

Cheval / APML Success Stories

*This feature is dedicated to colleagues who recently started a new role with Cheval / APML, either as a result of a promotion or transfer. The feature aims to celebrate these success stories and to promote the internal opportunities within the company. It will hopefully inspire some of you to become another success story. Let's learn more about the success story of our colleague **Catalin**.*

Catalin started his journey as a Receptionist in Cheval Knightsbridge in January 2017. In November 2022, Catalin was promoted to the role of Facilities Supervisor in APML Estates.



What was your career journey prior to joining Cheval?

I made my first contact with hospitality during my summer internship in Greece. I worked there as a bellboy in a 5* beach resort in Katerini. I went on to spend 2 years in UAE working in a 4* boutique hotel VIDA as front desk executive. I was part of the pre-opening team of a hotel which was to become the very first branch of the company, which was very exciting. Ever since I arrived in the UK, I worked in hospitality industry, hotel front desk, to be specific in various 4* and 5* establishments. I started my UK career as a night porter in Savill's Court Hotel in Surrey. I was there for about 10 months before progressing my career as concierge at Conrad St James' Hotel in London.

How and when did you start your journey with Cheval?

I started working at Cheval Knightsbridge in January 2017, as concierge/front desk receptionist.

What is your new role?

I am now working for APML Estates as a Facilities Supervisor, after switching roles from Cheval in November 2022.

What helped you get the new role?

I was eager to start something new and to move on, as I felt after over 10 years in reception roles, it was time to try something new.

My housemates worked in construction and this inspired me to research some fields of work related to it. This is how I arrived at building surveying. I started studying this field and got my master's degree from Kingston University in 2021.

While studying and also while still working at Cheval Knightsbridge as a concierge, I was lucky to be mentored by Tenika Young, who at that time worked at APML as property manager. She was another source of inspiration that prompted me to go down the new path of property management.

What do you particularly enjoy about your new role?

My new position offers flexibility, in terms of work/life balance. At the same time it comes with a degree of responsibility, accountability and self management. I like the fact that it comes with a lot of variety: office work, on-site meetings with clients, contractors and tenants. I also enjoy using both my customer service skills and technical skills at the same time.

What would be your advice to your junior colleagues who would like to get to the same place in the future?

Follow your intuition and trust your guts. Be confident and don't lose your patience. What's yours, it will come eventually, you just need to be ready to embrace it. It will come as a train enters a station, you have to recognize it, board it and make the journey matter.

What are your plans and aspirations for the upcoming months and years?

I am working towards gaining my qualification in facilities management (Level II Diploma in IWFM). I also want to build up my experience and strengthen my new skills.



Have you seen the latest vacancy list? Go to Talent Toolbox to see if there is a role available you are interested in and speak to your manager or People and Culture Team for more information.