

# Setting the standard

The AGR Standard Practitioner Development Programme (PDP) is an exciting new initiative from AGR. It's a formal training programme for those wishing to develop their graduate recruitment expertise – to help them stay 'tip top' of the profession and work towards achieving the coveted AGR Standard in Graduate Recruitment. The PDP is exclusive to AGR members who can attend sessions at various times during the year. The programme can therefore be built around personal or work commitments. For this edition of Graduate Recruiter, Sam Fox, Course Tutor, talks to two of those who are already participating in the programme (Beatrice Smart, KPMG and Sarah Evans, Discovery Recruitment) to find out exactly what's involved and what the benefits have been to them.



## How did you find out about the PDP?

**Beatrice** – “I am relatively new to graduate recruitment, so I attended the AGR Foundation Day which is an introduction to graduate recruitment. During the day the tutor explained how the PDP worked and the benefits of attending – I got so much out of the Foundation Day that after a discussion with my Manager back in the office, me and a colleague signed up.”

## What have been the biggest benefits to you of participating in the PDP?

**Sarah** – “For me there have been lots of benefits of participating in the PDP, however the two major ones have been the opportunity to network and the way that the programme has helped to put a structure around the whole graduate recruitment profession. Every time I attend one of the PDP training events I increase my network and I now have many new contacts to work with and to share ideas and best practice.”

**Beatrice** – “Without a doubt the biggest benefit to me so far is the way that the

training has helped to broaden my knowledge - as a result I have gained an insight other aspects of graduate recruitment that I hadn't considered before.”

## What have you enjoyed most about the training?

**Beatrice** – “I've enjoyed everything about the training and it has really focused my attention on areas that I wouldn't have considered before. If I had to pick one element I have really enjoyed its been the way that we have had lots of time to learn about how we can enhance the way that we plan and implement our own activities back at work.”

## What type of people have you met during the training?

**Sarah** – “I have attended five events so far and I have met a huge variety of people! There are the other PDP people who I am starting to get to know really well and see regularly and then there are also the people who just attend one or two events – so far, just about every sector has been represented.”

**Beatrice** – “I have particularly enjoyed the

fact that at any event there is a big range of experience – from those completely new to graduate recruitment to those with four or five years experience.”

## What makes this training different to what you have experienced in the past?

**Sarah** – “This training is very different to anything I have attended in the past – it is incredibly targeted and the most relevant training I have ever come across for graduate recruiters – I would recommend it to anyone!”

**Beatrice** – “I have found PDP to be an excellent blend of broadening knowledge whilst developing the tailored skills required by graduate recruiters – I have really enjoyed the programme so far and have never attended training where there is such a ready made network on tap!”

Places on the PDP have been booking up quickly so to reserve your place or to find out more, please contact Mark Davis, at the AGR office on 01926 623236 or the PDP Course Tutor, Sam Fox on 01927 21745 or email [sfox.agrtutor@virgin.net](mailto:sfox.agrtutor@virgin.net).