

# Independent Consultancy

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## Information Interview with an Independent Consultant:

**Personal Work Experience:** BS in Health Sciences; 1 year working with Philippines government health sector in policy and research; 2 years working with GSK Philippines on government business and patient program; MSc in Public Health – Health Promotion; currently independent consultant working with government and private organizations on health promotion, communication and policy initiatives; will be taking a short course on Leadership in Strategic Communication at the Johns Hopkins Centre for Communication Programs to further develop health communication skills.

**Average day in the job:** Days are highly variable as an independent consultant working on different projects. No office, so can flexibly work anywhere, usually in a coffee shop to write or in client's office for meetings.

**General pieces of advice:** Global environment of LSHTM helped expand thinking and network. People met at LSHTM gave a wider perspective on health and potential solutions. Now, a ready resource of people who can be contacted if advice needed.

Be open to opportunities and take risks. Make use of the alumni network!

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Time management is very important because independent consultants control their own time. They must plan their week/month to ensure completion of all deliverables for various projects. Communication is also crucial in dealing with different partners and multi-language skills are highly beneficial, as it is helpful to speak partners' own language.

Although not a skill, you will need to be resilient and consistent as an independent consultant. My income is dependent on the projects I get, so there's risk involved. You also need to perform well consistently so that you earn a good reputation and get repeat business.