

ELBA

A Day in the life of...



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MY ALARM GOES OFF...

My alarm goes off at 6:30am, after freshening up I then wake up my children for school. If I have formal meetings that day I would put on a suit/jacket, otherwise I would wear something less formal but smart enough for an office environment. I leave home for work with the kids before 7:30am. I take a train and change to underground to get to work. The journey is not particularly enjoyable as it's often very crowded, so a coffee on the way to work is a must.

I try to work from home once a week. HSBC is very supportive of flexible working arrangements, so most of my colleagues work from home at least one day a week.

I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR...

I'm responsible for delivering certain banking products for our corporate clients globally. My priorities are our clients and my team. It is important that we provide quality service as expected by our clients so they can focus

on their business operations and keeping the economy going. Meanwhile I also want to ensure that my team is motivated and appreciated for their work and contribution.

I GOT MY JOB...

I got my current job through referral, ie someone I used to work with introduced me to my current manager. I started my first full-time employment with a law firm in New York as I was interested in getting into law. Although it was a fun experience, I decided not to pursue further after the work experience. I spent most of my career in banking and assumed a number of roles in different business areas before my current role. I had regional responsibilities for Europe and Asia in my prior job which probably helped with securing the current job.

AT SCHOOL I STUDIED...

I studied my university bachelor's degree in the US so did not take GCSE/A level in the UK. I studied at Hughes Hall, Cambridge University where I received my Master degree in Business Administration. I think the degree helps strengthen my CV, boost my confidence, and broaden my horizons. The network of friends that I made at school was invaluable, as many of us are like-minded and we encourage each other to carry on. Many of us still remain close many years after leaving the school.



Financial
Services



Global Head of
Liquidity Solutions

MY TYPICAL DAY...

My typical day is kicked off with a large oat latte, which I pick up together with breakfast before heading to my desk. I sometimes stop by our staff canteen for freshly made eggs. Given I have global responsibilities, I often have morning conference calls with Asia. I also scan my emails to check if there is anything urgent to be dealt with first. I spend a lot of time in meetings and discussing solutions or challenges with my team. If I get a chance, I would go to our in-house gym in the afternoon for a quick exercise. I often have salad for lunch at my desk and work at the same time, which is not ideal.

THE KEY SKILLS I USE IN MY JOB...

They key skills I use in my job are leadership, problem-solving, being analytical and inquisitive, ability to listen and coach. These skills are developed through experience over time. I also observe the behaviour of senior leaders that I admire and try to learn from them.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS...

The best part of my job is to help the team overcome challenges and deliver results for our clients and our bank. I enjoy interacting and brainstorming with my colleagues who can challenge and inspire me.

THE WORST PART OF MY JOB IS...

The toughest part of my job is the daily commute to and from the office. I try to avoid rush hours but it's not always easy.

MY ROLE MODEL GROWING UP WAS...

The person who inspires me the most is my mum. She was independent, optimistic, and generous. She loved sports and had an abundance of energy. She was determined and taught me that everything can be achieved if I put my mind to it. She had the ability to keep things simple, which is very hard to do especially in the world we live in.

AFTER WORK...

After work I usually go straight home to be with my kids. Sometimes, I also catch up with friends or colleagues for a quick drink before heading home.

My husband and I take turns cooking and we are very conscious about cooking fresh food and eating healthily. We cook a variety of different cuisines depending on how much time we have, for example pasta, lasagne, fish, steak, pie, noodle, rice etc. I usually read newspapers/periodicals after dinner or watch TV to relax.

We have movie night on Friday and Saturday and each person takes turn to choose a movie.



MY PLAN B...

If I hadn't pursued a career in banking, I would probably be in the art industry. I had a job offer from Christies auction house after receiving my Master degree, but I turned it down and chose banking instead. I love art and would have enjoyed working in the industry.

