

Life at CPC



Rupert Mills Assistant Project Manager

Describe your typical day....

I like to clear emails before I 'start' my working day... tidy inbox; tidy mind! I wholly believe that beyond this point, no two days are the same. The most typical elements of my days are the interactions between client, colleague and contractor. Depending on what stages of a project lifecycle I'm working on, I could be spending more time writing minutes, reports or reviewing progress onsite.

How did you get started?

I started taking a real interest in the project management aspects of my previous career in communications. I was offered an opportunity to come and meet some of the team in Oxford, and evidently showed enough of the right qualities to be given a chance to work with them. Since then, I'd say it's worked out pretty well for everyone!

What do you love about your job?

Not to repeat myself, but part of having no two days the same means that you can only predict so much. I enjoy that aspect of life, and work, so it suits me well. This diversity inevitably breeds a level of autonomy to my work that I appreciate. All of this throws a degree of difficulty and challenge my way that I relish. I like the feeling of learning to swim in the deep end, and I'm afforded that opportunity at CPC.



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What advice do you have for those thinking about a career in project management?

Everyone's journey is their own, but don't be afraid of not knowing where the job is going to take you. It seems to me that the options for job diversification in project management are near limitless. It is great to have career goals and objectives to manifest, but you don't need to be bound to them.

What do you like doing outside of work?

I'm pretty far from what you'd describe as 'artistic', but I enjoy painting badly, under the guise of artistic abstraction. I like writing about people, for people, to people and I like reading. I also enjoy trying to keep up with my colleagues efforts to corale me into a triathlon. Perhaps, above all else, I love hosting people – sharing food and drink with friends is my greatest pleasure.

What has been your biggest challenge since the Covid-19 pandemic?

In a way, I was lucky that my commissions during the pandemic were at the NHS. To some extent, life went along as normal for me, and I'm grateful I was able to get out. That probably made the hardest part losing the freedoms outside of work which you rely on so much to defrag.

What is/would your alternative career be?

I During my time as a manager at a restaurant, I inevitably found myself behind the pass in the kitchen a few times. I love hosting people, cooking and sharing that experience, and I always quite enjoyed the chaos and heat of the kitchen. My alternative career would have been a chef.