

# Yelena Jurkenas

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## **Government Relations and Sustainable Luxury Undergraduate - Bentley Motors**

### **Why did you decide to do a placement?**

I decided to do a placement to gain experience of the real working world and to give me a break from intense studying. I wanted an enlightening gap year experience and the opportunity to build up some savings as well.

### **What was your typical day like?**

My typical day started at 8:30/9 and finished between 4:30/5. It was often filled with lots of meetings and time working on projects allocated to me by the team. The days were varied and busy covering a range of topics including policy, community investment and company sustainability targets.

### **What have you gained from your placement?**

My placement taught me new skills in terms of project management and helped me learn important techniques on how to ensure team collaboration is effective. It also widened my knowledge of sustainability prompting me to pick a sustainability focused module for my final year of studies, because I enjoyed it so much.

### **How has your placement influenced your thoughts on what you would like to do in the future?**

As a result of my placement I have become more confident in what I want to do post university and I have also enhanced my passion for sustainability. The corporate world no longer scares but excites me and it was an enjoyable experience to be part of such a vibrant and growing workspace.

### **What's your top tip for making placement applications?**

Keep going and apply to as many possible opportunities as you can. Don't get too hung up on each one, apply to many and chances are one will come back and accept you. There are so many great opportunities out there, you will have a great experience wherever you go. Once you are offered an interview, that is your time to shine. Prepare well and give it your best shot. Make sure you pick a good outfit which makes you feel confident and prepare some answers to give. Research the company lots and don't feel put on the spot by unexpected questions. Try your best to answer calmly without stuttering and it doesn't matter if the answer is shorter because you're trying to think of something. Give a confident short answer over a long nervous one. Trust the right placement will accept you and you will have an amazing experience.