

# Case Studies



A Career in Banking is more than just a job at RBSI: it is about championing potential as we bring together people from all backgrounds. We spoke to Sandra Blaga and Eloise Rees who are a part of our 2019 graduates cohort. They bring to life the journey they have been on and showcase that the power to shape your own path is in your own hands.



**Sandra Blaga**

Risk Manager & Co-Chair of the RBS International Gender Network



**Eloise Rees**

Business Manager & Co-Chair of the RBS International Black Professionals Network

## What initially attracted you to banking?

During my degree, I had an opportunity to complete an Industrial Placement in a Finance department in one of the Aberdeen's oil and gas companies. Although I had greatly enjoyed my time there and met fantastic people, I knew I wanted more variety. That experience ensured me though that I want to build a career in finance so banking seemed like a great match. I applied to RBS International and never looked back!

## What do you enjoy the most about your job?

There are 3 key things I need to be satisfied with a job and I am lucky to say I currently have them all. One of them is continuous learning opportunities – the variety of projects I get involved in makes every day different and there is always something new to learn. Secondly, it is important for me to see the impact my job has on others. It does not need to be big, even small things matter, but the fact that I am making a positive difference really motivates me. Outside my core role, I am the Co-Chair of the Gender Network where I can influence conversations on gender balance and help women's voices be heard. Last but not least, and as cheesy as it may sound, people are what makes the place. Every team I was part of has made me feel welcomed and supported my development. There is wealth of knowledge across the bank and it is up to you how you leverage it.

## What do you enjoy the most about your job?

Stay true to yourself, make your own choices and continue learning from them – not all decisions will be perfect but they are all important steps on your journey.

## What initially attracted you to banking?

I think what interested me about banking was the expectation that you need to constantly learn and upskill yourself, which is something that aligns very closely to my own values. There are many professional qualifications that you can take and considering how quickly the industry is changing, I thought it would be a fascinating area to work in.

## How has RBS International helped you achieve your career goals?

Being a small bank within a bank means that you have an opportunity to get involved in loads of projects and you are given responsibility very early on. In the last 15 months, I have had done things that I would have never imagined I could do before I joined. I ran an event across 6 jurisdictions to re-launch a key initiative, worked on what external partners we could partner with in order to bring about the strategic expertise, and built a proposal for our expat mortgage proposition to senior leaders, and at the moment, I am a Business Manager to one of the Managing Director, which I am absolutely loving at the moment!

Beyond that, I also co-lead LeanIn Circles across the UK, which is an opportunity for colleagues across the UK to come together and support one another on issues that matter to them.

## If you could give your younger self one career tip what would it be?

Never say no to things, especially if the reason you are doing so is because you are scared to try it. You will be surprised by what you can achieve!