

Aurora Alumni

Name: Christina Blakey
Role: Strategic Business Development Manager
(Skills)
How long have you been at UoW: 18 months
Aurora Cohort: 2018 - at a different university

Why did you apply for aurora:

I was looking for a way to take the next step on my career path primarily – I'd reached a point where I wasn't sure if I wanted to stay within Business Development or move to a different area of the sector. I'd realised that I didn't really know what options there were for me but also didn't understand the skills I'd gained throughout my career.

What was the best part about Aurora?

The guest speakers! Each day has a key note speaker from another university – someone who is a senior female leader either within a university or in a surrounding sector. I've kept in touch with two or three of those speakers- they were really approachable and gave really practical tips for managing your work-life balance and how to make the most of the opportunities on offer.

Aurora really challenged me.....

It made me realise that there wasn't a one size fits all approach and I could make decisions based on my own life and wants rather than sticking to a traditional path. This influenced everything from the next career move I made through to my hair colour!

How did participating in Aurora make a difference for you?

Huge difference – I'd never have applied for the job I have now without it but almost more importantly, after I completed the programme I went through a really difficult time in work and the colleagues who I did Aurora with provided an amazing support network for me and really helped me cope with the situation.

What advice would you give future Aurora applicants and alum?

Go for it! It doesn't matter what stage in your career you are at – really think about what you want from your job/career and make decisions based on that. It doesn't matter if that's not what everyone else does.. it only has to be right for you. Don't be afraid to do things differently, break the mold and put yourself first.