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North East
Local Enterprise Partnership



Ruthlyn Mollett, Junior Developer, tombola

Making a home and career in the North East

Ruthlyn Mollett moved to Sunderland from Morecambe in the North West to study a degree in Games Software Development. She now works at tombola, Britain's biggest online bingo site, and considers the North East her home.

"I did fall in love with the North East and in fact I've just bought a house here with my husband," said Ruthlyn.

After graduating from Sunderland University in 2015, Ruthlyn began work as a Graduate Platform Developer, working on general back-end website maintenance which underpins tombola's online gaming interface. She has now progressed to a Junior Developer role.

"I absolutely love my job. It's such a friendly and encouraging team here, the company is constantly growing and you learn so much every day."

So what made Ruthlyn decide to pursue her career in the North East after graduating?

"The cost of living in the North East is more affordable than elsewhere in the country and I like the fact that you can travel to so many different places so easily.

"There's so much to see and do here and you're only ever a metro ride away from Newcastle and Gateshead. It's meant that I got to see a lot more and do a lot more than I could in other parts of the country, as well as keeping in touch with my university friends."

tombola, which is based in Sunderland's quayside area, is a family run company. tombola began in the 1950s as Edward Thompson Printers, producing printed bingo tickets until the creation of the bingo website development in 2006, and the sister site, tombola arcade in 2016. The skills Ruthlyn learnt during her degree are now put into practice as part of the development team at tombola.

"There are multiple places to work in the North East where graduates with degrees like mine can use their skills – there are a lot of opportunities for graduates in the North East and I have no plans to move away. I'm very happy here," said Ruthlyn.

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