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remaining stages would be a group assessment and then a personal interview. However, I was quite fortunate to know a senior colleague within the company, who fast-tracked my CV. This progressed me onto the personal interview stage, which was roughly an hour long, after which they offered me the job.

### **What do you think separated you from other candidates?**

I was selected by the credentials I had gained through my degree and my experience in highway design and gain site experience.

### **What does your normal workday look like?**

Most of my day I spend designing and improving the public realm infrastructure within Westminster, so this would entail me producing schematic engineering drawings, preparing schedules and bills of quantities. I would also go on site visits within the city and undergo surveys across streets like Oxford Street for example, and if the project is in the construction stage, I could see my own design being implemented, which is very cool.

### **What are the best things about your role?**

For me the best thing is the prospects for me to grow in the business. I like the fact my company likes to support any graduates who are looking to progress their careers professionally, because I have gained professional experience every day, because it's very different to what you study at university, which was the

### **What are some challenges?**

Keeping within the projects budget. This is one of my biggest challenges because a lot of projects I may be involved in differ in scale and the expectations from stakeholders, clients and statutory undertakers may also differ. Therefore, it is ensuring your project is managed efficiently overseeing the costs, risks, scope and quality aspects.

### **What advice would you give to students looking to get into this field?**

I would advise anyone who is studying and in their final year to start applying now! I was a bit fortunate to get a job 3-4 months after I finished my masters. But I could have saved myself the hassle and applied during my studies of which I would transition into a respected role fairly swiftly. It is also good to find a company that will help you progress your career by supporting your learning, and allowing you to work on different scaled projects, because you are an early career professional with little experience. Therefore, you need to learn and be taught in order to progress up the ladder.