

Jana Harrison, B.A. Professional Writing, 2014

By Max Chambers

Commercial Manager, Deliveroo

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Jana Harrison graduated from Western Kentucky University with a bachelor’s degree in Professional Writing in 2014. She is currently a Commercial Manager for [Deliveroo](#), a food delivery tech company based in London, England.

Harrison had participated in the Governor’s Scholars Program during high school, so WKU’s close ties with the program made it the perfect choice for Harrison’s undergraduate degree. Harrison always knew that English was the right major for her. “I was addicted to journaling, blogging and creative writing as a hobby and way to process my adolescent thoughts and emotions,” said Harrison. “It just felt like a natural progression.” She originally planned to teach English after graduating but chose to switch to the Professional Writing concentration after her sophomore year.

Although all of Harrison’s English courses impacted her life, Dr. Jeffrey Rice’s *Digital Writing* course showed her how to combine personal passions with writing. “As a part of this course, we had to create a Wordpress blog on a subject of our choice,” said Harrison. “At this time, I had canceled my campus meal plan and started cooking all my meals in the dorm. I realized for the first time that I love to cook and create recipes. So, a food blog was born.” Study Abroad and Study Away opportunities like Professor Walker Rutledge’s *Honors’ Hemingway and Faulkner* course also shaped Harrison’s career. “The study abroad opportunities absolutely helped me get to where I am, broadening my options and giving me the confidence to move to New York and then to London for work,” said Harrison.

After graduating from WKU in 2014, Harrison moved to New York City, intending to attend culinary school. She managed a vegan sushi shop and planned events for a cookbook author who connected her to a job opportunity for Maple, a food delivery company in Manhattan. There, she worked as Culinary Operations Manager until the company was acquired by Deliveroo in 2017. Harrison chose to join the New Businesses team, which allowed her to relocate to London later that year.

Harrison is the Commercial Manager for [Editions](#), a division of Deliveroo that focuses on delivery-only kitchens. “I primarily work with restaurant groups to help them expand through Deliveroo into new areas where the delivery demand is strong,” said Harrison. Her passion for food, cultivated through her English coursework, is essential in her daily activities. “My English degree was crucial to getting me to where I am today,” said Harrison.

In her free time, Harrison enjoys trying new restaurants and bars in London, cycling through the city, and video chatting with her family in Kentucky. She also reads cookbooks, food blogs, and magazines like *Bon Appetit*.

Harrison recommends that current English students consider the non-English skills they might need in their future careers. “My analytical skills would be stronger today if I had also focused on business management and commercial strategy,” said Harrison. She also encourages students to practice good study habits. “My advice would be to learn to effectively speed read, write whenever you’re at your most fresh (first thing in the morning for me), and don’t sleep on your basic math course requirements.”

