

ELBA

A Day in the life of...



Chiluba Mulenga Vice President, Treasury Risk, State Street

MY ALARM GOES OFF...

Most days my alarm goes off at 6.50am. I generally start the day by letting the dog out into the garden and taking my diabetic medication followed by a shower. I will get dressed in a suit (except Friday which is casual smart) and head to the train station to commute to Canary Wharf.

I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR...

State Street is a global organisation headquartered in Boston. I work within the Risk function with specific responsibilities to independently review or oversee some of the treasury activities in the UK. For example the management of cash in and out of the London branch and the impact on various risk metrics. My key priority is to support my business partners in Global Treasury to manage risk associated with their activities including regulatory risk.

I GOT MY JOB...

I went to the University of Surrey and studied Computing and

IT. I joined Deloitte after university and studied for my accountancy exams while working. I've had different accountancy roles in various sectors including financial services, local government and health regulation. I also had the opportunity to work abroad in Zambia as well as Canada. I came across my current position on LinkedIn as I was taking a short sabbatical and looking for an opportunity to re-enter the workforce. Treasury has always been an interest of mine and I spent the previous few years in treasury risk roles at HSBC and qualifying as a Corporate Treasurer. I therefore knew I wanted to continue in this area and focussed my LinkedIn search accordingly.

AT SCHOOL I STUDIED...

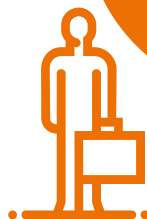
For GCSE I studied Maths, English Language, English Literature, French, Geography, Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Art. And for A level I studied

Advanced Maths, Chemistry and Biology.

I remember not knowing what to choose as subjects as I didn't have a clear idea of what I wanted to do as a career so I tried to combine a broad range of subjects focussing on ones that I enjoyed and felt I was at least marginally good at. Some of the subjects such as Maths and English were of course compulsory so no choice there! As you can see, apart from possibly Maths, they have no relation to what I've ended up doing. The important thing was to study hard and get the best possible grades I could get so that I had choices going forward.



Financial
Services



Vice President,
Tresury Risk

MY TYPICAL DAY...

I usually log in between 8.30 and 9am. I focus the first 20 minutes on my calendar for the day and what I need to deliver or prepare during the day. I tend to have meetings across the day - normally Europe meetings in the morning and a combination of Europe and USA in the afternoons. In between I'm following up on actions from the meetings, performing analysis, reviewing various reports or metrics and preparing presentations. I typically stop for lunch at about 1pm and will have a salad or sandwich. This is supplemented by numerous coffee and snack breaks throughout the day.

THE KEY SKILLS I USE IN MY JOB...

Organisation - managing and prioritising my workload.

Communication - being able to communicate effectively with different people at all levels whether one to one or in meetings.

Analytical - routinely finding solutions for requests, problems or issues that come up by

collaborating with other people, carrying out analysis and using professional judgement. I have developed these over the course of my career, sometimes consciously by attending professional development courses but most of the time unconsciously by 'doing' and learning on-the-job especially from mistakes (and I've made quite a few of those). I continue to learn every day.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS...

The best part of my job is my colleagues who continue to inspire me with their intelligence, engagement and collaboration - I learn a lot from them.

THE WORST PART OF MY JOB IS...

The worst part of my job is that it can sometimes be all consuming and eat into my time with family and friends and some of the other things I would like to do such as learning to play the guitar (one day!). I work extra hard to ensure there is balance in my life but it can prove difficult sometimes.

MY ROLE MODEL GROWING UP WAS...

It is a bit of a cliché but it's true - my mum was my inspiration growing up and has continued to be throughout my life. She sacrificed her own education and career to bring up six children. I only hope that sometimes she takes a moment to recognise, as I do, what an incredible woman and individual she is.

AFTER WORK...

I try and shut down by 5.30. Normally it would take me an hour and half to get back home. I would typically play with the dog, watch a travel or food TV show or cook dinner. Bedtime is usually between 10 and 10.30pm after catching up on the day's news.



MY PLAN B...

My plan b would have been to be some sort of athlete, probably a basketball player. I was very much into my sports and still am although now it takes the form of watching rather than playing.

