

Mery Bernabei

With a background in international studies and diplomacy and a thriving passion for everything related to communication, I have always felt compelled to be involved in all PR activities, putting myself at the centre of confrontation and building solid personal and professional relationships. Since college, the humanitarian and charitable sector has been a calling for me. So, I started volunteering for several global non-profits and being an active advocate of human rights, current affairs and politics kept me engaged with a public profile during my studies.

After graduating from the University of Bologna and after an internship at the Department of Immigration (Prefecture of Forli), I decided to take a gap year to travel to South Asia and Australia. However, I decided to stay in Australia and continue my postgraduate studies at Murdoch University in Perth, WA, enrolling in a master's degree in public relations and crisis management. A tailor-made course with specialisation in crisis communication during major emergencies. Upon graduation, I gained PR experience working as an independent PR consultant, undertaking projects for some non-profit organizations in Perth and also holding secondary marketing roles.

In September 2014, I moved to New Zealand and joined the Christchurch Rescue and Technical Support (NZRT1) team to learn more about emergency management and gain hands-on experience by participating in various search and rescue operations alongside the New Zealand police and L and SAR (Land Search and Rescue NZ).

After living abroad for the past 8 years I have decided to return to Europe and settle in the UK where I met my partner and in 2019 I completed a second master's degree from the University of Portsmouth earning an MSc in Disaster and Crisis Management, with specialisation in Governance and business continuity. Traveling on four continents, studying and working in three different countries has enriched my knowledge, strengthened my skills and slowly shaped my career path. However, my passion for the charity sector is still very strong which is why I want to use my skills and expertise to provide assistance and advice to Citizen Advice Gosport.