



Q&A

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What initially drew you to a career in M&A or corporate finance?

A combination of factors drew me to corporate finance. I had a strong interest in finance subjects during my time at university, which laid the foundation for my passion in this field, and I find the work mentally stimulating and challenging so the learning never stops. I also appreciate the opportunity to work on projects that are important to the C-suite.

Given the dynamic nature of the industry, no two days are ever the same, and this keeps me engaged which is something I have a love-hate relationship with as finance careers go, this field is highly regarded, and I wanted to prove to myself that I could succeed in the area.

What did your path into this field look like – was it intentional or did you discover it along the way?

From the moment I learnt about M&A at university, it was always one of my top three career choices. My options were either asset management, private equity or M&A. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to rotate through these different areas as part of my articles at Investec, and M&A turned out to be the field that aligned best with my strengths, interests and personality. I also give credit to my mentors, who steered me towards M&A because they believed that I would thrive in the field.

Can you share a defining moment or turning point in your career so far?

About two years ago, having gained two and a half years of experience in M&A, I got married. Shortly after that, questions

began to surface about when we would start a family, so I took some time for self-reflection to assess whether M&A was a long-term career choice for me, and if it would align with the life my husband and I wanted to build. My husband's continued support was an important consideration for me, given how challenging this field is, and after much discussion, ultimately, the answer was yes. I believe that I still have much to learn and contribute in this field.

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What was your first deal or transaction like, and what did you take away from it?

The first live transaction I worked on was Shoprite's acquisition of select Massmart businesses. It was a mix of excitement and nerves as I navigated through a significant amount of detail while managing tight deadlines. I also learnt a lot from being included in meetings where negotiations relating to the transaction took place.

How have you built resilience in a high-pressure, male-dominated environment?

By relying on my competence and not letting the imposter syndrome get to me. I also have a strong network of mentors who provide guidance and encouragement. I like to believe that I am resilient, so it takes a lot to break me.

What keeps you motivated on tough days?

A number of things, including listening to music, praying about the situation, gym (especially boxing – there is nothing quite like punching away your frustrations), and receiving encouragement from my family, husband and friends to keep pushing forward. 🙌



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