

# Interview with Edge Hotel School alumnus Charlie Search



We were delighted to catch up with 22 year old Charlie Search, who graduated from the Edge Hotel School back in 2019 with a BA in Hotel Management – although thanks to Covid, he's still waiting for his official graduation ceremony!!

So looking back, what would you say were the main benefits of studying at EHS?

"You're constantly receiving real life experience at the hotel which you can immediately reflect upon within lectures. In lectures you can discuss techniques & theories that you can then implement in real situations, from customer behaviour to cash flow. Also, you're working with trained professionals who have been in the industry for years; you can assess each person's qualities and attributes and add that to your own professional character to help you develop."



As well as the professionals at Wivenhoe House, home of the EHS, did you get any opportunities to meet other people in the industry? And how did that help you?

"That was one of, if not the most essential part of being at EHS. You have so many unique opportunities that would normally be very hard to come by, for example I was lucky enough to attend a soft launch at South Lodge's new state of the art Spa.

**I actually met my future employer BaxterStorey at more than 5 separate events all held by EHS. That shows the industry truly values and respects what EHS is all about.**

To show the demand for EHS graduates, at one networking event held at the University just for EHS students there were 42 separate companies, hotels, etc attending."

Would you say that studying at EHS has given you the skills you need for career success?

**"You need so many skills to succeed in the hospitality industry. A key one is professionalism. You face new challenges each day so approaching any situation with a calm and well measured temperament is critical.**

Confidence is also vital, the industry is so vast and success can be defined by such small margins, that you need to use that confidence effectively to prove yourself against your competitors. You also need to be dedicated as the long hours, fast paced and demanding clients will always test you but dedication will lead you to positive results and outcomes. But in my opinion the epicentre of a hospitality professional's skill set should always be passion; because quite simply it's the driving force that allows you to succeed. I always think of what a hospitality professional, who is a role model of mine, said 'Charlie, always strive to give your best and the rest will fall into place'."

That sounds like great advice and I'm sure you'll take that to heart in your career. And thinking of your career, where do you see yourself in 5 years' time?

"Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic I was made redundant from my role as a Graduate Manager in October 2020. I managed to secure a temporary Christmas job with a small bakery company sending out luxury hampers, but I'm now looking for new employment. I'm determined to get back into the industry as soon as I can and in 5 years' time I would like to be in a senior management role giving my clients/customers the best possible experience they can have. In the meantime, I'm spending lockdown keeping busy in the kitchen cooking and baking as well as lots of running as I'm doing the Edinburgh marathon in May."

Well they say life's all about balance and it sounds like you're using your time well until the industry opens up again. We're sure with your skills and that passion, you'll soon be back looking after those customers and we hope you'll keep in touch with us here at Edge to tell us how you're getting on.



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To find out more about studying at the Edge Hotel School visit:  
<https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/edge-hotel-school>