# Adam Clowes, MBA International Business | Royal Mail, UK

**"The reputation of both BBS and the UoB itself was largely influential in my decision to obtain a Birmingham MBA."**

Adam Clowes graduated with an MBA in International Business from the University of Birmingham Birmingham Business School in 2010. Previously the Area Manager for A ldi in South Staffordshire, he is now part of the senior talent programme at the Royal Mail and is employed as a Project Manager on the delivery modernisation programme.

## My Career

I decided to change career because I needed a new challenge. Completing the MBA gave me the confidence to try a new industry and made me a more rounded person professionally. In 2011 I joined an 18 month external talent hire scheme at Royal Mail and am heavily involved in the many changes that are occurring within the organisation.

## Why Birmingham Business School?

The reputation of both Birmingham Business School and the University itself was largely influential in my decision to obtain a Birmingham MBA. Having studied my undergraduate degree at the University of Birmingham, I knew the campus environment would contribute to a sense of community.

The Business School and Careers in Business have strong contacts in the business world and used these to help me obtain jobs by connecting me with external employers. This made me feel as though Birmingham Business School cared for my future and even though it has been nearly two years since I graduated, I am still being supported by the careers team.

As a result of studying the Birmingham MBA, I am a more confident, reflective and patient person. Through the course, I worked with peers from a variety of cultures and professional backgrounds; learning to work with one another to achieve successful projects contributed to my academic and cultural education.

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## Challenges

I found the accountancy and finance modules particularly difficult but with the help of the academics who operated an open door policy and my peers who were from a financial background, I overcame these difficulties. The university is a safe environment in which to be challenged; I felt confident trying different educational experiences as I could make mistakes in the knowledge that the academics and my peers would improve my knowledge.

## The Birmingham experience

One of my favourite memories is the community project day I organised when I invited the Prince's Trust (a UK charity aimed at giving financial support to young people) onto campus. We were visited for the day by 20 teenagers and I recruited a number of students to work with them on various projects. This was an extremely rewarding experience as, not only did I see the participants flourish in the environment we created for them, but I watched my colleagues develop as leaders. My MBA director gave me this opportunity and the necessary contacts, so I would not have had this experience if it was not for him.

I was also able to become heavily involved with university policy by becoming a student rep; I learnt a lot about the structure, the management and constraints at the university and was able to make a difference on behalf of my peers.

## Tips and advice

Take full advantage of the careers service early, especially if you want to change sector; they will give you a lot of support in understanding what change you are looking for and how to obtain your new career.

It is also very important to do a company project; this will give you a chance to experience different industries.

## Find out more

**MBA International Business (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/taught/business/mba.aspx)**

**The Birmingham MBA (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/business/mba/index.aspx)**



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