

GRADUATE PROFILE

NAME: Alexandru Dragan

JOB TITLE: Graduate Fire Engineer

QUALIFICATIONS: MEng Civil Engineering

EDUCATION: University of Edinburgh



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EDUCATION / CAREER PROGRESSION

Having finished at one of the best high schools in Romania with 97.3%, I furthered my education at Edinburgh University where I managed to obtain a 1st class MEng degree with Honours in Civil Engineering.

I have previous experience in the engineering field from summer internships, working either as an Assistant Surveyor or a Civil Engineering Intern on several construction sites. This gave me a good perspective of how a project is progressed from both a consultant and a contractor point of view. Informal part-time work enabled me to assist and advise the client on another construction site.

The decisive point in my career so far has been selecting my master's thesis – Validation of MassMotion, a pedestrian modelling software. The software has wide application in the Fire Safety industry. My knowledge and experience gained during last university year, coupled with my general engineering background, including optional fire safety courses, proved to be valuable skills that enabled me to join the Trenton Fire team.

WHY FIRE ENGINEERING?

Working in Fire Engineering allows me to work on very different projects, making every day unique and quantifying safety and the risks that fire and smoke pose to life is very challenging and rewarding.

The one thing that sparks the most interest in me personally is the fact that we work together with architects towards amazing schemes. We spot challenges in the proposed schemes and employ all our engineering tools and knowledge to ensure that the architect's vision becomes reality. Very often we suggest adjustments that provide significant added value to the project overall. The added value covers cost, usability and aesthetic aspects of each project.

I specialise in evacuation modelling. This a skill that enables my team to provide a performance based design approach to buildings that fall short of prescriptive guidance when it comes to travel distances, escape route widths and occupancy.

HIGHLIGHTS

I started work at Trenton Fire six weeks ago and already I have been involved in 15 projects describing most types of building shapes and functions, some of which are soon to become landmarks. On these projects, the amount of work that I have provided has varied, following the requirements of my team, but I have felt every day that what my work makes a difference.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT WORKING FOR TRENTON?

Trenton Fire is a company comprised of industry appraised experts with incredible experience. For a prospective employee this might feel intimidating but working here feels more like working with friends. This relaxed, informal approach to work contrasts with the Trenton's formal approach to employee development – I have received more than enough training to perform any task that was asked for me. Moreover, Trenton Fire is investing an impressive amount in my personal development by sending me for an entire week's worth of further training at the University of Leeds. Other than the friendly atmosphere, I value how approachable my colleagues are – whenever I have any questions, any member of the team is more than willing to assist me.

I am very curious where I will find myself in a years' time, but I hope to gain as much experience in evacuation modelling, and be closer to my goal of becoming an expert in this niche field. I know that my career will constantly accelerate to wherever I want to go, thanks to the invaluable support of Trenton Fire.