# YOUR FIRST JOB IN REGULATORY AFFAIRS

There are many changes going on in the industry with the new MDR, IVDR and even Brexit on the horizon, this means it is a good time to get involved as demand for these roles increases

## EDUCATION

- ☐ **LinkedIn Groups** – join LI groups based around the MDR, ISO 13485, QARA, etc. within these many people share industry knowledge and even in some cases new roles
- ☐ **TOPRA (The Organisation for Professionals in Regulatory Affairs) & RAPS (Regulatory Affairs Professional Society)** – Two of the most popular global organisations for professionals in this field, they have various recognised courses you can do including e-learning. TOPRA also offer a master in regulatory affairs which may be worth considering if you are sure this is the industry you want to enter.
- ☐ **MDR & IVDR** – The regulations are available for free online, give them a read to get a better understanding of them
- ☐ **Easy Medical Device Podcast** – listening to experienced professionals in the industry would give you a good insight as to what is going and also can be used as a source to find people to connect to in the industry

## EXPERIENCE AND VOLUNTEERING

- ☐ **Work experience** – Work experience is the best leverage you can have when trying to job, it can be difficult as a student but if your college or university offer placement years or summer internships then do consider them, even if they are in a different industry such as pharmaceutical, food or even if the placement itself is within a role that is not regulatory based, you can still learn transferable skills from them.
- ☐ **Volunteering** – In some cases, medical device companies may not have graduate programs or placements but don't be afraid to approach them and work as a volunteer for a short period of time, the experience you can gain will be valuable and who knows, it may even lead to a paid position. Also, TOPRA and RAPS both look for volunteers from which you can attend their events and also get a chance to network with industry professions

## NETWORKING

- ☐ **LinkedIn** – I personally believe this to be the best online networking tool there is, you can connect with people who you have not met before and use it to discover people in the industry as well as companies you may be interested in.
- ☐ **Linked Groups** – Join Regulatory or medical device-based groups on LinkedIn and begin to participate by posting comments and even sharing others posts, then slowly over time you begin to create relationships with individuals whom you can approach in future for potential roles they may know of
- ☐ **University Lecturers** – They already have a relationship with you so it is in their interests to try and help. They have a lot of contacts, whether that be through past experience or even some past students they may know. They can introduce you to companies or people who may be able to help you.
- ☐ **University Alumni Schemes** – Most universities have some form of Alumni groups in which you can meet individuals who already have a common interest with you, it is important not to discriminate here, as although there will be individuals who are not your industry, they may know someone who is or may even have something to offer you in terms of career advice through their own experiences

Karandeep Singh Badwal
https://www.linkedin.com/in/karandeepbadwal/