

Stepping into the...

# SPOTLIGHT



**Hundreds of students take part in our intern programmes throughout the year. Here we catch up with former IEA interns who've gone on to great things (*and find out how you could intern with us on page 34...*)**



## WHAT KATE DID NEXT...

The face might be familiar. **KATE ANDREWS** has made countless media appearances – she’s a regular guest on shows such as BBC Question Time.

She interned at the IEA in 2011 before returning as News Editor and going on to become Associate Director.

She’s now forging ahead as a journalist.

### Can you summarise your career since leaving the IEA?

I’ve moved from the world of think tanks to journalism, joining *The Spectator* as their Economics Correspondent. The building may be around the corner from the IEA, but it’s a new challenge that’s keeping me on my toes.

### What’s your favourite and/or funniest memory of the IEA?

A particular favourite moment that stands out to me was the day we launched the IEA’s podcast Live from Lord North Street. Our digital team had worked round the clock to get the channels established and good podcasts in the can. We told the staff we were hoping to make the iTunes Top 100 podcast list – but not to get their hopes up. By the end of the day, we had made the top 20 and were top 5 for the news and politics category – right next to Ed Miliband!

### What advice would you give to people considering or about to start IEA programmes?

If you’re considering an IEA internship – do it! It’s

all too rare that you get the opportunity to learn so much and surround yourself with such great free-market thinkers and teachers. You won’t regret it.

If you’re about to start – throw yourself into the experience and ask how you can get more involved. There is always work to be done at the IEA (the fight for freedom is not yet won!) but sometimes staff need a reminder that you’re on site and ready to help.

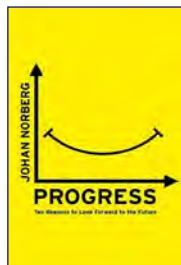
### What’s the best piece of advice you’ve ever received?

Make the right choice for right now. It’s easy to think far into the future, about the dream job or the big wins. While it’s very important to have ambition, your thirty-year plan shouldn’t be the top (or even tenth!) factor when making decisions about what university to attend or your first job out of school. Choose the next step that makes sense and feels right for the time and place you’re in, and inevitably you’ll be one step closer to achieving your goals.

### What book should everyone read?

*Progress: Ten Reasons to Look Forward to the Future*, by Johan Norberg

What do you think is the most underrated skill?



Paying attention to detail. Game-changing ideas often get attention, but it’s the people who can deliver them flawlessly who I notice, and consider most valuable to the team. Put time and care into the quality of the product you deliver; triple-check for spelling errors; get things checked and re-checked before you ask your boss to sign-off. If you show attention to detail, you’ll quickly become trusted by those around you. No surprise, this leads to more opportunity to put forward your own big ideas. Everyone knows you can deliver on them.

### What’s your favourite TV show/movie?



Near impossible for a movie-buff like me to pick a favourite, but I’ll go with one of the best classics: *Rear Window*

### Which three people would you invite to your dream dinner party?

If it’s dead or alive, it would be author F. Scott Fitzgerald, President Ronald Reagan, and country singer Dolly Parton •



# ALICE, THROUGH OUR LOOKING GLASS...

ALICE STRETCH was a summer intern at the IEA in 2016.

Her studies took her to Asia before joining a multi-billion pound investment management company

## Can you summarise your career since leaving the IEA?

I went on to my second year of studying Political Economy at King's College London. I worked part-time for an MP in Westminster throughout my degree. I spent part of my second year studying in Asia – a month in Tokyo, four months in Seoul, two months in Hong Kong. I completed my final year at King's, writing my dissertation on the policy failure of social care in the UK. Then I started a series of summer internships – including working in the communications team at Porton Down after the Novichok attack. I moved to Edinburgh in 2018 and started as a trainee investment manager at Baillie Gifford. So far I've been on the emerging markets equity team (researching companies from LatAm airports to Chinese biotech and South African retailers) and a global growth equity team. I contribute to the funds with idea generation, investment discussions and in-depth company research.

## What's your favourite and/or funniest memory of the IEA?

I enjoyed the internship so much and have kept up with a lot of the people I met there. I learned something from every speaker and session. It wasn't just the formal sessions but

also the coffee chats – working with people who could readily shift conversation from regression analyses to microfinance to reality TV was a pretty special time.

## What advice would you give to people considering or about to start IEA programmes?

You never know where an opportunity may lead. No matter what stage of study or work you're at, you'll get something out of your time with the IEA. If you want to challenge your perspectives and learn in-depth about areas you'd rarely see on a curriculum, an IEA programme is the best starting place.

## What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

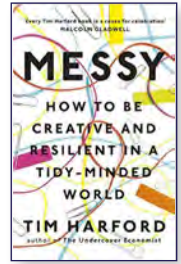
Be kind to yourself. If you're young and ambitious, you can often develop that internal narrative of competitiveness, of being disappointed at each setback. You can achieve a lot that way, but you'll find it hard to actively learn and enjoy what you've achieved. So be resilient – but be kind to yourself in the process.

## What book should everyone read?

*Messy* by **Tim Harford**. The challenge of how disorder can reshape your life. Reading his book made me realise how I should look outside paths I'd

set for myself. I studied abroad just after reading it.

Travelling outside Europe for the first time, living in places where you don't speak the language and learning history, economics and languages from a completely different perspective encapsulated what was 'Messy'.



## What do you think is the most underrated skill?

Active listening. I volunteered at The Listening Place in my final year, a charity that gives suicidal individuals face to face support. Active listening means being present in a conversation, not pre-verbalising your next comment, allowing the time and sometimes silence to allow each other to think through their viewpoints. Ironically, this can get to the crux of issues much quicker.

## What's your favourite TV show/movie?

I have six siblings so fighting over the remote basically means I have to like everything! But there are a couple of things we can all watch – *Back to the Future* and *Quantum Leap* spring to mind.



## Which three people would you invite to your dream dinner party?

Economist and philosopher Friedrich Hayek. Then Vera Brittain – her autobiography really stayed with me... her experience of the First World War, her struggle to rebuild her life and achieve her potential. I'll leave the third chair empty for now, as I'm sure I'd like to save it ●