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Marc Stone, BCom Accountancy | Stone Consulting, UK

"Studying at the Birmingham Business School gave me the freedom to challenge the morals and ethics of the subject matter being taught."

Marc Stone graduated with a BCom in Accountancy from the University of Birmingham in 1994. He is currently the Managing Director of his own company, Stone Consulting Ltd which provides executive interim management and consulting services for blue chip companies.

As well as sitting on the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) board, he is also a board member for the Chamber of Commerce Executive Club in Birmingham. We recently caught up with Marc to find out the impact his university experience is having on his life and career.

My career

After graduation, I secured a position with Lucas Aerospace on their graduate programme. After a great grounding in the manufacturing environment, I felt that it was the right time to widen my experience in other sectors. During the next nine years I worked in industries as diverse as logistics, airline, insurance, private healthcare and my favourite by far, the brewing industry! After working in challenging environments during my career and at times wrestling with ethical and moral challenges, I decided to start my own company in order to give a trusted and independent service to ensure my clients got the right advice.

Why Birmingham Business School?

Studying at the Birmingham Business School gave me the freedom to challenge the morals and ethics of the subject matter being taught and question whether it was relevant in the operating environment.

As well as being one of the best universities and a redbrick, the ambiance of the campus was highly attractive. The range of societies available, the mix of students, the 'down to earth' feel and the overall life experience was something I looked for in a prospective university.

Unlike other universities, the University of Birmingham gave me the opportunity to meet students from a variety of backgrounds and I enjoyed mixing with people from different cultures and upbringings.

Studying at Birmingham Business School teaches you to be empathetic to people; I have learnt that a business is made up of people, not just a CEO, so learning how to connect on a personal level at every level in an organisation and manage a variety of expectations has been an invaluable skill in my profession.

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Challenges

Even though the course was fantastic, I did find the ethical side of accountancy quite controversial and not necessarily breeding the right behaviours! The academics were extremely supportive and encouraged their students to challenge ways of thinking. The support network at the UoB enabled me to have the freedom to express myself and my opinions which enabled me to explore who I was as a person.

The Birmingham experience

My favourite memories of the University of Birmingham are usually the hazy ones that more often than not included several pubs! The friendships I made are ones which have lasted many years later and I even bump into old, familiar faces at networking events. The 'old days' at the University of Birmingham usually starts the conversation which is a great ice-breaker.

Tips and advice

Once you have your degree, the world is your oyster. Don't forget to widen your horizons and obtain your degree in university life as well. Network, network, network! Talk to as many people as possible to learn what the possibilities and permutations are in career paths and remember you do not have to stick to the conventional routes. Always challenge opinion and make sure you get the most out of your days at Birmingham. I did and I would not change a thing!

Find out more

Our BCom Accountancy degree is now **BSc Accounting and Finance (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/undergraduate/business/accounting-finance.aspx)**

Department of Accounting and Finance (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/business/departments/Accounting-Finance/index.aspx)

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