

# CAREER TRANSITION

CASE STUDY: RUGBY PLAYER to INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

**Name:** Richard Smith **Age:** 33

**From:** Neath, South Wales

## Playing Career Summary:

Richard started his rugby career at his hometown club Neath before a stint in Australia brought him to the attention of the Cardiff Blues. Whilst at the Blues, Richard was also a key member of the Wales 7's squad on the HSBC World 7's Series. Richard closed out his rugby career at the Llanelli Scarlets and was a part of the squad that went on to win the Guinness Pro 12 Championship in 2017.

**New Career:** Investment Management

## Support from Player Association:

During his playing career Richard was focused on his post rugby transition and continued his academic endeavours, this culminated in Richard gaining a Ph.D. in Engineering during the latter stages of his time in Welsh rugby.

The WRPA were instrumental in helping Richard build a network and connect with businesses in sectors where he had an interest. This allowed him to carry out informational interviews and explore a multitude of options to help narrow down the areas that were aligned with his long-term career goals.

## Career Transition Highlights:

- Undertaking and completing a Ph.D. in Engineering during his playing career.
- Securing an investment role at BlackRock, the world's largest investment management firm.

## Career Transition Challenges:

- At times it was difficult balancing full time academic study alongside a professional rugby career.
- Faced early challenges pin pointing a career path that appealed to all of his long term career aspirations.



“ I was always very focused on preparing for my transition and at times I think it distracted me from my playing career. However, in retrospect I am very happy that I put in the time and energy to make sure I was able to capitalise on the opportunities that are open to professional athletes in the corporate world post sport. ”