

ELBA

A Day in the life of...



Financial Services



Associate

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MY ALARM GOES OFF...

My alarm goes off at 7.20am, but I usually snooze for another 10 or 15 minutes! I always have a cup of tea and breakfast at home to help wake me up, then change into my 'work clothes' – smart but comfortable wear. I am fortunate in having a dress-down policy for non-client facing roles (which I am in) but I like to appear smart and professional, and to make the distinction between my office wear and casual wear at home. I am lucky to live close to my station and to only have two stops on the overground into Cannon Street, then a short walk to the office.

I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR...

I am a part of the Group Intelligence team. I use open source information and intelligence from external partners (such as Financial Information Sharing Partnerships and Law Enforcement) to identify risk to the bank and ensure actions are taken or measures are put in place to address it. For example, newspaper articles

may identify corrupt practices and money laundering associated with certain individuals or entities: we must ensure that we identify whether we bank any of them or process transactions on their behalf. If we identify suspicious activity, we ensure that we follow all reporting obligations and our own internal processes to manage this risk.

I GOT MY JOB...

I studied English Literature for my Bachelors, and African Studies for my Masters. Both of these sparked my interest in society, history and world geopolitics. I went on to become a Civil Servant for UK Government, focussing on security and counter-terrorism issues. I was very lucky finding my current role at the bank and with what a good fit it is for my interests and skill-set – I hadn't appreciated how much interest financial institutions have in geopolitics, all of which affect money laundering, sanctions evasion, bribery and corruption, terrorist financing risk and a host of other financial crimes. A friend

of a friend knew of an open role and introduced me to my hiring manager.

AT SCHOOL I STUDIED...

I did the usual set of subjects at GCSE, I chose Geography over History, and German over French and Spanish. At A Level, I couldn't decide on Arts or Science and so chose a mix of English, German, Chemistry and Biology. My English studies feel the most relevant to my role as I learnt how to write succinctly, analyse sources and present an argument well. Reading incessantly also inspired me to learn more about the world, its history, politics and people.

MY TYPICAL DAY...

I reach my desk between 8.30 and 8.45am. The first thing I do is check my emails for any important news updates, responses to queries from colleagues or communiques from the Bank. We are a global bank so there are usually a number of emails to address from other regions which came in overnight. After addressing my emails, I will review my work planner: usually I have a number of projects or investigations on concurrently. I like to work on transactions analysis and report-writing when I have a block of time available in which I am unlikely to be disturbed; if I have a day full of meetings (internally or externally) I will usually use the time around these for reading others' reports, people management and planning.

THE KEY SKILLS I USE IN MY JOB...

Attention to detail is a key skill in my role: spotting suspicious transactions or analysing large datasets to find common characteristics or anomalies is an important part of my job. Additionally, being able to communicate effectively in person and in writing means that I can make an impact with the work I have done. I have developed both of these skills over time – a lot of it has come with practice in the

role itself. However, good communication and report-writing are things that everyone can develop and rehearse regardless of their role and will always enhance performance.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS...

The best part of my job is identifying and mitigating risk! It is extremely satisfying to conduct an investigation which has real results and that you know has helped stop or frustrate a financial crime (and predicate crime). I also enjoy the flexibility and variety of my role: working in intelligence means responding to external events and identifying internal data or 'events' which could potentially pose a risk to the Bank, and come in all sorts of guises!

THE WORST PART OF MY JOB IS...

The toughest part of my job is reviewing the data from numerous systems within the Bank, some of which are quite complex. As a team we pull together to ensure that we have all bases covered, can access what we need, and can interpret what comes out at the other end!

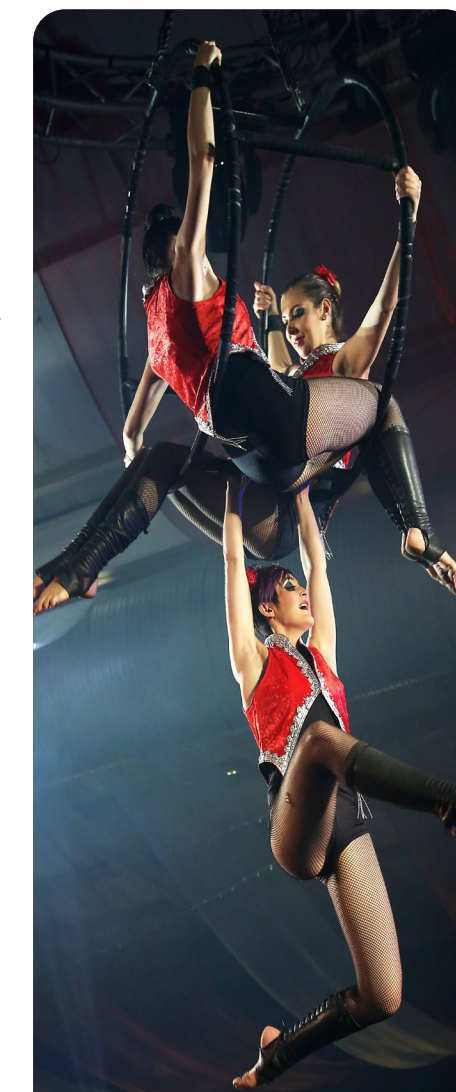
MY ROLE MODEL GROWING UP WAS...

My mum was a great role model to me growing up. She was a doctor (now retired) and had a very strong work ethic, whilst showing it was possible to also bring up a family, as well as make time for herself.

AFTER WORK...

I take the train home at around 5.45 or 6pm and am lucky that I am in the door half an hour later. I'll usually go to the gym or for a cycle ride with my husband before dinner, usually accompanied by the latest episode from a Netflix box set.

Two or three times a week I train at a local circus space in Trapeze, Rope or Chinese Pole – a passion and hobby of mine! Bedtime is between 10 and 11pm, depending on the amount of training I have done, and the day ahead of me tomorrow.



MY PLAN B...

Between the Civil Service and joining Standard Chartered I took a career break to go to full-time Circus School. It was an amazing experience, and I still continue to perform and teach circus when I can....I still sometimes dream of being a full-time performer!

