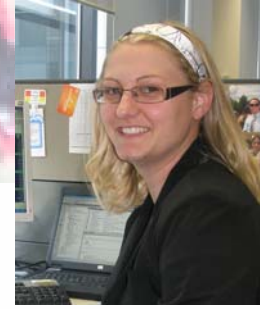


Graduate Profile – Krystie Siegenthaler



Stream: Finance

Program Intake: 2008

Degree: Bachelor of Business Administration: Accounting and Information Systems

Position Prior to Graduate Role: Analyst for Supermarkets Finance

1. How would you describe the culture and working environment within your area of work?

I am currently working in Freestanding Liquor (BWS and Dan Murphy's) and the working environment is great. Everyone in liquor works really hard but there is still a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The whole liquor team is relatively small and there are only 12 people in finance. I like the feel of a smaller team because the structure is flatter and you tend to know everyone.

2. Who are some of the key people you have had exposure to / worked with?

A lot of senior people take interest in the Graduate Program so your exposure begins with the initial interviews. My panel interview consisted of the General Manager of Corporate Performance Analysis and Reporting, the General Manager of Supermarkets Finance and the General Manager of Dick Smith Finance. In my second rotation I had the opportunity to be involved in a project which resulted in me travelling to Melbourne with the Finance Manager of Project Jupiter to do a Finance toolkit review.

3. What have you learnt about Woolworths Limited and your Division that you did not previously know?

I think it was a shock when I got to support office just how big the company is. I had no idea all of the brands that are WOW owned or the fact that we operate overseas as well as in Australia.

4. Describe what the program has looked like so far

During my rotation in Big W I had a lot of interaction with the stores with some of my weekly and monthly tasks. Some of my responsibilities included daily bank account reconciliation, weekly epay reconciliations, monthly store P+L queries and journals, as well as a lot of adhoc queries and analysis.

My second rotation is in Liquor and when I first started I was involved in the budgeting process for overheads and some store level budgets. As liquor is still a relatively new section of the WOW business there is a lot of scope for input which makes for interesting work. Currently my key responsibilities are sales reporting and project work. I was also involved in some User Acceptance Testing for the Project Galaxy upgrade. This provided insight into the way a major project is run within the company.

5. What advice would you give others considering applying for the program? Who would you recommend the program to?

I do not think I was initially prepared for the culture shock. Going from working night shifts in a supermarket to a full time office job is difficult. It is hard not just because the hours are different but you possibly may be not as physically active in the Graduate role throughout the day.

Just be prepared for the first few weeks to be a little frustrating as you will pretty much need to learn and absorb everything – new systems, new processes, new team and new environment. Make sure you learn early about what is expected from you, ask questions if you do not understand and be willing to go the extra mile (it is definitely noticed).