

SARTHAK KOTHARI

BST Alumnus 2018

Sarthak Kothari's determination to pursue his passions led him to many enriching experiences. His focus and eagerness to do what he enjoys has seen him successfully enter Coca-Cola Bottlers Japan as he is set to graduate this month from the University of Essex.

During his formative years at BST, Sarthak developed an interest in economics, which he described as "life-changing". The idea of "understanding how the corporate world functions" sparked a deep interest in Sarthak, inspiring him to pursue an economics-related career.



This ultimately led him to a career with Coca-Cola Bottlers Japan. Sarthak's passion for finance and his engagement with BST's "diverse network" helped him and provided Sarthak with an inroad to the Coca-Cola Bottlers Japan through its work experience program.

Following his graduation from BST, Sarthak attended the University of Essex where he currently studies economics. Here Sarthak learned the importance of maintaining a healthy social life, mentioning that in order to succeed both academically and professionally, it is crucial to "surround yourself with positive-minded people". Taking advantage of the "social opportunities universities offer" was also a vital element for Sarthak in building a rich social network. Joining university-related groups like the "Entrepreneurs Society" also allowed him to engage with like-minded people. By doing so, Sarthak was able to seamlessly transition from BST to the larger University community.

Seizing opportunities was also a fundamental step in a successful career, as Sarthak stresses the importance of stepping out of your comfort zone and reaching out to people. Actively "asking a range of people for advice" is a vital component in building a successful career. It was his outgoing personality that allowed him to seize the opportunity to work at Coca-Cola Bottlers Japan. Sarthak's BST related work experience there provided him with the contacts needed to apply for an internship.

Furthermore, Sarthak took an active approach in stepping out of his comfort zone by doing internships in his second year of University. His outstanding work ethic allowed him to do a part-time internship alongside his studies in digital marketing in a start-up company, Agile Research. Sarthak also interned as a Venture Capital Analyst in Campus Capital, a company that funds and invests in early-stage startups. Essentially, Sarthak's enriching experiences with start-up companies allowed him to realize that this was something that engaged him and is something he aspires to work with in the future.

Not only does Sarthak take every opportunity provided, but he is also involved in creating opportunities for students in the energy technology field. As one of the leading members of an energy technology community group, "Energy Tech Meetup", he leads a project to help students obtain greater understanding and become future energy experts.

Sarthak noted that studying in the UK provided him with a diverse experience where he was able to interact with students of different backgrounds. However, his experiences in the UK also allowed Sarthak to further appreciate Japan's convenience and its wide-ranging opportunities, which in turn sparked a realization that he wanted to seek employment in Japan. Due to the current COVID situation, Sarthak returned to Japan to complete his studies online. Despite these challenges, he took advantage of the situation and applied for an internship at Coca-Cola Bottlers Japan. Alongside his course work, Sarthak completed an internship as a Commercial Data Analyst that provided him with a starting point for his career in Japan. It is clear that Sarthak's excellent work ethic equipped him with the ability to juggle a six-month internship alongside his studies.

Looking ahead, Sarthak mentioned that he "keeps an open mind" when it comes to future plans and described how it is more of a "progression [of] starting somewhere and continuing to build every day". Essentially, Sarthak's experiences show that if you focus on what you enjoy and grasp the opportunities provided, you will have every opportunity needed to succeed.

Sarthak is open to supporting students with any advice from choosing a university and the right degree, to career advice. Please get in touch through LinkedIn at; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sarthak-kothari-973b62108/>

Article written by BST Year 10 student, Mei Hague (June 2021)



BST Graduation Dinner- First one from the right



University Summer ball - First one from the right