



Q. What is your job title?

A. Company Secretary

Q. Briefly explain what your job entails.

A. I support to the Directors, CEO and senior management on governance and technical topics in addition to organising Board & Audit Committee meetings but the role is very broad and I cover a lot of ground from regulatory compliance to banking to company policies.

Q. What was your study route (Further Education, Higher Education, professional qualifications)?

A. A masters degree in geology (Royal Holloway) followed by professional qualifications whilst in employment (ACCA, Diploma in Compliance, studying towards the final ICSA Chartered Secretary Qualifying Scheme exams)

Q. What were your favourite subjects at school and do you think they have helped in your chosen career? Are there any other subjects that have helped you?

A. I was a science fan and the sciences have been extremely helpful throughout my career – it is not necessarily what I learned but how I learned to look at things which have been most useful (science encourages you to take an objective view and critically challenge things)..

Q. What do you like best about your job?

A. I need to be flexible, think on my feet and plan a year or more ahead to do my job effectively. What I am saying is that it is far from being a “tick box” job and requires a variety of skills - this is what I enjoy.

Q. Do you have the opportunity to study through your work? If so, what are you/have you been studying/studied?

A. I have been fortunate to have been given the opportunity to study through work and have attained both my ACCA and ICA Diploma through that route. Whilst not strictly necessary for my role, it also seemed sensible to take the ICSA route to Chartered Secretary status which I am working towards now.

Q. Would you recommend a career in the finance industry in Guernsey to young people, and why?

A. I would. The opportunities for professional development here shouldn't be underestimated, not many of my friends from the UK or elsewhere have had the opportunity to study respected professional qualifications at their employer's expense (and time). Being a chartered accountant, insurer, wealth manager etc. doesn't sound that exciting at 18. Trust me, at 30 it sounds great.

For me, the quality of life we have here is difficult to achieve elsewhere – my 5 minute walk to work is hugely valuable to me when I think I could, say, be stressing out over my cancelled train in London or stuck in snarled traffic on a hot day in Sydney.

Q. What is your advice to school leavers?

A. Think about your career or academic options carefully, think realistically about what you want your life to look like in 10 years and take advice from a wide range of people who have been there and done it to help inform your view.

I'd also say that if, in the future, your employer offers to pay for you to study professionally – don't put it off, take the opportunity immediately and run with it! Not many people in the world are that lucky.