

## PubAffairs Profile

Name	Andrew Escott
Job Title	Associate, APCO UK
What academic /professional qualifications do you have?	MA Politics and International Relations from Aberdeen Uni
How did you get into Public Affairs?	<p>When still at school (ok this is embarrassing, why did I agree to write this?) I found out about a PR/PA consultancy in Edinburgh (pre-parliament of course) who did this sort of thing and after a week s work experience I was hooked. So interspersed with the usual travelling in holidays at Uni, I managed to get internships with consultancies in Edinburgh and then London before finally heading off to Brussels for some months with a regional trade association (totally recommend doing a stage in Brussels —great place). I also did a four month spot in the Scottish Parliament working in the Labour party s Resource Unit (briefing MSPs and Ministers), getting a really good inside view of party politics.</p> <p>Thereafter, in 2001, a recruitment consultant got me in for an interview with APCO UK and three years later I m still here.</p> <p>(BY THE WAY: doing internships is a really great way to earn your way through the summer, nearly all of mine paid quite well and with a little effort you can track down others doing similar things in other companies and have a really enjoyable few months, its not all photocopying —the new interns network is a really great idea).</p>
What others careers did you consider?	Journo
How did you get your current job?	Recruitment consultant
What characteristics do you need to work in Public Affairs?	<p>Tall, dark and handsome?</p> <p>I think that there is more than one type of public affairs ideal model looking around the office at the moment we are all very different people! What do we share? Hmm, a heavy workload perhaps but honestly all different. If you want a job that is at the cutting edge of communication, that helps create the news agendas, and is high pressured, then you re in the right place (just probably a bit too ambitious god damn it)</p>
What skills are most important in your job?	Business skills, people skills, time management, presentational abilities, sound knowledge of political process in its widest sense dedication (Roy Castle etc)
Which campaign that you have worked on are you most proud of?	BUSH CHENEY 2000 .

	(kidding)
How do you go about making contacts?	All over — obviously PubAffairs is good, all those think tanks lunches and breakfast briefings are great, and then keeping in touch with your own colleagues and clients as they all move around.
How has networking at PubAffairs helped you?	It s the only networking organisation that represents the modern face of the public affairs industry.  It provides an intelligent and informal platform for interacting with your peers. (and that strapline s for sale)
What advice would you give to anyone looking to break into Public Affairs?	Just like any other industry - get some experience and show some enthusiasm — treat it like a career vocation not a 9-5 job and you re in.