

AMARA'S CAREER TIMELINE

Name: Amara

Agency: MI5

Time in agencies: 10 years

Current role: Delivery Manager

Entry into agencies: Entry-level administrative role

Amara started her career in MI5 in a non-technical entry-level administrative post, before embarking on a varied career in more senior admin and technical roles. Her current role as a Delivery Manager allows her to work both in the office and from home in a flexible working pattern.

We chatted to Amara about how her early career, subsequent roles and the learning and development she undertook prepared her for a role in a technical team. Here's what we found out...

2014: I joined MI5 as an Admin Assistant in a vetting team. I helped vetting officers with administration and provided necessary information on vetting cases. I love unwinding through crafts, so I joined a crocheting social group so I could learn a new creative skill and make new friends in the office.

2015: I then applied for promotion into an Admin Manager role in a recruitment team, where I worked across a variety of recruitment campaigns and managed a team of five. To gain additional experience, I volunteered as a Business Change Agent for a new system being rolled out across the organisation, which gave me insight into a totally different area of the organisation and learn new skills.

2018: I moved into a more technical position following my promotion to a Junior Portfolio Analyst, where I provided essential information on risks, finance, and workforce across software engineering teams to senior stakeholders.

2020: After promotion to a Portfolio Analyst, I maintained MI5's technical portfolio of software engineering work. Around this time, I joined MI5's ethnic minority Network; it's been incredibly rewarding to feel part of this community, so I'm glad I joined.

2021: I started training to become a Scrum Master where my focus was looking at new ways of working to ensure my team were continuously improving. I love helping those around me, so I also took on an agile coaching role which allowed me to do this on a larger scale.

2022: I enrolled on the Emerging Technical Leaders Programme, a course aimed at helping technologists develop and work towards future careers in technical leadership. I was thrilled when I was successful, as it's a very prestigious programme; being a part of it really boosted my confidence about my career as a leader in tech.

2023: I was successful in promotion to my current role as a Delivery Manager in a technical area, where I recommend improvements across MI5's product teams. I attended further training to support me in this role, which has been of massive benefit. I've really developed my career through the training offered by MI5, so I'm always recommending courses I've been on to my team!