

IQEQ

Know how Know you

**If you truly
want to push
your limits**

have the
right team
behind you



Our trainee stories



Lauren Murphy

Trainee Officer
Funds & Institutional

School/College

Hautlieu School

Hobbies and interests

I love travelling and one of the benefits the programme offers is the option to take a 3-month sabbatical at the end. I've nearly completed my two years' and unfortunately Covid-19 has delayed my travel plans but I am using this time to research different places and adding them to my list for now!

Why I joined the Trainee Discovery Programme?

I knew I wanted to start my career in finance but there were so many options and I didn't really know which one would interest me.

I saw the Trainee Discovery Programme advertised and it appealed to me because I could explore different areas before I committed to a specific role. It is a two year programme so every gives six months you move to a different area of the business, work with a different team and try new things.

If I'm honest, I really enjoyed my first placement in private wealth and was a little nervous about moving to my next one but they invited me to lunch before I joined and I settled in really quickly. When it was time to move to my third placement, I didn't really give it much thought.

What does a typical day look like at IQ-EQ?

Typical day, well it's always busy which is great as you are never bored or scratching around for things to do. There are the everyday tasks to do, I am also involved in project work, talking to clients and there are always new things to learn every day. It doesn't matter how busy we are the team will always take time to teach me new things.

What advice would you give someone who is considering their career in finance?

My advice would be to keep an open mind, push yourself outside your comfort zone as it really builds your confidence and a positive attitude can get you far!

Our trainee stories



Ryan Merhet

Trainee Officer
Funds & Institutional

School/College

Highlands College

Hobbies and interests

Fishing and beekeeping

Why I joined the Trainee Discovery Programme?

I wanted to understand and explore different areas of finance so the Trainee Discovery Programme looked like a good fit for me. I was invited to an interview with Stuart and Abbie and then meet the trainees from the first cohort who talked about their experience so far. I also meet different people around the business and had a tour of the office. Everyone seemed really friendly, approachable and welcoming and for me it showed what a people focused business they are. I am now on my second placement and enjoying the variety.

What does a typical day look like at IQ-EQ?

A typical day would normally be documenting minutes, which is interesting as you learn a lot about the clients we work for. There are also a lot of payments but every task has a structured checklists to guide you through and if you are unsure the team are always there to support and answer any questions. There is definitely a lot of support as you have regular catch ups with your mentor and a buddy to help you settle in.

What advice would you give someone who is considering their career in finance?

Speak to as many people as possible to find out about their experience and why they enjoy the work they do. Also research companies before you apply, check their website, LinkedIn and also Glassdoor as this is where you will find honest reviews on the company you are considering.

Our trainee stories



Felicity Guerin

Trainee Officer
Private Wealth

School/College

Beaulieu Convent School

Hobbies and interests

Golf, traveling and shopping

Why I joined the Trainee Discovery Programme?

Similar to my colleagues, I really didn't know what I wanted to do but knew I wanted to join a Finance company. Stuart and Abbie talked about the programme during one of our career sessions at school and it really appealed to me as I could explore different areas and then decide which option suited me best. My first role with IQ-EQ was with our compliance team and I have really enjoyed my time there. It's always sad to leave a team but we still work together but in a different way.

What does a typical day look like at IQ-EQ?

I have just started my next placement in private wealth, at the moment I am learning and shadowing people in my team. Everyone is keen to help and support you plus when we move to our next placement there are handover notes from the last trainee which you can refer to, which is a massive help too.

What advice would you give someone who is considering their career in finance?

Finance isn't boring and it is not all to do with maths! Have an open mind and remember you don't have to be an accountant to have a career in finance, there is such a variety of career options which can suit anyone. Good luck.

Our trainee stories



Eoin Lynam

Trainee Officer
Funds & Institutional

School/College

Hautlieu School

Hobbies and interests

Football and fishing

Why I joined the Trainee Discovery Programme?

I had just finished school and had no interest in going to university. I knew I wanted to start a career in finance, although I wasn't sure which section I would be best suited to. The Trainee Discovery Programme had just launched and it seemed a perfect match for me.

What does a typical day look like at IQ-EQ?

A typical day would be working on daily and outstanding tasks and/or projects. It's important to be organised, keep things moving and manage your day. If you are given a task, it's important to know the deadline so you can prioritise your day.

What advice would you give someone who is considering their career in finance?

I would say that when you start there is no such thing as a silly question. People are willing to help you so you understand the task, if you are not sure then just ask. The more you develop the more tasks you will be able to complete which is a win-win for both you and your team.

Our trainee stories



Carter Weekes

Trainee Officer
Compliance

School/College

Victoria College

Hobbies and interests

Cars, music, fashion and sport (for e.g. formula 1, boxing and football)

Why I joined the Trainee Discovery Programme?

I was offered a short-term placement with IQ-EQ as I wanted to save money and go travelling but also to find out more about what it would be like to work in the finance sector. Before I went on my travels I spoke to other trainees and really liked the sound of the Trainee Discovery Programme, so applied and secured a role before I finished my placement. It sounds like a cliché but IQ-EQ are a real people business, they are a friendly bunch and there are so many ways to get involved in things outside of work.

What does a typical day look like at IQ-EQ?

So far I have worked in two areas of the business and both very different but you soon realise that the skills and knowledge you gain from your previous placements help you, it's a bit like putting a puzzle together as you begin to understand how everything fits together. So back to the question, a typical day is busy, with lots of different tasks, there is lots to learn and we also have a workbook to make sure we cover all the skills and experience for each placement.

What advice would you give someone who is considering their career in finance?

Never be afraid to ask questions. When you get given work don't just do it, understand why it is being done. Research the companies you are applying to and use your interview as an opportunity to ask lots of questions as it's important to understand how they will support and develop you.



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