

# CHRIS CARD, COMPASS ACADEMY APPRENTICE

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## Background

**Name:** Chris Card

**Age:** 23 years old

**Location:** Ruislip, Middlesex

**Experience:** Kitchen hand for Compass Group

Seven years ago, Chris Card started work with Compass, washing pots at RAF Northolt. Chris has been passionate about catering and hospitality from a young age, and names Rick Stein and Jamie Oliver as two of his inspirations. Now 23, he is in the first year of his Apprenticeship at Compass, currently placed at Westminster University, and is overseeing hospitality rather than undertaking it - something he never thought he would get to do.

“You gain extra experience in the hospitality world – rather than just staying in one unit and learning how they work, you learn about the full area of hospitality, from tea and coffee runs in the morning to fine dining. One day you may be learning how to balance your books, and the next day you could be catering a function for 300 people.”

Chris says that the programme so far has taught him a number of key things: “I’ve learnt a lot about time management, and how to conduct myself in a proper business environment when I have to meet clients. I’ve got a lot more confidence about myself, and now get involved more rather than sitting back. On this programme you don’t just learn how to do things - you learn how to do them well.”

For Chris, highlights of the course have included working at the Sandhurst Sovereign’s Parade and catering for the 2009 Brit Awards. He has also served royalty in the past and feels that these experiences have boosted his confidence. He says: “I’ve gained loads of confidence in serving people, and learnt that it doesn’t matter who is in front of you, you can always get through it!”

When it comes to career aspirations, Chris says that the Academy programme will enable him to get higher than he ever dreamt he would. He eventually hopes to become a multi-site manager, enabling him to spread his skills across a number of units within the business. He also believes that Compass will ultimately benefit from investing in its Apprentices. He says: “My employer can benefit from me because I know a lot about the company, and investing in me makes me a good work in progress for the future.”



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Compass Group UK & Ireland Limited

Rivermead, Oxford Road, Denham, Uxbridge, UB9 4BF

T +44 (0) 1895 554554 +44 (0) 1895 554555

[www.compass-group.co.uk](http://www.compass-group.co.uk)

