

# Meet the team

Ayda Khanchi

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## What do you do at Outset and how do you support our clients?

I am a trainee solicitor currently in my first corporate seat. My role involves supporting on corporate transactions from the very start of a deal all the way through to the post-completion process, reviewing contracts, conducting company secretarial matters and dealing with due diligence.

## Give us a brief timeline of your career so far

After my A-Levels, I went on to complete my law degree at the University of Kent, graduating in 2018. I also gained practical legal experience in various regional law firms during my studies. I went on to work at Outset as a paralegal whilst I completed the full-time Legal Practice Course alongside a Masters in Law, Business and Management at the University of Law in Moorgate. After gaining experience, I started my training contract with Outset last year.



## What has been your biggest challenge in your role?

Working under time pressure during the pandemic was a great challenge. However, I have found that I can be very productive working from home and I was impressed at just how much I was able to learn through a computer screen.

## What do you enjoy most about your job?

The people, without a doubt. Everyone in my team and the wider Outset group are just so lovely, friendly and approachable. When you are able to talk to, receive training from or simply learn from such a diverse group of kind people, it does make waking up for work a lot more exciting and purposeful.

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## What do you think sets Outset apart?

The culture and people. Outset has an incredibly professional yet informal culture. I love that we are able to be very human and personal in our approach. It feels refreshingly different from the stereotypical professional services firm that people may expect.

## When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A fashion designer. Art and textiles were always my favourite subjects at school. I remember in my teenage years engaging in a very heated political debate with my dad in which he responded, "you always have to express your opinion and you speak an awful lot, why don't you actually put those skills to good use and train to be a solicitor or something". I wasn't quite sure at the time whether to be flattered or offended but much to his surprise I took his advice on board and here I am.

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## What do you wish someone had told you when you started out? Or what piece of advice were you given early on that has stuck with you?

One piece advice that I was given by a mentor that has stuck with me over the years is "you're never too young to start an empire and you're never too old to chase your dream".



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## Who inspires you most and why?

My mum, dad, aunt and husband. Not only have they been the most amazing support system for me through thick and thin, they each have their own incredible stories. One thing they all have in common is that they immigrated from their home countries to the West and have been so successful. I find it inspiring and admirable how people travel away from their loved ones and home comforts to a completely foreign country with everything at risk, obtain a degree in a foreign language and excel in their careers and life, never letting the feeling of being at a disadvantage get in the way of their goals. If they could achieve all that they have, I certainly have no excuse.

## What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?

If I'm feeling active then kickboxing or running. Otherwise, I love spending time with family and friends whether that be going out for a meal or learning to cook different international cuisines.



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## What piece of advice would you give someone in business?

I recently finished a book called 'The Sweet Spot: How to Accomplish More by Doing Less' by Christine Carter, which I highly recommend. It definitely taught me how to remain productive in all aspects of my life simply by incorporating positive micro-habits into my daily routine.

## And finally... What is one thing you've learnt during lockdown?

Despite it being a very challenging year, the lockdown has taught me to appreciate the smallest things from being able to speak to my family through facetime to actually having a roof over my head when we are told to stay at home. As well as the little daily victories such as going for a run or having that clear out that I had been putting off for so long. I have learnt that we should be grateful for the little things in life.



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Scan the QR code below to save Ayda's contact details

