

# A STUDENT'S VIEW

## BA Accounting & Business - The Flying Start Programme



**Ben Francis**

Graduate

*on the benefits of*

*BA Accounting & Business*

**'Henley Business School has a great reputation, especially amongst senior management in big companies'**

**'I now have contacts in virtually every PwC office around the country.'**

### **How did you come to be on this programme, Ben?**

'Choosing the Henley Business School at Reading wasn't a difficult choice. I'd been to lots of Open Days at other universities, but the lecturers at Reading knew the programme inside out, and I felt really inspired by them. Also, Henley Business School has a great reputation, especially amongst senior management in big companies, and their expertise in executive education was important to me.'

'I'd actually enrolled on the Accounting & Management degree course initially, but a couple of months in, my personal tutor, who was also the Course Director for the Accounting & Business programme suggested that I should consider switching. Luckily, there was a space on the course, and the modules are the same for both courses in the first year, so it wasn't a problem to change. Switching courses gave me a good deal more access to industry experience through the PwC placement, as well as the prospect of a job offer from PwC once I graduate.'

### **How did you find the PwC Assessment Day?**

'It was a really good day, rather like a graduate interview, but based on what you might be expected to know as a 17 to 19-year-old. And PwC were very helpful in providing advice on how to prepare for the day, so I never felt as if I was going in the dark.'

'The day itself was made up of a group scenario, which judged our ability to work as part of a team, looking at the way we communicated, listened and behaved, then there was a competency-based interview with a partner at PwC. The good thing is that they call you the same evening with the outcome – plus lots of useful feedback – so I didn't have to wait for very long to find out that I'd been accepted!'

### **You're now in your final year – has the course lived up to expectations?**

'Very much so. The placement has been great, and I've been pleasantly surprised at how much I've learned and developed from it, and the amount of responsibility I've been given, even as an undergraduate. It's also been a fantastic network-building exercise, and I now have contacts in virtually every PwC office around the country.'

'The experience of being on campus at Reading has also been very friendly and enjoyable, both from the point of view of the learning atmosphere as well as the social side of things – weekends in the town are great fun.'

### **So what advice would you offer to anyone considering this programme?**

'The teaching is of a really high quality, and it's not just academic; it's a massive plus to hear about real industry experience that all the lecturers have. And don't think you can only do accountancy at the end of your course. It opens doors in virtually every kind of business.'

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