

ELBA

# A Day in the life of...

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#### MY ALARM GOES OFF...

At 6am. I get dressed and normally wear suits because they are easy to coordinate with a coloured top! I silently leave the house as my husband and three year old son are still asleep. I work in Canary Wharf and live in South East London, so I take the DLR from Lewisham to get to the office.

#### I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR...

Ensuring HSBC delivers financial information to its regulators on time. My team sends information on a weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual basis to the PRA (Prudential Regulation Authority). In order to achieve this, my key priorities are:

- Planning the submissions.
- Designing and executing controls to ensure data quality.
- Working with others to ensure systems and resources are available when needed.

#### I GOT MY JOB...

I went to University in Argentina and studied Accountancy & Finance. During my last year of studies, I applied for a work experience placement and after 6 months I was offered a job. I qualified as a certified accountant while working with HSBC. Back in 2001, when Argentina had the economic crisis, HSBC offered me a placement in the UK and I moved to London. I have been working in different areas of Finance since then, the variety gave me the experience to perform my current role.

#### AT SCHOOL I STUDIED...

I have always loved reading and studying, so I did many subjects: Math, Spanish Literature, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English (foreign language), History, Geography, Music, Computer Science, Religion. My favourites were always Math and History.

At work, every subject helps in a way: HSBC is present in 64 countries (geography) and I work with people from many backgrounds (religion / history / languages). I need to feel confident around systems (computer studies) and make sure data is correct (math / statistics). Every little helps.

#### MY TYPICAL DAY...

While I commute, I generally watch Ted talks about topics I am interested in, pray, meditate using applications or read personal and work emails, depending on how busy I am. Breakfast & planning the day are



Financial Services



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my first task. Prioritizing what is urgent and what can wait is important to achieve work life balance. I spend most of the day in meetings and reviewing data or discussing future developments.

#### THE KEY SKILLS I USE IN MY JOB...

In my current role communication, change management, leadership, decision making and strategic thinking are the key skills that I used most of the time. I took on different roles to practise them through the years and also learnt from roles models and mentors that I picked.

#### THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS...

The best part of my job is the feeling of collective purpose that we have when we all work towards the same goal. Everybody helping each other makes me feel that it is worthy.

#### THE WORST PART OF MY JOB IS...

Coordinating hundreds of people who have different agendas and priorities. I have learnt that the best way to approach this is to listen to people's needs and adopt their issues as my own. Once people feel you are on their side, they are much more open to collaborate.

#### MY ROLE MODEL GROWING UP WAS...

I did not have a role model that I wanted to emulate since I remember I wanted to be myself. However, I always appreciated qualities in different people, like my mother's patience and openness, my dad's hard working, my teachers' leadership and integrity.

#### AFTER WORK...

I sometimes work late or need to work weekends but normally I should be home by 6/7pm. The way I relax is by sharing with my family, I play with my son, I listen to what he did during the day, give him a bath, chat / gossip with my husband, plan weekend activities and sometimes help with the cooking. My husband is a stay-at-home dad and without his support I would not be able to do my job. Dinner will normally be a vegetable quiche, shepherd's pie, pasta or just steak & salad. I love sweets, so there is always some chocolate in the house.



#### MY PLAN B...

I wanted to be a marine biologist but I did not study that because at the time it would have required me to leave Argentina and study abroad. I did not want to do that but I ended up living my life in London. Funny how life unfolds!

