

Policy Wisdom, LLC

Name: Dr. Sofia Ribeiro

Job: Consultant - Global Public Health Policy

Sector: Private; Research / Health Policy

Location: Miami, USA

Interviewer: Diogo Martins (LSHTM MScPH 2016-17)

Date: 15/05/2017

Information interview

Career background: Academic - graduated in Medicine (2011). Foundation year as a medical doctor in 2012. Public Health Medical training from 2013 to the present, during which was selected for a WHO internship in the EU Office (Brussels) in November 2014. MScPH Public Health (LSHTM 2013-2014). In 2015, started a PhD in Public Health at the University of Maastricht (Netherlands) as an external candidate. Returned to WHO EU Office to work as a Consultant in July 2015 and stayed for one year, combining the work in WHO with the PhD, and teaching at the University of Maastricht. Started working as a Consultant in Policy Wisdom in October 2016.

Average day in the job: The work at Policy Wisdom is done by distance. You are given a set of tasks you are required to complete and deliver within a predetermined timeline. There's a certain degree of flexibility, as you can manage your own agenda according to the deadlines of each project. There's also the possibility to ask for advice from your supervisor and colleagues, but communication is mostly made through online platforms.

Most relevant skills: There are two distinct types of relevant skills for this job: technical and soft skills. Technical skills: solid knowledge of the basics in Public health, such as epidemiology, biostatistics and a broader knowledge of what is going on policy-wise in the region you're working on. This is easily covered by the MScPH. Soft skills: time management. Working with pre-set deadlines but not in a physical environment can be seen as an advantage, but will require a good management of your work time, as it is expected that you deliver fast and well.

Most valuable things at LSHTM: Technical skills acquired during the Master's programme, specially the core modules such as epidemiology, biostatistics and research methodologies. The opportunity to get to know other professionals at different career stages and getting to know them and how they strived in their careers.

Pieces of advice: Don't limit yourself to the job description. You need to be able to manage it, but try to think what else you can bring to the position. Contact your professors: don't be afraid or delay the possibility to talking to them. Ask about their experiences and also for any career advice. They will expand the questions you have previously asked yourself, and will guide you to discover paths to

a job you weren't considering before. Invest on being good technically, as this is extremely valuable. Invest in networking. Look for opportunities where you can meet these people and other professionals at the same stage as you are, and exchange ideas with them. Always think ahead and present the best version of yourself. Know yourself (your strengths and weaknesses) and know what differentiates you from other people, and don't be afraid to pursue any job application. Be proactive and plan ahead.

Policy Wisdom

"Shaping policies the wise way"

General description: Private organisation based in Miami (USA) that provides evidence to inform health policies worldwide. The company provides a range of products and services on different health-related topics, to a variety of stakeholders - from public and private sectors.

Recruitment system: There is no specific application period, yet there is a section on the website where you can send your CV and make a speculative application. Referrals are also important if you're pursuing a career in consultancy.

Entry-level opportunities/internships: Not typically.

Ideal profile for candidates: No ideal profile, it is about the quality of what you do and what difference you can bring. Having a strong technical background and the ability to prove (through publishing, projects and others) what you are capable of doing will give you an advantage. Being capable of adapting to different settings and timelines, and always delivering to high standards is extremely important. Solid knowledge of more than one language and more than one degree/area of interest comes with an added value.

Contacts:

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