**Kickstarter Q&A 1**

**Yazmin Maya**

***A short bio about yourself - name, role, where you’re from and what you’re passionate about outside (or inside) of work*.**

Hi! My name is Yazmin, I am from London and I work in the Compliance Department as a Compliance Administrator. Outside of work I enjoy photography, reading and spending time with my cats!

***Why did you apply for the kickstart programme at Trust Payments?***

Let me start by telling you how I applied for the kickstart programme at Trust Payments!

After having attended various kickstart job fairs, I was sceptical of the kickstart scheme as the companies that were present seemed unorganised and unprofessional, hence, I decided to avoid anything kickstart related. I stumbled across the kickstart programme at Trust Payments and although the job description looked promising enough that it made me fill in the application, I was still very sceptical and decided not to submit it, assuming that it was most likely ‘one of those companies’ again. So, you can imagine my confusion when I received a confirmation email stating that my application was received, and I was invited for an interview.

It was my cat.

My cat sat on my laptop and submitted the application on my behalf.

Despite the scepticism, I initially filled in the application for the kickstart programme at Trust Payments as it sounded like a great opportunity with the requirement of very little to no experience but more emphasis on soft skills, and a willingness to learn and grow on the job. After joining the company, I realised how far from the truth my judgement had been and appreciated a company as organised and successful as Trust Payments to provide opportunities for those who are struggling to get started.

***What have been the highlights from your time on the programme?***

The highlight from my time on the kickstart programme was attending the kickstart session and meeting other kickstarters. The experience was enjoyable for me as we were engaging in various activities, such as the Myers Briggs Personality Type Test, which not only allowed us to get to know one another but created a space of acknowledgement that we are all different and have our own ways of doing things. I also learnt a thing or two about myself in the process!

***What support did you receive from Trust Payments?***

It was intimidating joining a new company and not knowing anyone. Thus, I appreciated the support Trust Payments provided in forming a separate kickstart group, led by Michelle, which helped create a sense of familiarity among the kickstarters, despite working in different departments across the company. I connected with many based on the fact that our beginning is the same.

***Having completed the Kickstart programme how have you developed as a person?***

I was unsure of what direction I was heading towards but having completed the kickstart program with Trust Payments, I was able to learn and gain experience in a new field, as a result feeling more confident and grounded now that I have a clearer sense of direction. Furthermore, the kickstart training provided by my work coach, through Exemplia, was very informative and taught me how important it is to not only focus on your professional growth, but to also be productive and grow in your personal space too.