

A day in the life of...

Name:	Jonathan Smith
Age:	23
Office:	London
Service Area:	Audit and Assurance, Business Services
Qualifications:	Degree in Accountancy & Finance
Why did you choose accountancy?	I've always had a personal interest in business and economics from studying at school. When I left university, I was attracted to accountancy as it combines these interests and has good career prospects.
Is it what you expected and why?	The training is very challenging, as I expected, and requires a lot of commitment to the end goal! Although you get to work on a lot of tasks individually, accountancy is a lot more team-orientated than I had anticipated.
Why did you choose Target (mid-tier firm) instead of the Big Four?	I chose Target as they offer greater responsibility and accountability, and more of a team atmosphere. There is more scope to work on a diversified portfolio of clients pre-qualification, which means you can make a more informed decision on where you'd like to specialise eventually.
What makes working for Target different to other accountancy firms?	Target is more focused on owner-managed and family-run businesses. Rather than just being compliance-based in their approach, they seek to add value and meet clients' individual needs.
What's been your most interesting work to date?	One of my most interesting clients is a large retail firm which sells body care products – in fact it was my first ever audit starting out. I not only enjoyed learning about how the business was run on the management side, but also seeing how the products were produced and distributed, as we were able to watch the entire process in the factory first-hand.
Describe a typical day?	There has never been a long period of time when I've been doing the same thing day in day out. In general, my days will vary between working on audit fieldwork, accounts preparation in the office, being out on an audit at a client's premises, or with other graduates like myself at college, attempting to reenact university!
What's the support and guidance like?	My team has been offering me support right from the word go. All trainees are assigned to mentoring groups, which you're able to call upon when needed. All of which is extremely reassuring as you navigate your way through the learning process!



What's the social life like?

Target is definitely a fun and sociable team. There are social events every couple of months and company-wide events as well. There is a great mix of personalities, not only in my department, but across the office, and other co-workers who I have come in contact with from other offices.

Where would you like to be in ten years time career-wise?

Although it is still very early in my career I'd like to go as far as I can within the firm, but I may also try my hand at another department, as there are a wide variety of specialisation routes on offer, post-graduation.

What top three tips would you give to other student recruits?

1. Stay organised and be prepared for the demands of balancing studying and work.
2. Always ask questions, no matter the situation to ensure you have the best possible understanding of the work that you're doing.
3. Keep an open mind as to your future – qualification will open a lot of doors and provide you with an opportunity to choose a direction that suits you.

“Jonathan has taken to the new role quite naturally and is now taking the lead on client assignments.”

Simon MacDonald, Head of Business Services, London

