

2011 RTPI YOUNG PLANNERS' CONFERENCE

Conference Review

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“The reason why I was given the opportunity to write this review of the RTPI Young Planners Conference was that in my winning entry to my university’s competition, I discussed the passion that I have for planning. The conference had many highlights, but if I was to pick one thing to take away from the event, it is that in the tough economic and political climate that planners currently find themselves in, we as planners must not lose this passion which drives us to make changes for the better.

Before I came to the conference, as a planning student who is due to graduate next year, I have at times felt demoralised and scared about my future career prospects. As we all know, planning is currently taking a bit of a bashing from the government and closer to home for me, I have an older sibling who is struggling to start a career after just completing a Master’s degree in planning. The conference and its guest speakers did inevitably discuss these issues, yet they also gave inspiring speeches (which were thoroughly enjoyable to listen to) about the continuing importance of the planning system and the greater role it plays in society.

I also gained valuable insight into the current labour market, not just through speeches, but also from talking to recent graduates who have entered the job market or by looking at the various private sector company stalls that were on offer.

Another highlight of the conference was the fantastic opportunity to network with planning professionals, who from judging by the black tie dinner, like to work hard and play hard! The dinner was a great opportunity to talk to people more informally, the food was excellent and it was the perfect excuse to get dressed up. The following day had more inspiring and insightful speeches and when the conference came to a close, I left feeling that the conference had helped me greatly in terms of the future.

On a practical level, I have gained tips about how to perform well in interviews and that I will most likely need to do a Master’s degree to kick start my career. More importantly however, the conference reinforced my passion for planning and has made me more determined than ever to succeed in the current market. I have been left inspired by the conference, am delighted that I was given the opportunity to attend and would like to commend the organisers on a fantastic and extremely well organised event.”