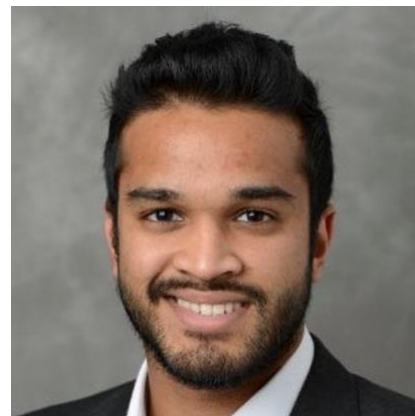


Arvind Ammanath**Job title:** Consultant at CGI**Graduation date:** 2015**Degree:** MEng Chemical Engineering**How did your career develop after university?**

I wanted to go into consulting, however I didn't have job lined up after graduation. I applied and got into a consulting firm called ISG, which specialises in operations and performance improvement for businesses. I spent about 1.5 years there, and now I work in a consulting firm called CGI.

What was the application process like?

I started off with the normal application process of submitting a CV and a cover letter. 3 years ago LinkedIn wasn't that popular, but my latest job, I found it via LinkedIn.

What do you think made you stand out?

For consulting specifically, the lifestyle is very different – you are constantly changing projects. I think my own lifestyle made me stand out, it was constantly changing, which is similar to consultants, I lived in many different cities and many different countries. I remember using this reason in the interview when they asked me this question.

At work I am realising now that engineering degree is what makes me stand out also, because we are a lot more mathematical compared to some other graduates, and there is definitely an edge that we have.

What does your normal day look like?

There isn't really a normal day, it's very project dependent, but usually there is a project plan, and you work towards it. There are quite a lot of meetings and then actions from that, for example we have a weekly call to discuss how the project is going. But the reality is that it's a bunch of PowerPoints and Excel spreadsheets, that's the answer you really want to know.

What do you enjoy the most about your role?

I like the diversity of work that you get from different projects and the level of exposure you get. For example, for my first ever project, I was part of a team advising a CIO of a bank.

What are the biggest challenges?

It can be frustrating to move from project to project so frequently because as you just start to get to grips with how the client works, and you are already off, so I feel like a jack-of-all-trades, but not a master in anything in particular. This is good to start off with as a graduate, but you want to start specialising and making a name for yourself, so I am looking for that opportunity.

What advice would you give to someone looking to get into consultancy?

I think networking is important, it can often give you an edge, and there are lots of ways to do it. For example the events at UCL were very good. One thing to keep in mind, is that just saying "Hi" to a person and get their name like I did is not enough. You need to be proactive, actually get in contact with them and schedule a meeting over coffee, which sounds hard, but it's really not.