

## **EDUCATION**

### **University of Warwick – Coventry, Warwickshire (2006 – 2007)**

MA Social & Political Thought: ongoing (ends Sept'07; expected grade: MA with Distinction)

### **University of Warwick – Coventry, Warwickshire (2003 – 2006)**

BA (Hons) Politics & International Studies: 2.1

### **Garibaldi Comprehensive Sixth Form – Mansfield, Nottinghamshire (2001 – 2003)**

A-levels: Business Studies (A) English Literature (A) History (B)

## **WORK HISTORY**

### **Intern: *Spiked-Online.com* (Christmas 2006)**

- At this placement with a popular online magazine I learnt to better *sort through reams of information for the relevant points and present it in a concise and orderly way* and rose to the challenge of producing material for accomplished freelance writers who wouldn't accept less than the best. Among the other publications they have written for include: *The Times, The New Statesman* and *The Daily Express*. The research that I conducted for senior writers supplemented my already existing **research** skills, but increased my efficiency because of the need to meet impending deadlines.
- During my time at Spiked I also tried to immerse myself in the business and marketing side of the publication. I got familiar with the readership profile of the website and the marketing model that had been constructed in response.
- My main achievement was to *get my writing published* which I was proud, considering the high quality of the website's output, to accomplish.

### **Shadowing – Office of Philip Whitehead MEP (September 2005- Six Week Placement)**

- I spent the first five weeks of this two week placement working in the office with the chief secretary to the MEP where much of my time went on *monitoring local and national press for salient issues and constructing press releases* for the office. This helped me understand strategies to ensure that public relations remain good for an organization.
- I took a full part in sharing in the responsibilities of the office work. Tasks included: database management; taking inquiries on a range of subjects from constituents, businesses, the press, fellow legislative partners and other interested parties; updating and revising the schedule of the MEP.
- I spent the final week shadowing Philip Whitehead MEP ensuring he kept his timetable and was always fully briefed about whatever meeting was impending. I learnt here by example, as in Mr. Whitehead I found a highly

professional, motivated and informed individual who I found myself watching closely and gaining personal experience from.

**Production Assistant – Peak Practice TV Series** (September 2003 – Month-Long Placement)

- This was an environment (a film set) where teamwork was all-important. The smooth running of the set required that a thousand things were done swiftly and with ease. This required *constant communication and understanding* between all cast and crew and I learnt to accomplish tasks in this highly-charged setting through determination and self-application.
- I gained two weeks worth of office experience on this placement. Tasks included: database management and distribution of memoranda and other operations-related paperwork to a tight deadline.
- I worked mainly in the production and locations departments, and the head of the latter would continue to invite me back for paid employment when he needed staff over the following year.

**INTERESTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

- During my first year of university I was the *Social Secretary of Warwick's Tennis Society* which mainly involved organising meals and nights-out for members. I organised for us trips and other social events and established a yearly society satisfaction survey for members to provide feedback on their experience and our performance. This was supplemented with interviews analysed with qualitative methods, which was my introduction to the field of **market research**.
- My time as a *sub-editor of the student paper the Warwick Boar* indeed helped my editing skills, but mostly challenged me to improve my time management. I learnt to economise my time and use every last minute.
- I was *Deputy Manager of Europe Day* for One World Week, the largest student-run international festival in the world. The aim of the week was to showcase world cultures and included all manner of events: forums for political debate, food from around the world, a carnival, a fashion show and much more. My job entailed leading a group of students in exposing European cultures to Warwick students and the wider public. The event required *strong leadership, strict time-keeping, teamwork and creative thinking*. I then helped to undertake qualitative **research** based on interviews with festival attendees in order to assess the brand experience and to inform future years' events.
- Additionally I hold, or have previously held, the following positions: *student representative* in the Politics Department SSLC (Student Staff Liaison Committee); *co-editor*, the Freedom Rules blog of the Manifesto Club; *phone 'friend'* for Warwick Student Union's 'Nightline' student counseling service; *captain* of tennis teams and five-a-side football sides

- Finally, I have had numerous jobs in order to pay my way through higher education. These have included supervisory roles on bars and in a bowling alley, which I have been promoted to after demonstrating my competence and trustworthiness in positions of responsibility.