

I didn't realise I'd have so many opportunities to work abroad. After doing a couple of admin support roles at SIS, I applied to be a Support Officer in the Middle East.

Although I had the opportunity to be promoted I chose not to because there were such great opportunities to travel at this level. So I was posted back to London...

...supporting the Middle Eastern department, which was fascinating work, particularly during such a time of severe instability and crisis. Then I took a one-year deployment to Baghdad...

...where I was able to develop new skills working in a high-threat environment. My next role in Eastern Europe helped me to prove my extensive support skills and experience...

...and I was promoted to the next grade as a Senior Administrator. Most recently, I've been working in a full Head Office role in a technical operations team which involves plenty of travel to Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

I think the time I've spent overseas has been invaluable. It's given me a real insight into the work of SIS abroad, and I've seen the collaboration that needs to happen between Head Office and our people overseas.

I feel like I'm a more complete Officer; I've enjoyed a wider base of skills and expertise that will help me in my next opportunity.