

## **My Stationer's Bursary**

*Madeleine was awarded the Stationer's Postgraduate Bursary Award 2011-2012 for City University's Magazine Journalism MA course. She passed with a distinction, and is now beginning work as a staff writer for trend forecasting agency Stylus.*

I have wanted to be a journalist for a very long time. For almost a decade I have been begging local papers for work experience, writing for student newspapers and perfecting my tea-making skills. And finally, here I am - about to start my first paid, full time, proper adult job in journalism.

After studying English Lit at Durham I was offered a place on the MA in Magazine Journalism at City University, London. There was only one snag – the fees for this prestigious course were £8,700. Added to that, my parents still live in Cornwall where I grew up, so there was no hope of free bed and board whilst I studied. It quickly became clear that a £10,000 career development loan would not be enough.

I heard about the Stationer's postgraduate bursary from my course tutor at City. When the letter came offering me this £6,000 lifeline of financial assistance, suddenly everything seemed possible. To be given the chance to experience the opportunities London has to offer an aspiring journalist was a huge privilege.

I went to City a student, and I left 10 months later as a journalist. I have learnt more in this period than in the previous 22 years of my life. I have worked late into the night and early in the morning, cried with stress and frustration, and been pushed far, far out of my comfort zone. City is not a walk in the park. It is tough, grueling, wonderful experience that provided so many opportunities, from interning at the Guardian newspaper to designing a children's cookery magazine.

Had I not gone to City that I would not be where I am today. The money from the Stationer's bursary was instrumental in getting me to City, and the advice and help from my mentor Ian Locks provided support throughout the course. I would like to offer my thanks and express my gratitude to him and the Stationer's Company for the confidence they have placed in me. I hope I prove to be a worthy investment.