



**Alumnus
Subject**

Jonathan Abu-Nackly
BSc Geography;
MSc Sustainability and
Management



**Graduated
Place of Work
Position**

2007, 2008
DHL Real Estate
Carbon Consultant

DHL Real Estate emphasises the application of new technologies and business processes to improve the energy and carbon profiles of DHL business units.

Jon's role as a Carbon Consultant involves project managing the implementation of new technologies across several sites to assist the company in reducing its carbon footprint.

Great minds *go on to* great places

What is your favourite aspect of Royal Holloway?

There are a number of great qualities; everyone on campus is very friendly and the staff are also approachable. The location of the campus is also perfect: Royal Holloway is close to London, yet retains the green aspects of suburbia. It also has a relatively small number of students compared with other quality institutions, so making friends is a lot easier.

Why did you choose to study for a Masters?

Having completed my undergraduate course, I was unsure of what career to pursue so I decided that staying in academia was probably the best thing for me to do at that particular time. I wanted to continue my studies at Royal Holloway because I knew the university well. The MSc Sustainability and Management course covered areas of my Geography degree that I really enjoyed, whilst also exposing me to areas of business and society that I took an interest in, such as Corporate Social Responsibility and Business Management.

What was it about the course that prompted you to apply?

The course was one of the first of its kind in the UK at that time, in a newly emerging field of sustainability and business – something of an anachronism given how many business leaders consider these a household partnership now. In addition, the course content really appealed to me. I had worked with some of the lecturers whilst studying Geography, and found that their methods of teaching really suited my learning style.

What did you enjoy most about studying at Royal Holloway?

The relaxed approach to study, easy access to all facilities, and a great learning environment where all students were encouraged to interact and experience new ways of learning.

What were the best parts of your student experience?

I made great friends throughout my time studying, many of whom I am still friends with now, even though they are based in China, America and other parts of the world. The key skills that I learnt during the course are still with me, be they life skills, academic skills, or those that are suited to the workplace.

Were you part of any societies?

In my final undergraduate year I was vice-president of the Geography Society, during which time we won the accolade for best social society of the year. I then became the Postgraduate representative during my Masters year. I did want to look at doing other things, broaden my horizons, but the course was so intense that I had relatively little time to do this! One of the great things about the course, however, was the time spent with a local volunteering society. Two years after graduating, I still take part in activities and volunteer my time with the society.





people with passion

“Think outside the box, because the greatest results in life are not achieved through simple thinking.”



What is the most important thing that you learnt whilst studying?

Think outside the box, because the greatest results in life are not achieved through simple thinking. This is applicable in both academia and the workplace – there is often more than one method for completing a project.

What is your role at DHL Real Estate?

I am a Consultant and Project Manager, and work on a variety of projects within the organisation. I am involved in researching new technologies that can assist the company in reducing its carbon footprint, working with governments to develop new legislative frameworks, and project managing implementation of new technologies across several sites on a continent.

One of the first projects that I was involved with as an intern was project managing the implementation of ‘smart meters’ into twelve sites across Europe. Based on this project and the savings achieved, the company could see that the technology we were using was not cost viable across a large estate, but perhaps only viable for a one-off implementation.

My favourite project involved working for a national government, looking at ways to implement behavioural change in a cargo village. It was really challenging, but executed very well.

What do you enjoy about your role?

The wide and varied approach we take to getting the job done, and having the opportunity to work with some incredibly skilled individuals, who are so willing to pass on their knowledge and expertise to me.

What do you do in a typical day, and what are the best parts?

It’s something of a cliché, but there is no typical day for me in my current role! I work from the office, from home and am often out on business. The majority of my time at the moment is spent overseeing the installation of new smart energy efficient lighting, which requires visiting sites across the country to understand current light quantities and what would be required to install new lighting. A major consideration is also financial viability.

Stakeholder management is also required, liaising with several different parties to ensure a project

runs smoothly. Along with this, you will tend to find me responding to internal and external emails, creating and delivering presentations, educating management on the best ways to utilise products, and researching the latest technologies on the market. The best part of the day is seeing how your contribution makes a difference to the company.

Do you have any career tips for current students?

Approach your choice in career creatively and with an open mind. Seek out opportunities to further your skills sets. Royal Holloway offers many extra-curricular courses on campus: I wish that I had utilised those classes more. During your holidays always try to get some work experience.

What connection have you had with Royal Holloway since graduating?

I chat to lecturers from my time at Royal Holloway and have returned to many of the MSc Sustainability and Management alumni events. It is still a place close to my heart.



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