

## Lauren

### What subjects did you study prior to arriving in Durham?

I studied the following A Levels:

- History
  - Mathematics with Statistics
  - English Language and Literature
  - Biology
  - Extended Project (I did this in History)
- In addition, I studied French at AS Level



I also did a broad range of subjects at GCSE, including Art!

### What were the highlights of studying at Durham?

What to pick... The facilities available in the library and online were second to none. The lecturers were also amazing – they were all so knowledgeable but so friendly. And of course – Durham and the History Department itself are beautiful and historic places to study. I loved visiting the Cathedral and walking by the river during study breaks. I even completed a lot of my revision in the Cathedral library - it was a real experience and I felt like a medieval scholar!

### What was the topic of your dissertation?

Native Americans in the 19th century – I looked at the resistance methods used by the communities to preserve their native cultural dances during the period when the USA Government carried out the policy of assimilation (i.e. tried to make them like white men).

### What are you doing now and how did your degree help prepare you?

I am currently working as an Intelligence Analyst for a security company. I work in a small team which provides intelligence to our client's UK properties. This allows personnel in the properties to make security decisions which enable them to maintain business as usual and ensure colleagues stay safe. This is in terms of live intelligence for incidents such as terror threats and fires, as well as proactive intelligence for upcoming events and protests. We also produce researched intelligence products, such as reports examining an issue or group. Our work is based on OSINT research and monitoring.

My degree gave me a solid foundation of skills for this role. I learnt how to research information using multiple sources and to analyse and assess information. I also learnt how to transform research into a finished analytical product. I developed skills in communicating my knowledge – both verbally and in written form. These skills are all vital for my current role.

**What advice do you have for prospective applicants to History at Durham?**

I would advise everyone to keep an open mind. Learn everything you can at Durham, both academically and socially. Enjoy your time and make the most of it. You do not know where you will end up, but you can be safe in the knowledge that Durham will be preparing you well! I had no idea my job even existed and just sort of stumbled across it – yet now I could not be happier!