



**Douglas Stridsberg**

**Job title:** Analyst at JP Morgan

**Graduation date:** 2016

**Degree:** MEng Mechanical Engineering

### **Tell us about your role at JP Morgan?**

I work in structuring. It's a very technical role. So, in a way, it resembles trading, as we have to understand the product. You can think of it as product development. We have to understand the minutiae of the products that we're developing, whilst, at the same time having to understand the sale angle of it, how to price them, to understand how our clients are thinking about these products

## **What you think can help you to set you apart from other candidates?**

I don't like to think of it as a competition. Even though it is, I've never thought of it as a competition. It was just a race with myself and trying to outdo my own efforts rather than trying to think of it as a rat race where hundreds of thousands of people are applying and you know you have to come in front of all of them. You need to get the basics down. You need to prepare, you need to know your stuff.

I think what set me apart is that I had a genuine reason to be there, I had a genuine interest in the financial markets, had a genuine interest in sales and trading and I had a genuine interest in the company. When I was applying for JP Morgan, I could sit there and I could genuinely say, this isn't just a company, one out of 50 companies have applied to this is this is JP Morgan. I really want to work here because X, Y, Z.



happen. People acting in strange ways, not in a bad way necessarily. It's tough to put a finger on but it is a big corporation, it is a big bureaucratic corporation and that is very evident in almost everything you do. You just need to accept that.

I don't do very well with authority. I don't like having people tell me what to do. So for me to be in an environment where it is very hierarchical, where you've got the boss, the boss tells you what to do, you execute. That wasn't always very easy for me. But I would say that's a challenge that you're going to face in any big corporation. And if anything, yes, a bank is bureaucratic, but at least the bureaucracy is very fast moving. There are checks and approvals to go through. But those checks and approvals are quick. It's very quick, it's frustrating, but at least it's quick. c

### **Why did you quit and what are you doing now?**

I quit not because of the job I was doing, but rather the job I wanted to do or the things in life I wanted to do. So I was I was genuinely happy with my employment, I was happy with my employer, I was very happy with the people I was working with.

I would just rather do something on my own. I've been meaning to start my own business for a very long time. What I am working on right now is called quantitative trading. It's the concept that you build computer algorithms to analyse the markets and subsequently to place buy and sell orders on the markets, so you basically have a computer trade for you through algorithms that you've built.

So that's what I'm working on now and I'm doing that in my own capacity, I'm working by myself, and that's an interest I have had for very many years, since before I joined. I set that aside when I started at JP and I was quite happy leaving that aside for a while but then it kind of came back and I got more and more interested in reading around again and started getting quite excited about it, and then two years down the line, you've had a decent salary, you built up some savings.

For me, it came to the point where it the risk reward was so obviously in favour of quitting and trying this out, the risk was so small and the potential reward so huge. It just was a no brainer, just a question of time really.

I really want to make that clear that I did not leave because I was dissatisfied. We all have our ups and downs right? We are all happy about our work, sometimes unhappy. It's not like I loved everything about my job. But overall I was very happy with the job I had.

There was stuff I wanted to do that I was more edge and.

### **What advice would you give to someone aspiring to either work at JP or do their own thing?**

Advice on how do you get into finance is just the usual, try to learn as much as you can about what's going on in the industry and at the end of the day it's a very opaque industry - it's very hard as an outsider to have any understanding of what goes on the inside so there's only so much you can do.

What is way more important is what I was talking earlier, about how you should sit down think about what do you want to do and why do you want to do it.

Because you might think that you want to go into finance but if you don't know why you want to go