



OLIVIA'S CAREER TIMELINE

Name: Olivia

Agency: MI5

Time in agencies: 3 years

Current role: Enterprise Architect

Entry into agencies: Graduate scheme

Prior to joining MI5, Olivia was studying towards a MSci in Biological Sciences. During her final year she decided to apply for the Technology Graduate Development Programme (TGDP) and now works as an Enterprise Architect. Her current role allows Olivia to work flexibly, in the office and from home.

We caught up with Olivia to ask her about her career at MI5 so far, her biggest achievements, and career aspirations...

2021: I joined MI5 on the TGDP as a Data Architect and worked in three different teams – this was to give me a good breadth of experience of my role across the organisation. As part of my induction, I went on an outward-bound team building day with my cohort; it was so much fun, and not what I thought my first month in the office would involve!

2022: My first post was in a strategy team, where I built up my data architecture skills and learnt about new professions, including Enterprise Architecture. I took some courses on stakeholder management and emotional intelligence, which has helped me throughout my career so far.

2022: I then joined a data team, where I gained experience in data modelling. To ensure my skills were up to date, I undertook external training in data modelling, and achieved an industry recognised enterprise architecture qualification. I even got to travel overseas to attend a data and intelligence conference – a real highlight of my career.

2023: My final role on the TGDP was as part of a product team, where I developed skills designing operating models and building data landscapes. It was in this role I decided I wanted to specialise as an Enterprise Architect after completion of the programme. I wanted to do more to support gender equality, a cause close to my heart, so I joined MI5's Gender Network, where I help organise events in support of women in the office.

2023: I had the incredible opportunity to undertake a fully funded MSci in Enterprise Architecture as a part-time apprenticeship. I feel unbelievably lucky to be able to do this, as it is not something I could have achieved without support from the office.

2024: Following completion of the TGDP, I applied for promotion into an Enterprise Architect role within a strategy team, where I provide a business architecture function to the wider organisation. It's my dream role and I can see a clear career path for myself as an Enterprise Architect in MI5.