

# Let's Talk Business

## For Ted Rogers School Students

These reports describe industry sectors and career paths of interest to Ted Rogers School students and alumni. Each report leverages BCH employment data and the expertise of our staff. This collaborative effort engages staff, students, alumni and the University Business Librarian.

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### A Day in the Life of a Senior Forensic Associate

We had a conversation recently with Ryan Murthi, who graduated from the Ted Rogers School Accounting and Finance program in 2020.

**He currently works as a *Senior Associate* in the *Forensic Services* department at PwC Canada.**

PwC is among the “Big Four” professional services firms, alongside Deloitte, Ernst & Young, and KPMG. The company offers clients various professional business services, including accounting, auditing, human resources consulting, and strategy management.

In this report, Ryan shares what type of work he does, the software platforms he uses, and some advice for those of you interested in learning more about this exciting career path.



**Q:** What do you do on a ‘day-to-day’ basis in your current role as a Senior Associate in Forensic Services at PwC Canada?

**A:** This practice area at PwC Canada is divided into two sub-competencies - Forensic Investigation and Disputes Analysis. I support both work streams and am involved with multiple projects, simultaneously.

For Forensic Investigation, the work involves preventing, responding to, and remediating complex business threats and risks. The projects can vary from conducting fraud risk assessments, investigation of fraudulent activities, whistleblower allegations, to management misconduct.

Whereas in Dispute Analysis, my role as an 'accounting expert witness' is to assist clients in dealing with complex commercial litigation matters. Some mandates I have worked include breach of contract disputes, shareholder disputes, expropriations, and matrimonial disputes. The work typically includes the quantification of economic losses and/or business valuation.

Some of the tasks I perform include:

- Review legal documents, pleadings, agreements, and key documents: This is usually the starting point for most of my project work, where I obtain an understanding of the current situation and issues at hand.
- Perform ad-hoc calculations and analysis of the issues: I leverage my skills and knowledge in data analytics and accounting, to transform data (e.g. financial statements, bank statements, ledgers, company reports) into meaningful information that can be used to add value to the project. This also helps me to understand the pattern, trends, or outliers that could be further investigated.
- Conduct research: Ranging from simple Google searches to obtaining market and transaction data for a complex valuation model. Research is also used to corroborate and verify our findings, which provides us with reasonable comfort over the analysis.
- Attend interviews: Where needed, I attend interview sessions with the person of interest to obtain additional evidence as part of the investigation.
- Prepare expert reports: This is the typical form of deliverable for the client. Specifically, I assist in drafting sections of the report including such things as background, methodology, and findings.

## **Q:** What technology platforms do you use in your role?

**A:** **Google Suite** (Docs, Sheet, Calendar, Drive, Slides, Mail, Meet): This platform is simple to navigate and has the necessary functions required for my role. It is also a great platform to collaborate and provide feedback in real time.

**MS Excel**: this platform is necessary to prepare schedules or calculations that will go alongside the report outlining the findings and conclusion. MS Excel can be used for preliminary ad-hoc data analytics, using some of its advanced functions.

**Alteryx Designer**: This is a powerful platform that allows the user to create a workflow to automate tasks/jobs that normally would require a lot more time, if done manually. I primarily use it to cleanse or process raw data before using it for further analysis in other data visualization software, such as PowerBI/Tableau.

**PowerBI / Tableau**: These two programs can be used interchangeably and more or less have the same functionality- both are powerful for data visualization and analyzing trends or anomalies, where looking at rows of data alone, will not achieve.

## **Q:** Which industry trends should aspirational students be aware of?

**A:** The integration of technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotic Process Automation (RPA) in various aspects of life has become more prominent than ever before. It is more apparent in the context of commercial use, but they have also slowly made their way to personal use, as well.

**A:** Most leading companies in industry have embedded these features in their product or service offerings, as a competitive advantage. One example is the rise of “Chat Bot” or “Call Bot”, which acts as a digital assistant to interact with users in lieu of an actual live, human agent. Available 24/7, it can help users solve simple queries and/or acquire information instantly.

This does not mean that the labour force will be made redundant, but it could transform how we work. Instead of working on mundane and repetitive tasks, we could focus on more rewarding and interesting projects, that add more value to the organization.

As such, being up-to-date and informed of this trend might position you better for success. To take this to the next level, try to think of other ways AI or RPA can be leveraged to enhance the way we do things, and how it can also benefit the world.

**Q:** What advice would you provide a Ted Rogers student or graduate who aspires to work in your industry?

**A:** Students need to be agile in keeping up with emerging technology that can disrupt how businesses function. They should re-imagine ways in which we can work by being creative in deriving solutions, and not being afraid to try something new.

To achieve this, students must first develop their skillset and master some tools that are relevant to their field of interest. For instance, being knowledgeable in advanced Excel functions such as Macros, Power Query and Power Pivot can be game-changing for you in efficiency and the quality of your work. This can also be a competitive edge that sets you apart from the rest of your peers.

Finally, being proactive and continuing to expand your horizon through reading literature, listening to podcasts, attending workshops/seminars, and actively engaged in networking opportunities. I would emphasize my last suggestion, as I have developed my professional skillset by meeting others and learning from them.



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### Career Consultant Contributor

#### Tanya Maden-Skydan

Tanya is a Career Consultant at the Business Career Hub supporting the Finance, Economics, and Real Estate programs at TRSM. She has previously contributed to another report titled [Let's Talk Business - Financial Analyst.](#)



### Student Contributor

#### Eman Ahmed

Eman is a 2nd-year Marketing Management student and a Project Coordinator at the Business Career Hub. She is currently building and further refining critical skills through leadership positions and exclusive programs.