



Focus on Finance – Mal Rimmington, Finance Projects Manager

Before Thames...

Having taken a gap year working in the USA after studying Law at University, I began my career in accountancy practice with a 'big 4' firm. This gave me a great start, with exposure to a number of different businesses, industries, teams and stakeholders; as well as setting me on the road to becoming a qualified accountant (ACCA). I then moved

into industry at amazon.co.uk, before moving into the highly regulated financial services sector. I moved to Thames to continue building my skills and experience with another large, successful brand (annual turnover of c.£2bn), with the opportunity of helping the business to meet the needs of customers and shareholders within the regulated utilities environment.

Joining Thames

I joined Thames in 2012 as a Senior Internal Auditor. Working in Internal Audit for two years was a great introduction to the company, where I got to work with all key areas across the business. I worked under two different Heads of Internal Audit from whom I learnt a lot about leading teams, engaging with senior management and stakeholders; and best practice processes and controls.

Whilst the standards required are high, the working environment is open and encouraging, with opportunities always available to push yourself and build your skills and experience. This enabled me to lead audits around the highest profile projects within the business, including the five-yearly regulatory price review (PR14) and the Thames Tideway Tunnel (a c.£4bn infrastructure project). This role also gave me great exposure, including meeting and presenting to members of the Executive, as well as the Chairman of the Audit & Risk Committee.

This has meant I've been out to a number of different offices and sites, in much more of a 'business-partnering' role. This business partnering approach is key to the Finance Team at Thames, and I've found that finance roles are more effective when they are active, working with the business to help assist in meeting goals to add value, rather than desk-based 'number crunching'. This also provides a great opportunity to learn from different areas across the business.

My Current Role

After two years in Internal Audit, I was promoted out into the business as a Finance Project Manager. When the time came for me to move, I received great support from my boss who put my career development first, which helped me to make the right decision and take on a new challenge to continue to stretch myself. I now report directly into the Group Financial Controller, which is a great learning experience in itself, and he has actively encouraged me to take on high profile projects from the start.

Within the first 6 months of the role I have attended and presented at Executive and Board Meetings, wrote papers for the Audit & Risk Committee and the Board, presented at numerous team meetings across the business; and worked

with leading 'big 4' consultants. I am also being supported to gain the PRINCE2 project management qualification, and I'm currently leading a high profile transformation project to align our financial reporting with the updated needs of the business, which includes providing fortnightly updates to the Group CFO.

Beyond the Day Job

I have a one year old daughter, so outside of work I spend most of my time drawing pictures, having food fights and playing in puddles, and so work/life balance is important to me! Whilst there are high standards and deliverables to meet, there is a clear emphasis on personal wellbeing within Thames, and I have always found flexibility and support from management to help get the work/life balance right. I've also met and worked with some great people, and learnt a lot from these experiences which will help me in my career going forward.

The Finance Team within Thames is a great place to join if you're ambitious and looking for a challenge. There are always opportunities to try new things to push yourself to meet higher standards, which creates a great environment to build on your experience, learn new skills, and deliver quality outputs.



**Check out our current vacancies at
jobs.thameswater.co.uk**