

Wieger van der Meulen (30)

STUDY YEAR: 2007-2009

IS: IT-Security & Privacy manager @ Deloitte

HOME: Apartment in Amsterdam

HOUSEHOLD: Living together with girlfriend

SALARY: Between 3000 and 4000 euro

RIDE: Volkswagen Polo (lease-car)



'About a year ago, I started working at Deloitte at the unit of information security. My current job involves the protection of firms against external attacks, information leakages and other malicious threats. We provide advice to companies on how to build information systems and infrastructure that cannot be (easily) hacked, how to protect company information, and deal with privacy sensitive information. Besides virtual tests, we also test the physical security of a company using social engineering.

It is fun to work at Deloitte because it is a truly innovation-driven organization. I receive time and support from management to execute new things, which motivates and challenges me. Deloitte has a business unit, *Deloitte Innovation*, which works together with multidisciplinary teams to develop new business models. Next, the *Deloitte Center For The Edge* challenges the way CEOs think about innovation. To achieve this, Deloitte has become an official innovation partner of the Singularity University (a.k.a. the Google University) with the aim to develop an in-depth understanding of how to stretch current and explore new business models and technologies.

Deloitte tries to innovate at the edges of their core business, as it realizes that sales from old businesses (e.g., auditing, accounting) may significantly decrease. To find new value-adding activities, networking activities are deployed. Recently, a RiskLab event was organized in which Daan Roosegarde appeared as a keynote speaker. Daan is a Dutch designer known for introducing interactive and sustainable Smart Highways by making use of paint that lights up at night, based on sunrises of the day. It is fun, interesting and useful to maintain these contacts to be motivated to innovate.

As a student, I found it difficult to understand what job suited me. My advice to students: just do whatever you like to do and just put on your innovation-glasses to see how you can add value. Think about the stuff you enjoy in your free time and which courses you enjoyed the most. It is all about doing and experimenting, then you will find out what you really like. I fully agree with the famous statement: 1% inspiration, 99% transpiration. Another advice relates to crowd-funding platforms such as Kickstarter and Indiegogo. It is amazing that you can follow the whole process of idea generation to launch and for just a couple of bucks. As an observer you can learn so much from these start-ups. I highly recommend you to watch them, and perhaps become an investor yourself!

Finally, don't focus too much on the large corporations. Yes, they are top-of-mind, but that also means that everyone wants to work for them. Have a look at the Deloitte Fast 50. The Fast 50 is a yearly election in which we look at which small/midsize companies have shown tremendous growth or have disrupted the market in some way. Winners of 2013 include Ayden (14284% growth in 5 years), Emesa (vakantieverlengen.nl) and LUXeXcel (company that changed LED production). These companies offer great learning experiences and are often in need for well-educated starters. More info at www.fast50.nl

Angelique Reinders (23)

STUDY YEAR: 2011-2012

IS: Sales Analyst Investment Solutions@Robeco

HOME: Apartment in Rotterdam

HOUSEHOLD: Living alone

SALARY: Above average for a graduate

RIDE: Opel Corsa & Kawasaki Ninja motorbike



'Since May 2013, I've been working for Robeco as sales analyst at the Investment Solutions department. Robeco is a prominent, independent asset manager founded in Rotterdam. It offers a broad range of investment solutions, and is the global leader in sustainability investing. Being part of the Investment Solutions Sales team means I'm working with institutional clients. In my daily activities, I am involved in their pension plans, both Defined Benefit (in which employees are guaranteed a certain pension based on premiums that they have paid during their working life) and the upcoming implemented system that is offered by 'premiepensioeninstellingen' (PPI). In this new system, employees pay a fixed premium which is invested by Robeco. Employees' ultimate pension is not guaranteed upfront, but based on the performance of the investment portfolio. With the new system, which has been implemented a few years ago, Robeco offers collective pension systems to employers. The risk is much lower for employers, as the premiums are fixed, and for employees the transparency of their pension product is higher, because they can always trace back and check how their pension is built up.

Soon after I graduated, which was before I started working at Robeco, I've been in a traineeship at a local Rabobank. However, I didn't find the challenge I needed and therefore, I changed jobs after 7 months.

It is great to work at Robeco, as it is a very ambitious company where people are passionate about their work. My team is driven by enthusiasm and I'm gratified to work in such a fun environment. Our team is coherent and closely knit: for example, we will go skiing with the whole team (around 20 people) in Austria for 4 days.

I think working in a team that you like is very important for your development, as well as for your joy at work. My advice to other students would be: find a place where you feel comfortable and at home. Before I started working, I did not think that colleagues would be a determining factor for my desired job - since you will always have people you like and don't like - but I've to say it definitely makes a big difference. Besides, I would strongly advise them to look for a job that they find challenging. You will perform much better in a job that is more difficult and more challenging than one that is easy to do. Being challenged is the key to having fun at work every day. The perfect job does not exist, surely not in these times: don't focus on your dream job, but set your goals in a more concrete way and go for it. You will surely move from one job to another in an unexpected, but fluent way; because that's how 'working life' works.'