

Hi, I'm Zoe Pearson and I worked here 2 years ago as an intern. I worked in Marketing Insight.

On the first day of course I was a little bit nervous, but also I guess, excited by about what the project would be, what the team would be like, who I'd be working with and then nerves became the feeling of relief that I'd got a great project that I could really get stuck into, and I was working with really great people. While I was there I helped set up something called the 'Insight Portal', the idea is that anyone in the company can access this kind of research and make sure that everything we do is backed up with knowledge about the customer.

What I got out of being an intern at Standard Life is basically an experience of what it's like to work here, what it could be like on the graduate scheme full time, in addition to some good experience to bring back with me. You learn a lot of things in an internship that you don't learn while you're at university. I started back here in September on our Sales and Marketing Graduate Scheme, I was offered a place at the end of the summer. Got to go back to Uni and feel quite relaxed for the final year. What I'm doing at the moment, is I'm on my 2nd placement. I'm working with our Group Marketing Director, Bruce Kelsall as his EA, Executive Assistant.

I'm a really big fan of sports so I do a lot of sports. Tennis, squash all sorts of things. Hockey's probably the sport I spend the longest time on. I play for a team here in Edinburgh and for Standard Life's team during the summer as well. For me the best things about Edinburgh is everything is in walking distance. This is a city but it doesn't always feel like that. So you can walk to work in 20 minutes. Walk to town in 10. There are very few places that can offer you that. Really the best thing about Edinburgh is the festival. During the month of August this becomes, in my opinion, one of the best cities in the world. Lot of atmosphere, lot of energy, a really great place to be.

It is a really great idea to get an internship while at university; it gives you a great opportunity to find out what it's like to work in a FTSE 100 company like Standard Life; a great opportunity to network and meet new people and also, easily the biggest benefit of all is that if you perform to a high enough standard and you do well enough, you could well be offered a full time position which means you can relax in your final year and concentrate on your exams.