

IN CONVERSATION

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE AT WALTER SCOTT



Interview by Struan Black, Marketing Intern
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I caught up with Anna on a sunny day in the office's back garden. It was great to hear about her experience of working in Edinburgh, having also grown up here. She shared some highlights from her internship, key lessons she's learned, and how her perspective on the financial industry has shifted after being immersed in it for the summer.

What should people know about you?

I'm about to enter my final year studying Geography and Management at the University of St Andrews. A few years ago, I got the opportunity to shadow a sustainability analyst with a different company. This enabled me to see the connection between what I enjoy studying and how those interests could be applied in a real-world context. That experience motivated me to look for internships this summer that would broaden my understanding of financial markets and investment management.

Outside of university, hockey is a huge part of my life. I play centre midfield and I'm a captain within my team. It's a great social outlet and has taught me so much about teamwork and building strong relationships with people around you.

How did you find out about Walter Scott, and what were your initial impressions?

I've been aware of Walter Scott for a while now, and so I was keen to apply for the internship. It was a very talked about company at uni, and lots of my friends were also applying.

Reading the internship brochure really confirmed that this is where I wanted to work. It's easy to assume that all investment firms are the same, but from the way that Walter Scott presents itself and its unique culture and heritage, I had a clear sense of the company's identity before I had even applied.

Unlike many firms that rely heavily on online assessments and AI tools, Walter Scott's application process felt much more human and relationship-focused, and it gave me a sense that people genuinely matter here.

Now that you're halfway through the internship, what is your impression of the firm now?

Honestly, my initial impressions have been completely confirmed.

From the moment I arrived at the assessment centre, the environment felt welcoming and professional without being intimidating. The interviews felt more like conversations than interrogations, and it was clear that Walter Scott really looks for individuals who fit well with the firm's values and culture.

One thing that has stood out is how integrated the company feels. Interns are encouraged to learn about different teams and understand how everything fits together, and that openness reflects what I saw during the recruitment process.

What insights into the world of investment management have you gained from being in operations?

The biggest insight has been realising just how much goes on behind the scenes within an investment management firm. I've seen first-hand how many different and equally important roles there are that actually go into delivering the kind of service that is offered to clients.

I've also gained an appreciation for the importance of thinking about the bigger picture, specifically how ESG and sustainability issues are evaluated within the broader context of the firm's philosophy. Gathering information is only part of the job. The real challenge is applying that information in a way that aligns with both the firm's and client's goals.

What would you say is the most valuable skill you've developed so far?

The most valuable skill I've developed is probably my ability to ask better questions.

I've always considered myself a curious person, but during this internship I've seen how questioning can be used not only to learn, but also to challenge assumptions, test ideas and improve decision-making.

Sitting in research meetings has been particularly insightful, as I've seen colleagues put their natural curiosity into practice in these ways. Those discussions have shown me that strong questioning is an essential part of producing great work.

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What has been your favourite part about working in the heart of Edinburgh, in this historic location?

As someone who has lived in Edinburgh my whole life, I've really enjoyed experiencing the city through the routine of working every day. Walking through the city and working in such a beautiful building makes it easy to come into work every day.

The location offers a great mix of restaurants, cafés and independent food spots, while still feeling surprisingly calm despite being in the city centre. I've loved grabbing lunch nearby, and spending time with friends and colleagues after work.

The firm embraces its Edinburgh roots in a way that feels authentic and meaningful, which makes working here really enjoyable.

How has this experience shaped your outlook on your future career?

This experience has highlighted how many opportunities, and different career paths exist within the investment industry. I've seen examples of people moving between teams and developing new areas of expertise, which demonstrates the flexibility and breadth of opportunities available.

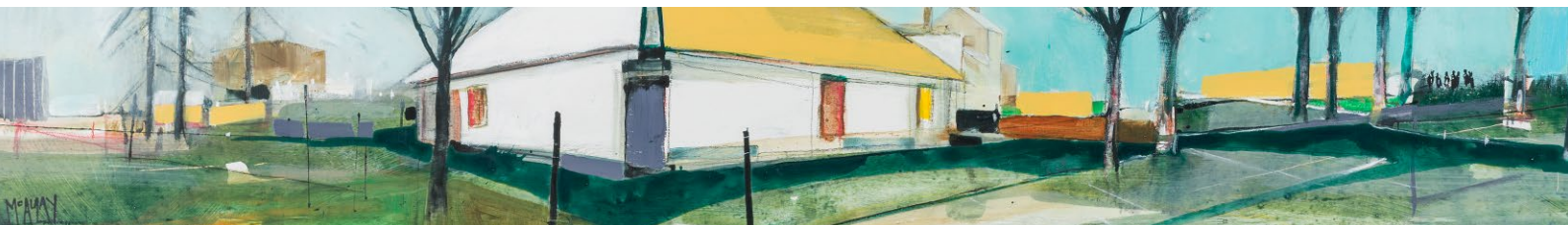
Working alongside the Stewardship and Sustainability team has confirmed what I realised in my insight week last summer – that topics I'm passionate about can have a meaningful role within investment management, as it ties in with my academic interests like sustainability and environmental issues.



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