

# A Day in the life of...

## Sam Williams, Associate Project Manager, HSBC

### MY ALARM GOES OFF...

At 6:45am my alarm chimes and wakes me up, I then head downstairs to hear the latest morning news and make breakfast before heading out to the train station to commence my 25 minute commute to work. Our office newly opened around summer 2019 and is a beautifully modern building with plenty of open space to work, break out areas, and there is even a terrace to soak up sun providing it's not raining! We embrace "hot desking", so everyone technically has the freedom to work where they please. I will log in at an available space and chat to fellow co-workers about how their previous evening was and asking if anyone would like a tea/coffee, before starting my day of work ahead! On Mondays and Fridays my routine may vary slightly, as the bank encourages flexible working, therefore many including myself may choose to work from home on those days if your job role allows.

### I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR...

I manage projects that involve delivering a change to a certain area of the bank. I have recently taken on a project where I'm managing the deployment of a new Com-

pliance tool across numerous different countries throughout Europe, which is very exciting! A key part of this is drawing up plans and working with various stakeholders across Europe virtually via video conferences to make it happen. I thoroughly enjoy my role, as it gives me the opportunity to deliver new changes to the bank and build relationships with lots of individuals and teams across the globe.

### I GOT MY JOB...

I graduated with a first class BA Honours degree in Business Studies. This course covered a variety of elements within business such as management, human resources (HR), marketing, finance, economics and more. Prior to my current role, at university I took a year out to complete a placement year at a law firm within their Sales & Marketing department to gain work experience. After returning to university to start my final year, I later applied, interviewed for and was lucky enough to gain a place on the HSBC Global Graduate scheme. Here I rotated around the bank in various roles and locations in the UK over two



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years, to gain experience/knowledge and help me decide where I wanted to work within the bank.

After completing this I attended internal career fairs, searched the internal career portal for available opportunities, and gained a position as a Business Analyst for two years. I later spotted the opportunity for my current role.

### AT SCHOOL I STUDIED...

I studied a broad range of subjects to give myself scope, to help me decide what career path would be right for me. At GCSE I studied Business, English, Science and French (amongst more). At sixth form, I studied 4 A-Levels; Business, English, Sociology and General Studies. My key passion has always been Business, as I enjoy understanding the vast and varied elements of business. My ambition was always to work within an established international corporation within the finance sector, therefore was incredibly grateful for having the opportunity to join HSBC. All subjects are relevant

to my role in some way in the key core skills they provide, but I would say Business is probably the most relevant to my role today.

### MY TYPICAL DAY...

A typical working day involves logging in to my computer at 8am with a cup of coffee, responding to emails, writing up project updates and plans, working together with various stakeholders to deliver projects, and working with people to overcome challenges along the way. At lunch, the canteen is a beautifully modern space where a variety of fresh food and drink are available with a delicious menu that updates daily. On my lunch break I may eat on the terrace in the summer months, visit the on-site gym or take a walk around the city centre to get my steps up and get some fresh air.

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

I would say the key skills in my role are communication, stakeholder management and organisation. This is because I work with a variety of different stakeholders on a daily basis and therefore need to communicate effectively to ensure key actions are understood. I also need to ensure I articulate myself clearly when providing an update about my project in a meeting. Another key skill is organisation, because

I may have to respond to various emails or work on more than one item simultaneously – effective planning and prioritisation of my workload is key.

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

I believe the best part of my job is having the opportunity to make a positive impact and having the opportunity to do this at scale. For example, when my current project lands it will help and support teams across various countries throughout Europe. This is both truly exciting and incredibly rewarding for me, especially when it involves working in a team to overcome challenges together and the satisfaction this brings. As well as this, I thoroughly enjoy being able to work with lots of supportive, diverse and friendly people on a daily basis.

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

I would say the most challenging aspect of my role may be the element of change. Within my industry and many other industries in this current time, there can always be an element of unexpected change that could bring both small or big impacts to your work; both positive and negative. So there is an element of striving to always be ready for change where possible, and I am thankful that I have a supportive network and great team around me with a diverse set of skills and experience to overcome challenge as and when they arrive.

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

My parents have always been the source of my inspiration and still are today. Whilst growing up, seeing them both work hard and the achievements and sacrifices they made

for the benefit of my brother and I along the way has always instilled both gratitude and a hard work ethic within me. The guidance and support they offered us throughout school, university and even still to this day, has always inspired me to work hard, achieve my ambitions and do whatever I can to make them proud. Without them, I wouldn't be where I am today.

### AFTER WORK...

After work, I like to wind down and indulge in the interests I have outside of work. I enjoy cooking, so I will often cook for my girlfriend and me, using one of the cookbooks to experiment and try something new. I also enjoy my sports and keeping fit, so often go out for runs, bike rides and walking after work – this brings positive impacts to my fitness, wellbeing and acts as a great way for me to relax. I also have a passion for music and have been a drummer for a number of years now with my own drum set! There is also a variety of activities, sports and facilities the bank provide to get involved with, therefore I often play football once a week with work colleagues at one of the HSBC sporting facilities.



### MY PLAN B...

I may have had a go at acting... Or trained to be an astronaut... Maybe even set up my own doggy day care centre... Who knows!

