

ALFRED H KNIGHT

AHK GRADUATE PROGRAMME

CASE STUDY: JONATHAN WALLS

JOB TITLE: Operations and Commercial Manager

QUALIFICATION: Metallurgical Civil Engineering

Jonathan began his AHK journey as a Graduate Trainee in 2018, initially based at the Group Headquarters in Liverpool and travelling overseas to gain global exposure. Now based in Bolivia as an Operations and Commercial Manager - Jonathan is a great testament to how AHKs graduate programmes can set you up for a fantastic future career.



JONATHAN'S AHK JOURNEY

The experiences I have had during my career so far at AHK have been unique in both a personal and a professional way. When I started as a graduate trainee, I had the opportunity to travel to different countries to learn from our worldwide operations. My first secondment was in Durban, South Africa, supporting the local team in WSMD operations. I spent approximately three to four months in South Africa, where I had the opportunity to grow more into a technical/operational role. Following on from this, I returned to the UK for more training at the lab. During my time in the UK, I had the opportunity to develop skills using portable XRF equipment, which proved fundamental for my next secondment position.

After finishing my training in the UK, I left for Peru to support operations and XRF jobs primarily. I spent two years in Peru, where I had the opportunity to further develop my professional skills in Operations and Administration. I was very fortunate in Peru because I had two great mentors. This allowed me to expand my knowledge in different areas and strengthen my skills as a professional.

Concluding my secondment in Peru, I was offered a new opportunity in AHK Bolivia, which I took this year (2022). My role as an Operations and Commercial Manager involves working closely with AHK Bolivia's administration, operations and finance departments as well as engaging in Commercial and Marketing activities.

"Never be afraid to fail; sometimes, it is the fastest way to develop into the professional you desire to be. "

- JONATHAN WALLS

ADVICE TO GRADUATES

I would give graduates the following advice: Firstly, take opportunities as they come, and learn the most from them. Secondly, be a team player rather than acting as an individual; you achieve far more this way. Thirdly, always be open to constructive criticism; it is the fastest way of learning and progressing. Finally - never be afraid to fail; sometimes, it is the fastest way to develop into the professional you desire to be.