

Employment with 8M as a Fresh Graduate



Background on our Fire Chat Hosts:



Joel Goh

Role: Analyst

Department: Asset Management

- First full time employment as fresh graduate.
- Completed 3 internships in MNCs prior to current role.



Maryam Reda

Role: Senior Executive

Department: Development Management

- Graduated in Business studies.
- During stint as management trainee, she found her passion for built environment.

It's common for people to recommend joining an international company or MNC right after school. What made you decide to join 8M instead?

JOEL GOH

I knew I wanted to do real estate when I graduated having done 3 internships related to real estate.

My takeaway from them were that bigger companies have brand name but you don't get to experience across different functions. You are siloed to your role and can you are quite literally a cog in a machine.

A small company on the other hand, although less recognised will allow you to have hands-on on most things in the business which is what I felt is important earlier on in my career. Most importantly, I joined because I felt that my boss and team members are nurturing and I can learn a lot from them.

What do you think are the most important skills for fresh grads looking to join the BE and/or RE sector?



JOEL GOH

Network and build relationships, it's one foot through the door.

MARYAM REDA

Network and get to know people within the industry. It can open up opportunities along the way.

You studied Business in school—
what inspired you to pursue a
career in the real estate
industry, and more specifically,
in Development Management?

MARYAM REDA

My university, SMU, had newly launched a real estate track under the finance major. It was the most interesting to me out of all other specialisations available. As a result, I got involved with SMU's Real Estate student club, made connections in this space, and took up internships with two hotel management companies.

I joined 8M as a management trainee and rotated across a few teams, and found that my interest in design and the "guts" of the building was something I could make a career out of. Now, my understanding in development is the main lens I use to make sense of other aspects of real estate like asset management, property management, leasing, and marketing.

You've been involved in many projects at 8M. Which one would you consider your favorite, and why?

If you had the chance to go back, what would you have done differently with this project?



MARYAM REDA

My favourite project to work on has been 21 Carpenter because I learned the most from it. This is the biggest project I've worked on, it took the longest, and it was also the most challenging.

I wouldn't have done anything differently.

As someone who recently graduated, did you encounter any challenges adjusting to work life?

What has been the most difficult task you've faced at 8M during the past six months since you joined?



JOEL GOH

A challenging aspect of this job is the need to wear multiple hats. It requires a wide range of technical skills from different sectors to comprehension of drawings to execute projects effectively, which is something I lack as a fresh graduate.

In addition, although I have not faced this personally, I have observed the challenges of liaising with tenants regarding arrears. These conversations can be difficult, especially when tenants are in financial distress. You must be resilient to be able to withstand pressure, criticism, and setbacks without being easily affected or discouraged.

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