Life at CPC

Umar Razzaque
Graduate Systems Engineer

Describe your typical day....

In the morning, I check my emails and prioritise my responsibilities for the day via a checklist. A typical day usually consists of coding, which can involve developing apps and writing scripts. Whilst the rest of my day comprises of attending or running meetings, which gives an opportunity to discuss, share ideas and problem solve with colleagues.

How did you get started?

I completed my Masters in Mechanical Engineering from Queen Mary University. Soon after graduating, I began the process of hunting for my first graduate job, which led me to CPC. Some of my most notable strengths are problem solving and coding which allowed me to jump straight into CPC's digitisation projects.

What do you love about your job?

I really enjoy the social aspects of the job; this includes client facing as it allows me to converse with a wide range of people. I am very passionate about expressing ideas and leading projects. I appreciate that every project so far has been something different, each presenting their own unique and exciting challenges.

Umar Razzaque - Life at CPC

What advice do you have for those thinking about a systems engineering career ?

If you are passionate about finding solutions to problems, then systems engineering is for you. It involves both technical and practical challenges, requiring resilience and a balance between hands-on or software-based work. The role entails strong communications skills; so where possible practice expressing your ideas to a varied group of people.

What do you like doing outside of work?

After work, I tend to either go to the gym or engage in sporting activities such as football or tennis. This helps me switch off from work and keeps me energised. On a more relaxing day I like to catch up with friends and family to maintain a healthy work and social life balance.

What has been your biggest challenge since the Covid-19 pandemic?

Starting a new job from home without meeting my colleagues or entering the office has been tough. The challenges included trying to learn about my role, transforming my home space into a workstation and knowing when to switch off, as the 'work office' is technically my room. Thankfully, with the support of colleagues, the transition has been smooth.

What is/would your alternative career be?

An alternative career I have considered, is a career as a patent attorney, to showcase my strength in persuasion, presenting arguments and being analytical. Like engineering, the role still explores my ability to problem solve and engage with people, and understanding intellectual property law is still beneficial to my current role as an engineer.