

Nick

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

Modern History, Economics and Geography.

**What was the topic of your third-year dissertation?**

German expansion in 1937- 1940 under the supervision of Dr Orde. This was the academic highlight for me and of course the end of year tea party at Dr Orde's house.



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

I qualified as a solicitor in 1984 and worked at a couple of City law firms before moving to a tax consultancy in the mid 1990s. I later become a partner of BDO (as a result of it acquiring the tax consultancy) and I am now a partner in a niche tax consultancy practice.

I think my degree taught me (i) how to think things through for myself and to have the confidence which comes from that; and (ii) resilience. I would not be where I am today without both those qualities.

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

Work comes first. I found some assignments quite tough and getting behind to be uncomfortable! It is a rigorous and first rate academic training. I found that I needed to be disciplined and that some essay assignments were very much tougher than others. Be discerning - some of my reading lists included works which I subsequently discovered at the tutorial had dubious merit.

**Do you have any particular advice on the transition from History to Law?**

I think a History degree is a great starting point for a career in the law. You learn how to cope with a mass of information, extract what is relevant, and then to set out your argument clearly and cogently. Anyone who is contemplating a career in law who wishes to read History should read History and enjoy it. It will mean completing a Law conversion course but some law firms are sponsoring their recruits through this year and the subsequent Finals' exams.