

CQ Boston Reflection

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I originally applied to Career Quest when the application first came out to start thinking about life after graduation and explore the different industries that have a presence in Boston. As the only person that is from the Massachusetts area, it was such an interesting experience to see the city transform during the work week and get a sense of the professional culture of the city. It was especially a privilege to be able to visit the sites of Google, Raytheon, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Skyword, Wellington Management, and the Urban Mechanics Office of the Boston Mayor's office to get a small glimpse into the unique work of each company. With each site visit, I was exposed to something new about the professional world, which then allowed me to make realizations about myself and what I am looking for in a career. Now looking back on the experience as a whole, the best way to reflect is to highlight my main thoughts from the two days of site visits:

Day 1-

Our first day of CQ Boston, my cohorts and I visited the intriguing sites of Raytheon, Google, and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. At Raytheon, I felt privileged to be able to witness the various stages of developing defense technology and learn how they continue to keep the world safe. Before arriving, I remember feeling hesitant about the visit knowing that it was an engineering focused company. But after seeing so many amazing things and gaining an insurmountable amount of new knowledge on circuit boards, basic engineering, and the incredible innovations that Raytheon is a part of every day, I realized how much I really benefitted from the site visit after all. My favorite part was seeing a form of tech in which you can work with people all over the world on a project, while fully being able to interact with it. The capabilities of the system behind it blew me away and allowed me to experience a different kind of visual reality that I never been exposed to in my life. It really impressed me to think about how American engineers are pioneering new tech every day that soon will change the face of the world. I was extremely motivated by the fascinating minds of those who contributed to the operations of Raytheon technology.

Next, we headed Google's Cambridge office for a tour and information session; it was truly a dream come true. The office was everything I thought it would be and more. I was really impressed by the amount of resources available to Google employees; improving the quality of life and work culture. Not only do Google employees have access to free Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner, they are provided with a vast amount of different working spaces to promote efficiency. Additional office features include a music room, individual nap pods, arcade games, animal videos and more. I was blown away by the design of every floor we visited in their office. While I felt intimidated at first by the clout of the company of Google, I quickly felt comfortable and supported in the environment. From this experience, I took away that there are many different jobs at Google; including ones that might appeal to me professionally. I enjoyed my time there especially as they encouraged us all to apply and stated that they are always looking for new minds and perspectives within the company.

At our last visit of the day to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, I learned a great deal about the undergrad college to post grad transition from a couple of GW alums. Major themes included keeping an open mind to professional opportunities and taking advantage of the resources at our fingertips at GW.

Day 2-

On the second day of our trip we visited Skyword, Wellington Management, and the Boston Mayor's Office. At Skyword, my cohort and I were able to observe and ask questions to a panel of three employees within the marketing agency. It was extremely valuable to hear additional helpful tips from the company's recruiting manager as he informed us on what Skyword looks for in candidates when interviewing for a position.

At our next visit to Wellington Management, I was blown away by 360-degree glass office looking down at all at Boston, but more so by the number of women brokers within the investment firm. I was extremely inspired to be able to ask questions and receive honest answers about work-life balance, working in the often men dominated field of finance, and how each of them ended up where they are now.

Concluding our time in Boston, we visited the Boston Mayor's Office; more specifically the New Urban Mechanics division. I really enjoyed meeting some of the members of their team and learning about the important work they do for the city on an everyday basis. While speaking to them, I realized that I am really interested in public service work and that I should do more research on those type of jobs.

In conclusion, Career Quest Boston was an experience that I will never forget. Not only did I develop a diverse amount of knowledge from the varying industries of our site visits, I gained a personal glimpse into the kinds of jobs that more or less interest me. It was also extremely beneficial for us a cohort to practice our networking skills at the alumni event that was orchestrated specifically for us while we were there. As a result, I was able to connect with people that I would have most likely never have met without this opportunity. It was extremely rewarding to spend these few days to think listen and learn; while thinking about what I want from my professional life. I am truly grateful to have been a part of Career Quest Boston.