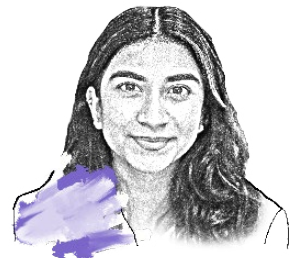


DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN INTERN AT WALTER SCOTT

INTERVIEW BY OWEN THOMAS, MARKETING INTERN
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NEELAKSHI DUA

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For a more in depth look at life as an intern at Walter Scott, I sat down with one of our interns from the 2024 Operations programme. Neelakshi Dua is currently studying at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, reading Economics. She shares recollections from her first week, what an average day entailed, and her impressions of Edinburgh life outside of work.

TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF

I'm Neelakshi, a first year Economics student at the University of Cambridge. I have some industry experience in investment banking, trading, and management through previous spring weeks and short-term programmes, but was keen to broaden my understanding of how the finance sector operates. Having met Walter Scott at a careers event, the approachability of the firm's people and their low staff turnover rates were messages that I hadn't heard from other firms. I found this really appealing.

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HOW DID YOU FIND WALTER SCOTT AND THE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE?

Having now worked at the firm, I can see that the culture that was advertised to me at the careers event was not just for show. The atmosphere at Walter Scott is different from what I had previously thought to be typical of an investment house. I thoroughly enjoyed my six weeks at the firm, and really appreciated the active effort that the different teams and colleagues made to check in on my progress and answer questions. It felt that as interns we were integrated into the wider staff team, not left behind on the sidelines.

During the internship, we were given responsibility and trusted to join a department as integral members. Because of this, I gained valuable insights not only into the fund management industry where the firm operates, but also what a career would really look like. As well as working within a specific team, we were also encouraged to be

inquisitive and to explore the different departments within the firm. I was given access to research and company meetings, and was encouraged to talk with various department heads to gain a better understanding about their place within the broader company.

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WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST WEEK LIKE?

The first week was busy, but was very well structured to help us all settle into the firm easily. We were introduced to each department, where teams actively encouraged us to ask questions and offered to discuss their work in more detail. We also had a full day of asset management training, designed to help us understand where Walter Scott fits within the financial services industry and the jargon associated with it. Throughout the six weeks, we were also given a mentor, who took the time to introduce me to the projects that I'd be working on and helped me to acclimatise to how the team worked. With time to settle in, there were also plenty of networking opportunities. We even had a coffee with the managing director, and a discussion on the history of the firm with one of the executive directors, something that I really wasn't expecting.

WHAT DOES AN AVERAGE DAY LOOK LIKE AT WALTER SCOTT?

As an intern, your days can be quite varied. Typically, I'd spend some time working on my assigned project, which was focused on researching artificial intelligence, as well as shadowing other members of the team. The opportunity to join research and company meetings also formed an important part of the experience. As interns, we were invited into investment debates and discussions, even given the chance to meet global CEOs and company leaders. Walter Scott also made an effort to organise informal events for us, with a free firm-wide lunch twice a week, and after work social events.

A big part of my six weeks was my research project which was focused on the risks and applications of AI in the healthcare and technology sectors. It was rewarding to have the chance to produce a research report in real time, and to be trusted with laying the foundations for a larger research effort which the team will take on in the future.

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WHAT IS IT LIKE TO LIVE AND WORK IN EDINBURGH?

Having lived in London for most of my life, Edinburgh is a great change of scenery. The city is obviously much smaller, but it still has a buzz to it. The office also couldn't have been in a better location, tucked on the corner of a historic Georgian square next door to the First Minister of Scotland, and with incredible views of the castle. Support from Walter Scott helped make the six-week relocation easier, and I thoroughly enjoyed embracing Scottish culture and exploring everything from historic old sites to extinct volcanoes!

WHAT'S THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU'VE LEARNED AT WALTER SCOTT?

As you'd expect, I learnt a lot about the fund management industry, but there were also unexpected and equally valuable lessons. During our first week inductions, one of the firm's directors shared an insight which stuck with me: "Arrogance prevails in the industry, so stay grounded... the balance between confidence and humility is crucial". I think that his point speaks to the culture of the firm, but it also gave me a fresh perspective on the importance of mindset and character when developing a career.

I would also say that my time at Walter Scott has taught me a lot about how to make the most of opportunities. For six weeks, we had access to an entire firm of people that were willing to take the time to speak with us and answer our questions. The opportunities are out there, so be inquisitive and make the most out of them. Never be afraid to reach out and start the conversation!

Research Operations

The Research Operations team at Walter Scott provides operational and analytical support to the Investment Research team. Tasks are split across governance and regulation, stewardship and ESG processes, and operations.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT WALTER SCOTT?

Please visit www.walterscott.com/careers for details and application information.

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