Beke Vuma (MBA2010)
On transitioning from engineering to management consulting

Education:  BEng (Hons) Aerospace Systems Engineering
Pre-MBA Career:  Systems Engineer (1yr), Brake Performance Engineer (3yrs)
Summer Internship:  Ariya Capital (Startup PE fund)
Permanent Offer:  McKinsey Johannesburg

Beke speaks about her career evolution:

My career objective was to switch careers into Private Equity. I had expected that coming to London Business School would make it easier to switch roles and industry and increase my future compensation. After joining the MBA program I learned a great deal about a lot of alternative career paths and realized that there were far more career options open to me than I had initially thought.

During my first year, my internship search was not going as planned and I had to start exploring my ‘backup’ plans. In the end my summer internship arose from networking. Being a career switcher, it was vital for me to get an internship that would fill my skills gap and even allow you to try out a new role in a different industry. The evolution of my career objectives was influenced by advice from Career Services, my classmates and my summer internship experience.

The consulting role I have accepted an offer for promises the variety in functional experience that initially attracted me to Private Equity, but with the added attraction of rapid career acceleration with a globally recognized company. My aim is to go as far as I can in consulting and maybe one day branch out and start my own company.

On the Alumni Network:  From my experience, the alumni network is strong and responsive. I have often tapped into it not just for career advice but also for help with organizing student club events. For me, an email with a specific question has always elicited a response.

On Career Services:  The coaching sessions, CV and cover letter workshops and mock interviews provided by Career Services during the first year of my MBA were very useful. I only started applying for consulting roles during the 2nd year of my MBA and the Consulting team at Career Services showed me how to tailor my CV specifically for a consulting job application. Once I had secured interviews, I received very valuable help, particularly on how to approach the fit part of the interview.

On Student Clubs:  The Consulting Club crack-a-case sessions were very important to my interview preparation. Having previously no experience in cracking cases, they proved to be an incredibly valuable resource in getting me in shape in time for my interviews.

“The academics are important, but it is the experiences outside the classroom that will shape your career. London Business School connected me to people who have helped shape my career but who were previously far beyond the reach of my personal network.”