

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Gemma Witham

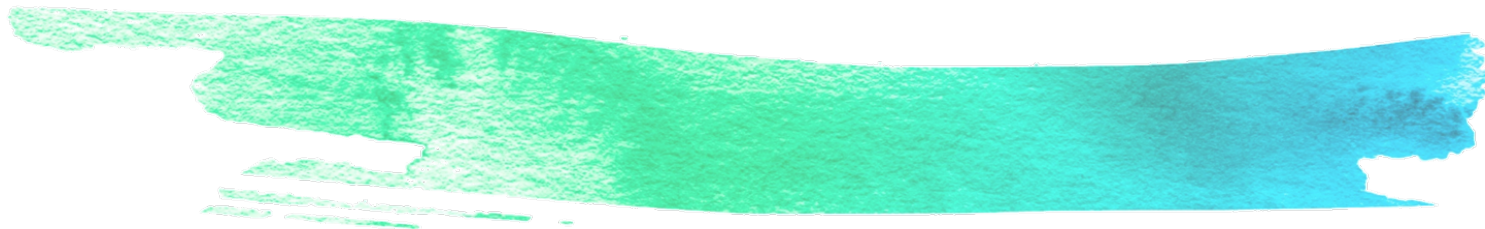


# TRANSCRIPT

## GEMMA WITHAM

I do have a really good work life balance. I'm able to switch off, I think I said that earlier, I am able to switch off and accept that not everything is going to be perfect.

Hello, nice to be here. My name is Gemma Witham I'm a senior director at Skyscanner the online travel app. I have a broad remit there. I'm primarily I guess technology, regulation, so data privacy, cyber and AI that's kind of my background. I'm also responsible for risk and compliance which is growing as we grow our company and I do data governance as well and we are just starting to... I've made some of my closest friendships from working at this law firm. I think I have been a bridesmaid for 3 of my best friends from working here and they were both going to be my bridesmaids so will be my bridesmaids. For me I thrived in being my authentic self and you realise I think that being successful as a lawyer isn't just about being good at the law that's a given you've got the qualifications, you've passed the test. Its about being able to like out what people want, how you can help them and you know what are they trying to achieve and actually that's probably the bigger part of being a successful lawyer than being technically good. Its how you apply it, how you get the solutions and so I think Addleshaws training made me that grounded person who could go into a business now and really help much more broadly because I suppose sort of the training and the diverse people who I was exposed to at that time not everyone's the same and also respecting everyone's different and supporting that like you say so not forcing everyone to be the same, like you know your strengths Gemma are that you're very determined and you're very like direct and you're very like given a situation where nobody's talking you can kind of fill the gaps so like those kind of things you know where pushed and I was you know given different training maybe to different people and different clients to have different exposure so you the best piece of advice that I've ever received is be myself. I've always been myself, always be true to myself, be my authentic self and trust my instincts and go with what you think is right. All the coaching that you have is for yourself and actually I've had a lot of executive coaching, a lot of kind of insights and a lot of personality dissections over the years and I don't think you can present to be something you're not and be successful. You can be coached to like to take the edges off, some of the things that you know you need to be better and I've definitely definitely done that. You know it's about feeling comfortable to reach out to someone who's not directly working with you but somebody who can maybe give you a different answer or a different perspective on whatever it is you're looking to sort of get an answer to.





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