

## **Katie Ward - Treasury Solicitors Office TSol**

Since graduating I had worked for a range of organisations from a television channel to a law firm, I hadn't yet found a career that suited me and challenged me in the way I wanted.

I discovered the FMDS scheme via the internet. The scheme appealed to me immediately, not only did it offer the support to study for a professional qualification but also because I felt sure that working at any one of the organisations that offer the FMDS scheme would provide me with a variety of work that was not only challenging and interesting but also valuable.

I chose TSol partly because of my background in law, which I felt would make TSol an interesting context in which to embark upon my finance career. I also believed that the work carried out by TSol lawyers (from the banking crisis, to the Iraq inquiry, to immigration and much more) is so important to large and small Government Departments that TSol is truly at the heart of Government.

In the relatively short time I have been at TSol I have been fortunate to gain experience in a number of areas across the TSol finance function, ranging from the accounts payable team, to working with a team implementing a new online procurement system, to being part of a project team reviewing the fee model used to charge our clients for the work carried out by our lawyers.

I have also been fortunate enough to undertake a secondment at the National Audit Office, where not only did I gain experience of auditing UK public sector bodies but I was also able to gain experience auditing a UN organisation based in the Netherlands.

It has not always been easy getting the balance between my day to day life, studies and work (and remembering to keep a log of all my work experience!) but the structure of the Scheme and in particular the support offered by TSol have made the process much easier. I know that all the sleepless nights worrying about exam results and the days where excel spreadsheets blur before my eyes are all worth it.

A career in the civil service offers the opportunity to work in an organisation that is truly making a difference to society. Today, more than ever finance is key to the proper functioning of the public sector. This makes it a great time to be part of not only the FMDS but also the Government Finance Profession.

Katie