

My Journey to Becoming An Information Management and Technology Services (IM&TS) Employee

By Siham Kibria

I grew up with the belief that to solve a problem, one must go to the root of it. I apply this principle in all aspects of my life. Professionally, this belief has translated to me aspiring to be part of governmental organizations that is responsible for implementation and change. My home country is Bangladesh, and when I immigrated to Canada, I was determined to continue with my aspiration. Ottawa provided the perfect setting as it is identified as a hub for government jobs.

During the course of achieving my professional aspirations in Ottawa, I was introduced to Advancing New Canadian Women in Technology (ANCWT)*, a program hosted at the University of Ottawa. ANCWT is a bridging employment program for new immigrant/refugee women who have technical skills in Engineering, Technology, Computer Science and Information Technology. The program was established in 2016 by Dr. Sawsan Abdul-Majid, a member of the University of Ottawa Engineering community, and the University of Ottawa's Women in Innovation.

Dr. Sawsan tailor-made the program to cover every aspect of preparation for the Canadian job market; resume clinics, effective communication tips from a TED Talk expert, life coaching sessions, and most importantly, education on Canadian work culture.

The most significant part of the program was the multiple employer panels, one of which brought me into the radius of Elizabeth Young, one of the Senior Directors of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. This introduction led to an opportunity within IM&TS which best aligned with my skills and professional experience. IM&TS has been phenomenal in incorporating me into the workforce. I am able to participate, collaborate with various government sectors and meaningfully contribute to realizing a common national vision.

I was very honored to be invited to the ANCWT wrap-up session on December 9, 2019 to share my experience with the latest ANCWT cohort. I have a lot to achieve and it gives me great satisfaction that I am part of an institution that can bring changes and implement measures to protect and serve.

**More information available at ancwt.ca*

