports charity organisation. At his request, we continue to mentor him to this day, helping him to truly excel within his dream role.

"I have found a job and my confidence has come back. If you get in trouble with job research and applications, I strongly recommend you reach out to Chris and his team!"
– Michael R.



— Rachel L.

Economist to Management Consultant

Situation

Rachel graduated from an excellent university with a degree in economics, and came to us with some impressive work experience already under her belt.

She was seeking a role in consulting and needed help understanding what was required of her to succeed in such an environment.

Honing her presentation skills, both in-person and in writing were key, as well as polishing her CV and coaching her through the many stages of application processes.

What Graduate Coach did and how we did it

What stood out to us was her lack of presentation skills, something crucial for anyone within consulting.

We undertook many hours of interview practice in order to finely tune how she presented herself and give her the confidence to speak about her work.

We coached Rachel through her CV, LinkedIn profile, job search and interviews

Rachel's CV had ample amounts of relevant experience, yet we needed to make it ATS compliant. We also completed an overhaul of her LinkedIn profile and coached her closely through the extensive application processes required for consultancy firms.

This, in particular, took many hours of tweaks and adjustments to meet these firms' standards.

We celebrated her career success

Rachel went through one of the most rigorous hiring processes we've seen for an entry-level role. We helped her through every stage of the five rounds of assessments, interviews and presentations.

She was finally rewarded with an offer from one of the UK's leading consulting firms.

"Although I had some work experience with pro bono consulting at university I knew that getting into a full time graduate role would be tough. GC helped me through every step of the way, from ATS-compliant CVs to great cover letters and no fewer than over 200 hours of interview coaching. Every major firm has hundreds of applicants for every role so you must be very determined and have a skilled team to help you. I did succeed but I couldn't have done it without them" - Rachel L.



— Tom S. Historian to SEO Strategist

Situation

Tom, who is neurodiverse, approached us hoping to get into content writing and creation. An interesting challenge, given his degree in Ancient History. Nonetheless, we were more than happy to assist.

We immediately identified that he had no suitable portfolio of work to demonstrate his capabilities to a hiring manager. He lacked confidence and found it difficult to speak about himself.

What Graduate Coach did and how we did it

We realised that Tom would need professional training to expand his experience within this field.

We enrolled him onto our Digital Internship and transformed his aptitude for this kind of work.

He came to understand SEO writing and undertook many, many tasks for us, which helped him grow his writing portfolio. This gave him confidence and a real understanding of the power of content.

We coached Tom through his portfolio and interviews

We helped Tom create countless pieces of professional content work across different industries to expose him to a broad view of the importance of content in any field.

Next, we coached him to the point where he could discuss his work and demonstrate an understanding of its value with great confidence.

We celebrated his career success

Tom has now had several content creation roles within a number of start-ups, and has now landed a full time role. He continues to develop and enjoy the skills he learnt with us.

We continue to mentor him and advise on pay rises and career development.

"Chris and the rest of the Graduate Coach team took a holistic approach to helping my son. They provided him with the skills and the confidence required to find suitable employment. It certainly wasn't a quick fix but the patience and confidence they showed was exemplary. I couldn't be more grateful and my son is so much happier as a result."

– Tom S.'s father



— Amelia A.

Event Planner to Insurance Underwriter

Situation

Amelia already had years of experience working in events when she decided to seek our help in transitioning to insurance.

She had demonstrated excellent organisational skills and a passion for teamwork.

These were the key points we kept in mind when reworking her CV for a major career change.

What Graduate Coach did and how we did it

We were delighted to take on the challenge of pivoting Amelia into a new career.

We soon realised that we needed to demonstrate how easily this transition could be achieved, by building her confidence and encouraging her to adapt her considerable skills.

We coached Amelia through a crucial skills audit

With our help, Amelia audited all of her previous experience and then proceeded to look through multiple job specs for roles she wished to apply for. Through use of the STAR method she learnt how her skills could be reworked appropriately for these applications.

We celebrated her career success

Amelia was hired into her dream role with a major insurer and we were delighted to see her determination to succeed pay off.

Amelia understood that, with her new-found confidence and a clear assessment of her skills, a career change could be achieved through simple adaptation.

"Chris and his team were brilliant. I initially enquired as I wasn't certain I could even apply for graduate roles, as I graduated more than 5 years ago. Chris called me within 24 hours of my initial email, was "on call" every day, even the weekends and supported me with each interview and information request that I had. If you're unsure of your current career path, want a change, get in touch with Chris, he will help you realise the types of roles that are most suited to you as a person and your existing skills. I will definitely be staying in touch for the coming years."

- Amelia A.



— Hugh G.

Business degree to Property Financial Analyst

Situation

Hugh approached us in the latter stages of a Business and Management degree at a prestigious London university.

With an impressive academic record but no meaningful work, Hugh needed help transferring this record into an impactful CV and interview talking points to make his first step into the professional space.

What Graduate Coach did and how we did it

We began with a complete overhaul of his CV and cover letter, ensuring that the former was Applicant Tracker System compliant.

We then enrolled him onto our Digital Internship programme where he acquired key real world, professional experience.

After assessing Hugh's mock interview techniques we also spend over 40 hours honing his interview skills.

We coached Hugh through his interviews

Although he possessed considerable internship experience, Hugh struggled to communicate this in interviews.

We helped him learn how to create 'war stories' – the go-to narratives that best highlight one's unique skills. The trick to these is to appear unrehearsed and sound natural, and to address questions with fluency and clarity.

Through considerate training and practice, Hugh's interview skills were completely transformed.

We celebrated his career success

Hugh landed a role as a financial analyst for a leading property investment firm. We check in regularly and have helped him discuss his next moves.



— Antonio M.

Finance graduate to Banking

Situation

Antonio had a truly impressive background, with great grades and some useful internship work experiences in his field. He was determined to begin working in a UK investment bank.

Whilst a Spanish National, he did have the right to work in the UK. However, he was unfamiliar with many of the newer, challenger banks and the UK's hiring process for such organisations.

What Graduate Coach did and how we did it

We edited and improved Antonio's CV and wrote several iterations targeting different lines of work in banking.

Antonio began applying for roles and it quickly became clear that he needed help from us in preparing him for both virtual and in-person assessments.

We coached Antonio through his interviews

We practised assessment day questions and interviews with Antonio to get him familiar with the format and to perfect his answers.

When he had online assessments we made sure we were available for him should he have any questions, and gave him office space to conduct the assessment in a quiet, professional setting.

We celebrated his career success

Antonio was a fast hire. After applying to almost 20 roles he reached four interview stages and landed a great job with a relatively new challenger bank. A determined, sharp graduate, the bulk of our work was preparing him for his assessment days and cultural expectations.

He was grateful that our coaching included training and explanation of UK banks' complex hiring practises.



— David A.

Political Analyst to Political Consultancy

Situation

David first came to us as a Masters student. He had a little work experience under his belt, ranging from work in maritime security to asset management. He needed the correct guidance to pivot into his dream role. He wanted to apply his International Relations degree to something that would help him thrive.

What Graduate Coach did and how we did it

We spent significant time with David exploring the various avenues open to him to reach his end goal. We helped him realise that his current work experiences weren't entirely relevant and that he would need to become digitally fluent to move forward.

We coached David through an alternative career route

Guiding David through our Digital Internship led to an entry-level position at a tech startup in which he climbed the ladder and developed his skills to a point where he could confidently search for the role he had set his sights upon.

We celebrated his career success

Having worked his way up through an exciting new startup, we went through some soul searching with David before he landed his dream role in political consultancy.

"Chris has helped all three of our children after they graduated and faced the challenge of choosing and embarking on their careers. Chris really helped them focus on the types of career which might suit them; he then worked to build appropriate CV's for different job options and took them through comprehensive interview training and really built their confidence to face prospective employers. Our three children are totally different from each other and have therefore pursued entirely different careers, but Chris has been able to help all of them."
– David A.'s mother



— Camilla M.

Real Estate degree to Graduate Surveyor

Situation

Camilla approached us well before her graduation. She was a forward-looking student wanting to develop a solid plan for post-graduation.

We coached Camilla through her portfolio and interviews

After regular check-ins through her final year of university, we helped Camilla land interviews at her top choice real estate firms, who would sponsor her for her RICS qualification.

What Graduate Coach did and how we did it

We were impressed by her drive and helped her draft an action plan that included summer internships, goal setting and accountability check-ins.

We helped edit and email drafts, and conducted mock interviews with her along the way.

We celebrated her career success

Camilla was already very self-driven and came to us to help her get that extra edge in a competitive market.

She landed her first-choice agency and now works in real estate.

"Chris helped...[all three of my daughters]...learn to talk coherently and confidently about the transferable skills they had learned in a pressurised interview/assessment environment. His mentoring and coaching of them really took the pressure off them (and us!) when they had secured an interview for their perfect graduate opportunity. Each one couldn't have done any better than they, or we, could have wished for, and we have Chris to thank for that! We don't hesitate to recommend him."

– Camilla's father



— Sarah L.

Historian to Reputation Management Consultant

Situation

Sarah came to us with a stellar academic record from Oxford. After graduating she tried to become a lawyer but could not obtain a training contract. She subsequently became a tutor yet still wanted a fulfilling graduate-level job.

Clearly very smart with an excellent work ethic, what she lacked was any real-world work experience. Without the work experience she was struggling – no applications were being accepted.

What Graduate Coach did and how we did it

We understand the frustration graduates feel when they have devoted time, energy and effort into their academic success only to be faced with unenthusiastic responses from employers after graduation.

We reassured Sarah and explained how most students are not told how critical work experience is in the current market.

Our first goal for her was to build up her “digital fluency” by enrolling her into our Digital Internship programme. She completed all the Google courses in record time and we then gave her blogs, press releases and content for our socials.

We coached Sarah through her portfolio and interviews

With her growing portfolio of press releases, blogs and articles, Sarah’s stellar academic performance now had a tangible real-world outlet.

We thought she would be perfect for a high flying career in Reputation Management.

We coached her through mock interviews which aided in building her confidence.

We celebrated her career success

Sarah’s portfolio did its job. She was hired swiftly by a PR and Communications agency working across industries – further developing her professional exposure and experience. Subsequently we have helped her land a role with one of the UK’s most prestigious agencies.



— Simon L.

Opera Singer to Cyber Security Consultant

Situation

Tim wished to pivot from professional opera singing (with its uncertain cash flows) to a graduate level job where his income would be more certain and career progression assured.

We coached Simon through his portfolio and interviews

We are so proud of what we managed to achieve. After the internship with us he did a short stint in a digital agency for experience then landed an account management job within a new division of an exhibitions company selling a new online portal.

This became a turning point, he was confident talking to clients and was digitally fluent.

What Graduate Coach did and how we did it

Despite Simon lacking formal work experience he had learnt how to hustle booking agents for singing roles and also realised that he needed to become 'digitally fluent'.

We decided that the digital internship would be especially useful for him as it would enable him to immediately enhance his employability.

We celebrated his career success

After only six months with the exhibitions company he successfully landed a great job with a leading cyber security company.

We couldn't be happier with Simon's journey and still, to this day, keep in regular contact with him.

"The knowledge, expertise and dedication required to win a graduate job in today's market could almost fill an entire degree course. The only difference being that, unlike a degree course, all the knowledge and expertise wasn't in one convenient place. Until Chris came along with Graduate Coach. Chris has distilled all of his commercial and entrepreneurial experience to create something genuinely life-changing. Make no mistake, this information will not simply fall into your lap; it is little wonder so many graduates remain unemployed for so long. Not only will Chris get you a job, he will also give you the awareness to enter the world of work with the experience of someone already 5 years in, rather than a complete novice. If I could give 6 stars, I would"
- Simon L.



Appendices

Link to One-to-One Coaching:

<https://graduatecoach.co.uk/one-to-one-coaching/>

How many interviews does it take to get a job:

<https://graduatecoach.co.uk/blog/how-many-interviews-does-it-take-to-get-a-job/>

Link to Graduate Testimonials:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHax7cIKhmU>

Link to Graduate Coach Youtube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/GraduateCoach>

Link to Google Reviews -

<https://www.google.com/search?q=graduate+coach&oq=graduate+coach&aqs=chrome..69i57j69i60l3j0l2.1829j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#lrd=0x48761b4e4c9e05e9:0x37f0989e6d5a5035.1,,,>

Link to Our Successes:

<https://graduatecoach.co.uk/our-successes/>

Graduate Coach Books: <https://graduatecoach.co.uk/books/>

Link to Online Career Courses:

<https://graduatecoach.co.uk/online-coaching/>

Link to Press Release:

<https://pressreleases.responsesource.com/news/98028/why-graduates-think-they-can-t-land-graduate-level-jobs/>

