



WEB'S SPONSOR SNAPSHOT

GRADUATE LIFE AT NOUS GROUP

with **Alexandria Harris** - Graduate Consultant



For this issue of the Sponsor Snapshot, Women Entering Business (WEB) brings you a glance into what being a graduate at Nous is like in our interview with current graduate consultant, Alexandria Harris who was part of the August 2022 intake. Alexandria is based from the Brisbane office and holds a Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours) majoring in chemistry at the University of Queensland.

Nous is a global management consultancy that works in the private, public, and community sector, helping come up with solutions to complex strategic challenges.

What does a typical day of a graduate look like?

7.30am

I arrive in the office and find a hot desk. With a cup of tea, I log on to watch a Human Centred Design practice meeting. Usually I don't start this early, but because of daylight savings, the usual 8.30am meeting that is run from Melbourne, is one hour behind in Brisbane time! I like to attend most practice meetings to understand the types of work that Nous has on offer and the awesome projects other Nousers are currently working on. The variety of work at hand (particularly if you're interested

in the public sector) keeps things interesting.

8:30am

The new intake of grads have just started in the office, and I have some time to say hello to them and the other Nousers who are arriving in the office. There is a lot more chatter in the office! I know I've got a fairly busy day so I write down on a notepad what I need to do. It keeps me on task for the day.

9:00am

I have an internal meeting for one of my projects, and attend a call as my team is located in Melbourne. It is great to work

with other Nousers in other locations. It is also rewarding to work on projects that have a positive social impact. After the meeting, I have some time to jump into some of the work.

11am

After, I switch to another project in which we have a mid-project report due by end of this month so it is a large deliverable. Often working on two or more projects is great to gain exposure in a multitude of sectors and industries, and I really love the variation, you will never be bored!

12.15pm

By this time, I hear chatter from the kitchen, and head there to warm up my meal – which is my favourite meal spaghetti bolognese! Every lunchtime in the office we do a lunchtime quiz for fun, and I join in. We collectively score 11/15 on the quiz which is not too bad... considering they are very tricky questions! I chat with some of my colleagues as I make another cup of tea and carefully consider what free snack on offer in the kitchen I will take to my desk for an after lunch pick me up!

1.15pm

Then I continue working on the mid-project deliverable and data crunching. I have a meeting with my manager so we book a meeting room as she is in the office today as well, and we polish some of the slide decks and plan for others. It's a great session and we feel accomplished with what we have gotten done, considering it's a Friday afternoon!

3pm

I move on to doing some work on a business development PowerPoint pack which keeps our principals interested in sectors Nous offers and updated with what is going on in the sectors, understanding current policies, media statements, etc. I look for some opportunities for Nous to propose work.

4:30pm

It is St Patricks Day today so we have themed drinks and food in the office. Today there is Irish stew and Guinness! Everyone moves to the kitchen and we wind down from the week by connecting with others and the new Nousers (and celebrate the luck of the Irish!). It is great way to end the week and chat about weekend plans.



What qualities would the ideal graduate have to integrate seamlessly into the team at Nous?

Definitely being open to learning lots and being a sponge for new information! Being willing to learn new things, and to approach things positively. Being able to accept feedback graciously. Nous does a lot of work in a lot of different sectors and practices, so you can learn a lot of new things even if you haven't studied them before or have any prior knowledge!



What should a graduate do to maintain a good work/life balance?

Reach out to others to get to know them and attend Nous events i.e. work drinks on Friday afternoon. Make sure you are taking time outside of work too! Keep your hobbies and keep doing the things that you love! It's important to keep your social activities to catch up with friends and family, and maintain exercise. Nous is very flexible within reason - the onus is on you to manage your time and communicate with your team to deliver on critical deadlines. Self-management means you can choose to work from home depending on your client obligations. If things get crazy busy, there are a circle of people you can talk to, and they will help you out and try to limit the number of hours you are on project work.

What kind of support can a graduate expect when coming into Nous?

There are great opportunities for growth and progression at Nous. Entering management consulting at a graduate level is particularly valuable, as a lot of time is dedicated to training and a lot of support is given during the first few months. The graduate role at Nous is incredible as you can travel to Melbourne for a week with the other grads to meet them initially and undergo induction training! All grads come from different backgrounds and university degrees, and that diversity is great at Nous! Nous invests in you and provides a lot of support. Nous has a great culture with very smart and kind people, and everyone is willing to reach out, get to know you, and help you.

Every consultant is given a performance coach who monitors their performance and is the main vehicle through which feedback is given to you. You also have a buddy that will be there from day one and will help you every step of the way! You'll also have project managers on your projects who you'll work with more closely in your day-to-day and give you feedback on your specific project work.



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