



# Q&A

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### Personal reflections and integration

**How has your definition of success changed from when you were an ambitious graduate to who you are today?**

Today, I see success as building a fulfilling and sustainable life, both professionally and personally. It is about doing meaningful work, continuing to learn and grow, maintaining strong relationships with clients and colleagues on the one hand, and family and friends on the other, and having the freedom to pursue interests outside of work. Success also means preserving my wellbeing, creating space to recharge, and remaining curious about the world around me, whether through multi-day hikes, engaging with art, transactional work, or other experiences that broaden my perspective.

**When the deal closes and the adrenaline drops, how do you intentionally disconnect, recharge, and protect your mental wellbeing?**

Transactions are not always the same; they have their own nuances. Different industries, regulatory frameworks, stakeholder dynamics and time zones all present unique challenges and complexities in every deal. Once a transaction has successfully closed and I have helped the client achieve their objectives and desired outcome, I make a point of stepping away to recharge. One of my preferred ways to decompress is by going on multi-day hikes across South Africa.

These adventures allow me to explore some of the country's hidden gems while disconnecting from technology, staying physically active, and creating space away from the demands and pressures of transactional work. Spending several days immersed in nature provides valuable perspective, helps me reset mentally, and enables me to return to work with renewed energy, focus and a fresh outlook.

**What is a daily ritual, habit or boundary you protect fiercely that keeps you grounded amidst the chaos of deal flows?**

Walking is my go-to way of recharging. Whether it is a quick 15-minute walk around the office block to soak up some sunlight or a 70 km multi-day hike in the mountains, I make time for it. It helps me clear my head, stay grounded, and create space away from the pressures of daily life and work. Once I return from a walk outdoors, I am better equipped to tackle the pressure and complexity of the task at hand.

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**What is a personal passion or hobby you pursue that has absolutely nothing to do with finance, but keeps your perspective sharp?**

One of the most rewarding ways I broaden my perspective is through art. It has exposed me to different cultures, viewpoints, experiences, and ways of thinking that I may not otherwise have encountered. I've made a deliberate effort to invest in art by collecting it and engaging with it, as it encourages curiosity, allows me to think beyond myself and my comfort zone and continually expands my outlook on life.

**If you could go back to the very first week of your career, what is the single piece of technical or professional advice you wish someone had handed to you?**

If I could go back to the very first week of my career, I would say be a problem-solver. Technical expertise alone is not enough. The professionals who earn the most trust are those who don't just identify problems but help solve them. Whenever you spot a risk or challenge, train yourself to ask, "What's the practical way forward?" Always pair every issue with a practical solution and don't stop at "here is the risk." Go one step further and explain how the risk can be mitigated, managed, allocated, or accepted. That shift from problem-spotter to problem-solver is what transforms a technically competent professional into a trusted adviser.

Secondly, "be yourself". What I've learned is that people value authenticity far more than perfection. You don't need to become someone else to succeed. Your unique perspective, personality, and experiences are often your greatest strengths. Whilst there is value in learning from others, there is a difference between learning from role models and losing your own identity. Authenticity is a professional strength. People trust those who are genuine, self-aware, and comfortable in their own skin. The qualities that make you different, whether it's your background, perspective, communication style, creativity, curiosity, or ability to connect with people, are often the qualities that make you valuable. Focus on developing your skills, staying true to your values, and bringing your whole self to your work. Careers are long and authenticity is far easier to sustain than imitation. 🐾

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