

Accenture Alumni Network Getting the Most out of Accenture



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Introduction:

Management consulting alumni members were asked to share their thoughts on how their Accenture experience prepared them for their current roles and to suggest advice to somebody joining Accenture, helping them to get the most out of their time with us. Confidence, team playing, the training, management and project management skills and industry knowledge are identified as key learning blocks acquired at Accenture.

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Accenture Alumni: Getting the Most Out of Accenture

How did your time at Accenture prepare you for your current role?

Holly Crane

Accenture: 1999 to 2003

“It gave me some industry experience which is important because I am now dealing with people who are wanting to get into industries including consulting. It gave me basic business and interpersonal skills, influencing, time management that kind of thing. And also, what I do now is about people and change and how they work in business. So, four years of working in that area is obviously relevant to what I do now.”

James Duffy

Accenture: 2000 to 2002

“The transition from University into professional life, and I think Accentures training programme really gave you a sense of, right you know how to deal in a professional environment whilst also working with people 20 years older than you and people your same age your peers.”

Tim Garood

Accenture: 1997 to 2000

“I think it taught me that confidence is everything, and just about how to behave with a client and it gave me a lot of exposure in front of the client and I think that has been great, I have used that every day since.”

Alice Heezen

Accenture: 1994 to 1998

“I would say basically the change management part I still use it. I am an HR manager now and you still need to make projects actually work. All the principles I have learnt at Accenture and Andersen at that time I still use.”

Donna Gildea

Accenture: 1997 to 2002

“Well my time at Accenture probably prepared me for most roles that I could have stepped into I would have said, because again it comes down to that variety, new challenges in roles, there was always something else to learn.”

Alastair Birt

Accenture: 1994 to 2002

“I think the main thing it gives you is a lot of confidence, it gives you a good network, and it helps you to plan and to think through things right to the nth level of detail.”

Nick Stanford

Accenture: 1994 to 1998

“It was a great thing to have on your CV, absolutely, every place I have been to since then has looked at that on the CV and said if you have worked there you can deal with anything. So it has been fantastic for anything else. Also in terms of people I've known since then, you build up a really good network of contacts and that's helped me in all my jobs since.”

Martin Dowson

Accenture: 2000 to 2005

“What Accenture gave me confidence on was that actually I can transfer my knowledge across different fields, so I actually have the confidence to go into different situations now and kind of go its alright, I have a base of knowledge as long as I ask the right questions, and asking the right questions is everything in life, as long as I ask the right questions Ill be able to respond in a way that my skills will naturally go through it and I actually can relate that back to my time at Accenture.”

Kate Adey

Accenture: 1996 to 2002

“The main thing within Accenture is the Project Management skills, it really provides you with a strong foundation to be able to allow you to then go onto more things. I think also the ability to manage large teams, you are kind of thrown in at the deep end and from that you kind of learn a huge amount.”

What advice would you give someone joining Accenture?

James Duffy

Accenture: 2000 to 2002

“To keep an open mind and to know that what you might be doing one month might be completely different to what you might be doing the next month and just making sure that you are prepared for that variety and just open your mind and enjoy it.”

Ian Hobson

Accenture: 1981 to 1986

“Its such an incredible opportunity and sometimes the opportunities may appear frustrating and not quite what you want to do but everything you do there has massive potential to learn from and its something you should just try and embrace and go along with and learn from and build onto the next step.”

Donna Gildea

Accenture: 1997 to 2002

“Make the most of it, give it your best shot, obviously there’s a lot of work to do but team playing is quite a big thing, you are not generally in it for yourself, you jointly have something to deliver.”

Martin Dowson

Accenture: 2000 to 2005

“You should ask good questions and if you are not getting what you want, ask a better question.”

Holly Crane

Accenture: 1999 to 2003

“Have a think about what it is about you that are your strengths and skills and what you are interested in and do proper research about Accenture and the actual roles you will be doing day to day, don’t just think consultancy ‘wee hay’. But have a think about your skills and your strengths and have a look if they’ll fit because that will help you in the interview, but its also your entire career decision that you are basing it on so don’t take it lightly.”

Kate Adey

Accenture: 1996 to 2002

“Think about the travel, it does require a lot of moving around.”

Azhar Alani

Accenture: 2001 to 2006

“It’s a great company, not only in the UK all over the world and it will give you the skill set that you will need for the rest of your life.”

Nick Stanford

Accenture: 1994 to 1998

“To put everything that you’ve got into it, it was great fun and if I hadn’t done it I would never have known what to do after that. It was brilliant.”

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