

Transcript – Boris

My name is Boris and I work for a consultancy, this consultancy company works in the area of hazardous goods so we are kind of the experts, if you like, in hazardous goods matters in the UK. What is nice about that job really is there isn't such a thing as a typical day and that's really what I enjoy about it. Every day is a bit different and that makes it a bit more exciting perhaps - so things like I would prepare or try to organise a trip abroad, that's really what I'm after, international sales is my area of work so I would try to set up meetings with prospective companies, prospective agents, that may sell our products and services abroad and then I would also spend a lot of time just visiting these people, travelling and when I'm in the office I try to do a lot of follow up perhaps, trying to remind people about what we discussed, trying to persuade them to buy my products.

I got my current job through an advert in the Oxford Times and I just applied for it and then I got two interviews and the second one was a bit different from the usual interviews you would be involved in. They asked me to prepare a presentation; I think they wanted to establish whether I was able to speak in English quite properly perhaps or in situations where I would meet directors so they wanted to make sure I could articulate my English more or less properly.

What I like about working in the UK is that people and companies usually give you your chance, I mean they don't necessarily look too strictly at your CV, they may actually have a good feel about the person and say that you may deserve to be given your chance and after that you take it or you don't, it may work out for you or it doesn't but whatever your background, chances are that you'll be given an opportunity to prove yourself and that's very different from the country where I come from.

Very often people in my family, for example, or friends that I've got in my country of origin would ask me what do I do if I want to come here and work and what I could tell them perhaps is just to try it all out to come over and look at the papers and start applying for jobs. It's not so difficult really to find a job in the UK but you've got to be ready to start at the lowest of levels and then very quickly you can climb up if you're interested in that.

I think the most difficult question I've been asked in an interview has been people asking me why did I come to the UK. It's always been a struggle to explain that. I suppose there are so many different reasons, some of them I didn't control at all! I couldn't answer this question and you can bet that I always have this question coming through, the most difficult one.

If I could choose any job I like in the world I would be a clown, that would be my favourite job, you know be in a circus, you know the clown with the red nose in the middle and that would be my favourite one, with the big shoes and so on and be silly and be stupid and make kids laugh. That would be my ideal job.