



Anya Forster

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your future matters

Job title / brief description of what you do:

My role consists of creating solutions for clients who have issues in cyber security, anti-money laundering and suitability. I work on different sized projects and the type of work I do depends on the project. I recently worked as a project manager where I led on client interaction, analysing project metrics and project governance including risk management and information security controls.

How did you get into your job?

I completed my A levels in History, Maths and Economics, not a usual combination however I chose them because I enjoyed them. I then went on to study Politics and History with a Placement Year at Newcastle University. For my placement year I worked full time as a Marketing Intern. The decision to do a placement year was one of the best I've ever made as I grew personally and professionally during that year. By doing this I gained two skill sets from my university experience; academic and professional. University was the right choice for me and has enabled me to get to the position I am in now.

What personal qualities do you need to do your job?

The key personal qualities I need to be successful in my job are extremely transferable and are skills required in most jobs.

- Teamwork: the ability to interact with people at all levels of the organisation, appreciate diversity and build trusting relationships
- Reliable: be known as someone who can be depended upon and will always deliver what is asked, this could have a substantial impact on other people
- Independent: this will develop your self-awareness, self-esteem and self-value
- Determined: set a goal and work towards achieving it, you won't stop until you get there
- Hard-working: this will help you to succeed, it teaches discipline, dedication and determination
- Adaptable: when you face unexpected situations this ensures you to are well equipped to deal with adversities and versatile ways of working

Who has been the most influential person in your life for helping you to get where you are today?

I met Jen Barker during my placement year. I didn't work directly with her however I built a personal relationship in order to gain advice from her. She opened my eyes to what the future could hold. She demonstrated that women can and should build successful careers just like men can. Being a female shouldn't hold you back from being ambitious and career driven. Her work ethic, confidence and professional presence was admirable, and they are qualities I wanted to develop. I hope one day I can inspire someone like she inspired me.

What would you tell your 16 year old self if you could go back and give them some advice?

Always be yourself. Make choices and take risks because that's what you want to do. Whether that be the path you choose after you finish school or a job you take. If people judge what you do then they aren't supposed to be in your life. Of course always ask for and listen to advice from the people you love and care about you, however if people judge what you do then maybe they aren't supposed to be in your life. Surround yourself with the people who encourage you to be yourself.