



Nasief Allie

Postgraduate Diploma in Project Management alumnus

Nasief Allie is an ambitious civil engineer who had to choose between two routes on his career path. He applied for the PGDip in Project Management to upskill himself in the business management of projects and to serve as a stepping stone towards his dream of applying for the MBA before he turns 30. Here he shares his story:

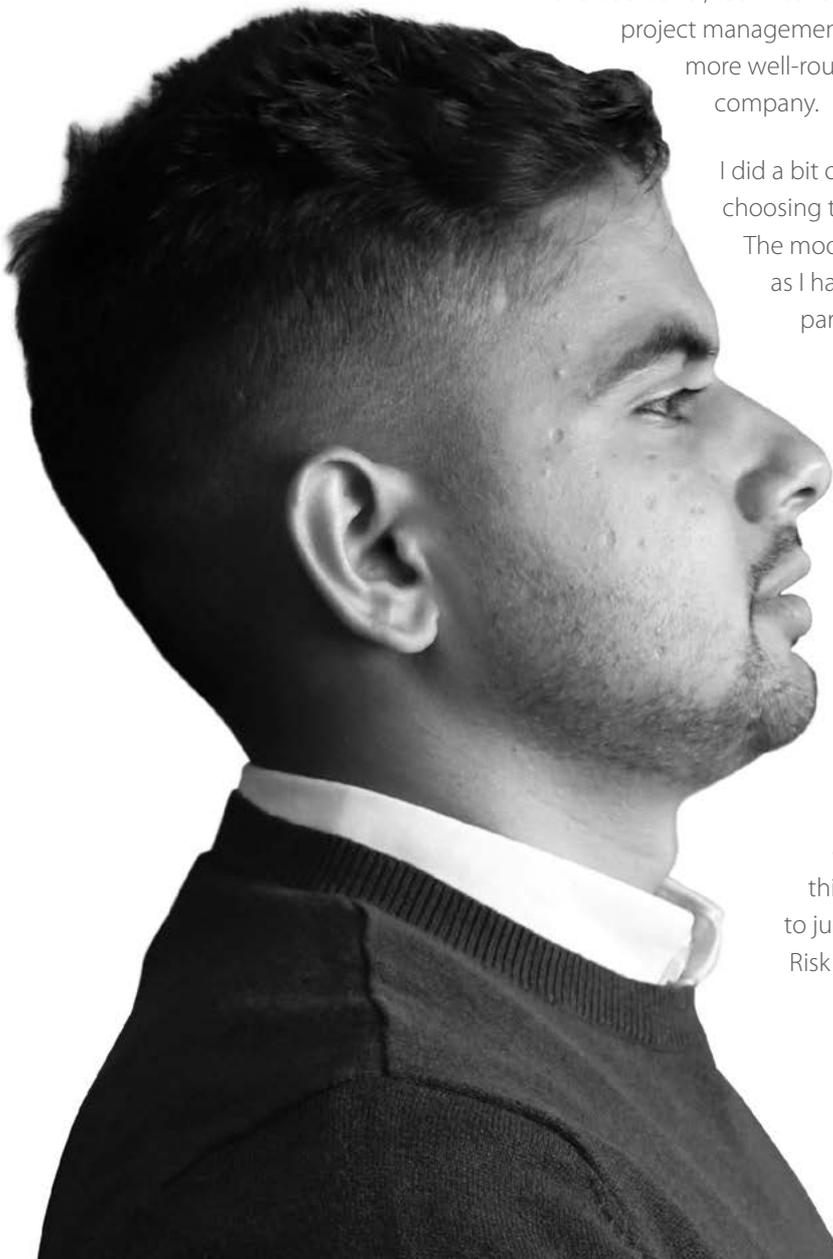
Making an investment in my career

Having studied civil engineering and construction management, I currently work at a consulting engineering company, Aurecon. Within my company I could either go the traditional, technical engineering route or I could pursue a career in project management. I chose to follow the latter to give myself a more well-rounded approach and to help me excel in my company.

I did a bit of research on possible programmes before choosing to do the PGDip in Project Management at USB. The modular programme over two years catered for me, as I had to continue working full-time while studying part-time.

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The Emotional Intelligence Module stood out for me. A lot of the programme's take-outs came as a result of that subject. It forced me to think differently about things and it reminded me to just take a moment to reflect. I also really enjoyed Risk Management and Stakeholder Engagement.





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Applying my new skills on the job

During my first year of studies I was based at the office while during my second year I was based on a construction site. That was where my newly acquired skills really came into play! There, you have to deal with different stakeholders – from the various contractors to the client.

My biggest challenges were work-life balance and motivating myself to sit with my books after a hard day of work. At the same time, it was also rewarding because the sense of accomplishment after completing a module or assignment is amazing. My advice to prospective students would be to come with an open mind and embrace the course. Give it 100% and you will definitely be rewarded.

Next, I would like to register as a Professional Project Manager, and I will reach out to some of my old lecturers for guidance. The qualification is internationally accredited, so hopefully this will allow me to travel abroad for work and to see what is out there. This year, I will investigate possible funding routes so that I can apply for the MBA, which I really would like to do before I am 30 – which leaves me with two years!

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