

Graduate Profile



Savanah Whitby

Assistant Development Manager

Stream: Property 2010

Degree: Bachelor of Laws (LLB)

Position prior to Grad Program: Supervisor at an ALH owned Dan Murphy's

1. Why the Woolworths graduate program? (What attracted you to the program? Has it lived up to / surpassed your expectations)

I was attracted to the Woolworths Graduate Program because the company is a market leader and due to its size it is able to offer growth, career advancement and training opportunities. I was attracted to the property stream of the program because Woolworths is one of the largest retail property developers in Australia. Also, all major property functions are accounted for in the program with rotations in Property Development, Property Management, Corporate and Lease Administration.

2. What would be your key achievement to date / proudest moment on the program?

Winning the Paul Simons award was definitely the highlight. Both stages of the competition are a fantastic opportunity to showcase your presentation and interview skills and meet new people within the business. In my work rotations my greatest achievement would be successfully completing a relief for my Manager for two weeks. It was great to get to experience the role on my own, without the usual support of my manager.

3. Where do you see yourself in 5 years? How do you believe this program is preparing you for this?

In 5 years I see myself as a Development Manager or Property Manager within Woolworths. My rotations on the graduate program have more than prepared me to perform these functions, and after some time off the program in an assistant role I should be more than capable of taking on the challenge.

4. What personal and professional skills have you developed since joining the program?

During the program I have grown as a person and as a professional. I would say that my written skills have improved greatly over the past two years with many opportunities to write reports or submissions to communicate the deals that have been negotiated to a third party. I have also improved my interpersonal skills, including working with a team, negotiating and managing business relationships.

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

In the Graduate Program we have many opportunities to meet with or hear from senior managers within the business. I have also had the opportunity to be involved in meetings or projects that included involvement from senior managers including the Director of Supermarkets, Liquor and Petrol and the General Manager of the Quantum initiative.

6. How would you describe the culture and working environment within your area of work (i.e. team spirit, work ethics, working independently / as a team)?

The Property division has a great team environment. Being quite a small division, most people will know most others names, even if they do not work directly together. In regards to working teams, each area is different but most have a good balance of working independently and separately with everyone enjoying success as a team, not just as an individual. Everyone I have met in this division has a great work ethic. We all have our targets to achieve and people are willing to put in the hours to achieve their goals, to the betterment of the company.

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

Before I began the program I knew that the Woolworths Property team included a development arm, developing shopping centres to support our retail businesses growth. However, I had no idea just how many projects were in the pipeline or the importance of the area in providing future stores when the market is not providing what is required.