



Tanya Matthews

Business Analyst
and Education
Collaboration Lead

What does your job entail?

I work with public sector clients to help identify and define requirements then work with a technical team to deliver enhancements to existing systems or create new systems ensuring they meet the needs of the customer. I currently work in a Geographic Information System (GIS) development team in the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs working with Information Hub (a spatial data platform) creating apps, maps and dashboards users can engage with.

How did you get into this line of work?

I completed an apprenticeship where I worked four days a week and studied a degree in computing systems at Ulster University.

Outline your career to date

I initially worked as a Software Engineer before becoming a Business Analyst. Two years ago, I moved to Version 1 looking for a new challenge. In the last year I took up a voluntary role as Education Collaboration Lead at Version 1. This is all about inspiring the next generation to consider a career in technology and breaking down stereotypes traditionally held of careers in technology. We get our employees out volunteering with local schools, colleges and universities running career talks or mock interviews. We also facilitate 2-day work experience programmes and office visits from schools.

Tell us about your qualifications and training

I completed a degree in Computing Systems at University Ulster, since then, I have completed an internal Business Analyst Training Academy. All other learning has been done through learning on the job – asking people questions and shadowing in meetings. For me this is the best and fastest way to learn.

What qualities are required for your job – personal and professional?

Communication skills – listening is as important as speaking. Teamworking skills – being able to work on a team. Adaptability – being able to adapt to change quickly and becoming used to working in unforeseen circumstances. Creativity – being able to think outside of the box and come up with new ways of response.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

Don't wait a few weeks or months to go after something because you don't feel 'ready'. If you want something enough, now is the time to go after it.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself

When I was younger, I was in the Scouts. I believe this is where I learned a lot of skills for later life especially doing Duke of Edinburgh. It also gave me some amazing memories like abseiling down a glacier in Kandersteg, Switzerland!

Who has inspired you most in your life?

My mum and my granny are my biggest inspirations. My mum was a single parent, and she had a 'no ego' attitude which is actually a core value at Version 1. She also did whatever it took to ensure we had the same opportunities as other kids and is the hardest worker I know. My granny was one of the only women on her estate to have an office job at the Housing Executive back in the day – she maintained this job while juggling seven children! These are two amazing strong women.

What advice would you give your 16-year-old self?

Be confident – believe in your own abilities and I would also tell myself not to worry about having it all figured out, life will fall into place so long as you are doing what you are passionate about.