

ALFRED H KNIGHT

AHK GRADUATE PROGRAMME CASE STUDY: SIMON THORNTON

JOB TITLE: Geologist - Metals and Minerals

QUALIFICATION: MSci Geology

Simon began his AHK journey in 2021, joining the Technical Graduate Programme after gaining a Masters degree from Imperial College London. Following the completion of his graduate programme, Simon works as a Metals and Minerals Geologist within the AHK Technical Department. Simon's role involves working with all departments that require technical support, including Operations, Client Services and AHK's overseas offices.



SIMON'S AHK JOURNEY

The first few months of my graduate programme were somewhat disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The overseas visits that had been planned for me were unfortunately cancelled. I received the majority of my technical training at our Group Headquarters in the Pegasus House office - but my experience out in the field was limited. However, this all changed in January 2022. As travel restrictions lifted across Europe, I received an invaluable opportunity, to fly out to Croatia towards the end of the month and assist with setting up a new entity and AHK office over there. I spent five months in total overseas, before returning to the Group Headquarters in June. This was undoubtedly the highlight of my graduate programme. It was an invaluable and hugely enjoyable learning experience.

My role is varied, as the services we provide are diverse. The purpose of this department is to provide technical support where and when required, in whatever form necessary. A significant project that I have been involved with is the FIOR project, an audit programme aimed at identifying areas in which local offices can improve their practises in order to enhance the services provided to our clients.

"Don't be afraid to reach out to people if you come across something you're interested in"

- SIMON THORNTON

ADVICE TO GRADUATES

My first piece of advice would be to start building your network. Join LinkedIn, attend events inside and outside university and don't be afraid to reach out to people if you come across something you're interested in. Secondly, make use of any assistance that your university careers department offers. I received valuable advice on how to write CV's and cover letters. Lastly, it is inevitable that some other students will have more experience, better qualifications, and will have started applying for jobs before you. Don't worry, you have plenty of time to find the right opportunity for you.