

# MATHIJS VAN VLIET ATTENDED SBB TO FIND OUT OTHER OPTIONS



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Mathijs van Vliet found out during his BSc Biology internship that he did not like the laboratory research. To individualistic, dreary, his work ended up on a shelf and although his colleagues were nice, he did not like the laid back atmosphere. To find out what other options there could be for a Biology student, he decided to attend the SBB programme Fall 2008.

## SBB: A STEPPINGSTONE FOR MY CARREER

What are the options besides research? Mathijs had no idea and decided to sign up for the SBB course Discovering Life Sciences Companies to broaden his horizon. During the programme he visited a couple of Biotech businesses and he noticed that the commercial atmosphere was far more appealing to him than working in a laboratory.

## COURSE EXPERIENCES

Science and business suited him. Attending the SBB Fundamentals course during his Biology master was an easy step to make. Because of the full course schedule there was not enough time to thoroughly investigate all topics. And although Mathijs liked to taste different topics he sometimes felt like learning a little bit about a lot. This bothered him with his favorite topic Financial Management because he really wanted to learn more! Luckily he would get his chance during his internship.

## NETWORKING DURING CLASS

During one of the Financial Management guest lectures, the FCO (Finance Compliance Officer) of Crucell lectured about the annual reports. Mathijs encountered this to be very interesting and he wanted to learn more about the financial part of science based companies. Learning by doing it is the best way to achieve this and therefore an internship at a Biotech company became his next goal. He used the SBB network and contacted the Financial Management guest lecturer, the FCO from Crucell.

## THE LONG-EXPECTED INTERNSHIP

A couple of conversations later Mathijs had found himself an internship of six months. During his time at Crucell he worked on the annual report, rewrote and updated the handbook for the treasury policies and controlled the grades and balances including a monthly currency report to the higher management. Mathijs' rewritten handbook is still in use and his assignments at Crucell seemed time spent very useful. Besides that, he had a great time being part of a competitive team and

achieving joint goals. (Read more about Mathijs his internship at Internship Experiences.)

## **CAREER PERSPECTIVES**

During the six months at Crucell, Mathijs has learned a lot. Although he definitely could use the knowledge as studied in Financial Management class, SBB mainly befitted a steppingstone. The most important thing about SBB and his internship became the modeling of his future plans. The internship had lived up to all his expectations and now he really knew he wanted to pursue a business career in financial management.

## **NEXT STEP: FINDING A JOB**

Although Crucell offered him a job, Mathijs decided to look further. A career coach had advised him to search for a job in accountancy. He signed up for one of Deloitte's open network drinks to meet new people and to introduce himself. He had to give a presentation and to do some intelligence tests. It turned out he had done well because after a few days he received a call with an invitation for his first job interview. Despite the economical crisis, this job interview turned out to be his last.

## **JUNIOR STAFF MEMBER AT DELOITTE**

Mathijs has started his new job as a Junior Staff member. At the TMT department (Technology, media, telecommunication) he works on and controls the annual reports. As it happens, his former internship company Crucell is one of the departments' clients! Mathijs' position in the company is comparable to a traineeship. Every year he will learn new and more complex balances on the annual reports and therefore climb up another step on the company ladder. Besides his hours at the office he will also go back to the classroom for one day per week. Deloitte offers Mathijs the possibility to attend a Master in Accountancy at the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam. Within six years we can meet the fresh accountant Mathijs van Vliet.