

A Day in the life of...



Soraya Bruton Business Auditor, Société Générale

MY ALARM GOES OFF...

It's 7 am, first thing I jump in the shower! I never start the day without breakfast, so fix myself a quick toast and peanut butter with black coffee while watching the headlines and getting ready! My default attire is business casual and mild makeup. I always grab the City AM newspaper and keep myself updated with the latest financial and business news as I hustle in the tube. My commute is 15 minutes to Canary Wharf which gives me enough time to get up to speed with the world.

I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR...

The planning and execution of audit within the investment banking world. Audit is the independent assurance that an organisation's risk management, governance and internal control processes are operating effectively. This is done by evaluating risks, analysing operations and challenging current practice. This means I am responsible for:

- Reviewing and testing controls to ensure they operate effectively

- Investigation/inquiry to business owners
- Inspecting documents and identify discrepancies
- Reporting on key discrepancies/unresolved issues
- Interviewing different persons in the bank

I GOT MY JOB...

I am an FCCA (Fellow of Chartered and Certified Accountant). I started studying for ACCA in 2008 when I was in Mauritius (where I am originally from). I hold a BSc. Hons in Applied Accounting from Oxford Brookes University and completed an MBA with Specialism in Finance (Heriot Watt University) last year. I started my career in Mauritius as an auditor. After four years I moved to Bahamas for one year to audit investment management clients, and for five months to Jersey. I then decided to move to London as Senior Auditor in their Banking and Capital Market Line of Business. I worked with PwC for three and a half years. It was a natural transition to my current



role at Société General Corporate and Investment Banking.

AT SCHOOL I STUDIED...

- Economics – I enjoy the aspects of understanding the different policies available to help the economy at a macro level and the conflicting goals to keep everyone happy.
- Accounting- I always knew that Accounting had a lot of scope internationally. Indeed, this helped me live and work in the same industry in 4 different countries.
- Mathematics – It helped

me develop a more analytical sense and logical skillset!

- French – French is compulsory in Mauritius and helped for travel reasons.
- English – Same as French, it was compulsory.

MY TYPICAL DAY...

I am usually at my desk by 9:15 am. I like to get the most priority tasks and any meetings done in the morning. This helps set the day up and opens the afternoon for more focused work such as reviewing documentation or inspection of work. I also spend time chasing responses or calling people for queries that remain unanswered. For lunch I may pack some leftovers from the previous night, or else it's the bank's canteen salad bar!

THE KEY SKILLS I USE IN MY JOB...

- Project Management (the ability to prioritise, think outside the box, be quick)
- Learn technical topics related to my work quickly and prepare before a meeting
- Being extremely attentive to details

- Being a good writer to deliver key findings/issues noted
- Networking and being social
- Being daring and the ability to strike friendly conversations helped me to break the ice and introduce myself to senior management people.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS...

I love the fact I can use my investigative skills. I like to compare my day to a crime solving thriller. There are various transferable skills needed such as being extremely detailed and not missing even a tiny detail which could be the tip of the iceberg! I also enjoy the writing part of it. For example, if I am doing an audit on regulatory requirements, I need to be able to express where I see that the bank has not been compliant towards certain criteria and analyse the impact of any non-compliance.

THE WORST PART OF MY JOB IS...

There can be a lot of administrative tasks involved. There is a significant amount of data which needs to be reviewed and it can be very tedious. There are stressful days as well, such as when the reporting deadlines are approaching, and sometimes engaging in difficult conversations with key stakeholders.

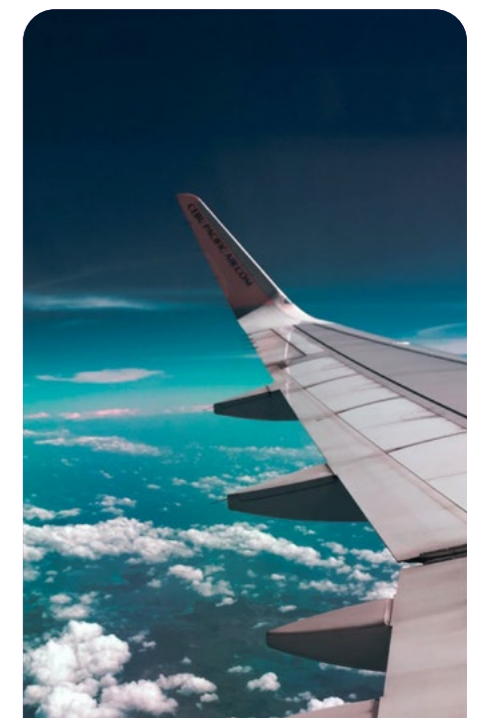
MY ROLE MODEL GROWING UP WAS...

My inspirations were women in a high-power job. One of them is Christine Lagarde who is the President of the European Central Bank and was the Managing Director of the IMF. Because my

passion is financial and banking related, every time I see a woman succeeding in this field, it inspires me.

AFTER WORK...

Once I am home, I will do some exercise. It could be a run in the park or home workout. I will hit the shower and depending on whose turn it is to cook, I may make my way to the kitchen! I love Indian food, Italian food and Irish food and I alternate between those for variety. I am in bed until late, either binge watching Netflix or a thriller book!



MY PLAN B...

It is a toss between becoming a corporate lawyer in Wall Street or a travel journalist!