

Simon Burns

Alumnus Master European Studies

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Kreab Worldwide, Brussels

Year of graduation: 2010



I chose Maastricht University for several reasons. First, I was keen to gain experience of studying abroad but needed an institution that offered my desired course in English. Not only was this available in Maastricht but the cost of tuition was significantly more competitive than that on offer at comparable degree courses elsewhere. Furthermore, the chance to learn more about the internal functioning of the EU in a town synonymous with the process of European integration was very appealing.

Following my graduation in 2010 I went on to work in a series of intern / traineeships for around 18 months, before starting my first 'proper' job with the British Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (BVCA) in London. I started as an Executive on and then became Manager of the Policy team there, during which time I was regularly travelling back and forth between the UK and Brussels to liaise with policymakers.

After just over three years with the BVCA I was offered the chance to move to Brussels full-time with the strategic communications consultancy Kreab Worldwide. I duly did so, moving out in January 2016 and since then I have led the firm's work in the field of asset management regulation and taxation.

The skills gained while studying in Maastricht have contributed significantly to any success achieved throughout my career to date. The course itself gave an excellent overview of the European policy process, but just as important was the wider experience offered; the chance to study and socialise with engaged classmates in a genuinely international environment served as excellent training for all of the offices I've worked in since.

As such, I owe a real debt of gratitude to the teaching staff and fellow students at Maastricht and would not hesitate to recommend the University to others considering postgraduate study in this field.