



# KRISTÝNA JAKESCH

## VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Hi, I'm Kristýna and I'm a Security Consultant at Accenture. I graduated in Security and Strategic Studies at Masaryk University and already during my master's degree work I decided to focus on cybersecurity, because I considered it to have the best prospects among those fields we studied. Even before graduation, I was approached by my first employer, an important player in the energy sector in the Czech Republic, and so I started working in cybersecurity and security surveillance right away. I was there for about two years when Accenture contacted me and I moved over here.

Accenture approached me through LinkedIn. I was contacted by my current superior as well as by HR, and so we communicated very intensively from the very beginning and the application process was fairly easy. The first real interaction was through a phone call with both the personnel department and my superior and we only talked about our expectations, whether I even wanted to change jobs, and if I wanted to do something different and where I wanted to be heading. The interview followed afterwards. It was quite informal, nothing difficult, no examination of hard skills. It was mostly about fitting one another as people and for the superior to see what are my communication skills and so on. My first work day was during Covid and I worked from home office, so it was just about meeting the team and introducing ourselves. It involved training about how things function in the company. But it was only a couple days before I started working on a project.

We have projects of various types in Security Consulting. To mention some of the most common, they typically involved some sort of assessment, which is an evaluation either of several domains or of just a specific one that is important for the client at the time. That's the most typical project type. Apart from the assessment itself, of course, we also design corrective measures. We help the client to come to grips with security in his or her company so that it is both secure and functional. But we also participate, for example, on big mergers. We help with corrections after incidents or in cases of attack. Because I work in Advisory, my job is divided about fifty-fifty between staying closely in touch with the client through daily meetings, workshops, and so forth, as well as needing some time to focus, that is for preparing analyses or creating specific strategies and corrective measures.



My colleagues and the people around me are the main reason I'm happy at Accenture and why I came here. Yes, they are true experts, but it's more than that. Our team is quite large but not so much fixed because we often cooperate with colleagues from other departments. And, of course, also with clients when working on projects, so I meet new people quite often. But everyone I've worked with so far has been incredibly helpful, pleasant and cooperative. I think that is what makes our company culture as it is.

What I enjoy most about Accenture is the company culture, which has to do with the quality of the people working here. Apart from that, there are huge possibilities for both career and personal growth, whether in management or in terms of improving knowledge in a specific expertise. Plus, there is a broad range of company benefits, starting from home office and quite flexible working hours to sport benefits.

I think that the primary criterium for a potential candidate is a certain level of communication skills. Even if not at the very top level, then at least a willingness to develop them. And regarding hard skills, I don't believe one has to be an absolute IT or cybersecurity specialist. The primary expectation is to be interested, maybe to have a general knowledge and to be eager to learn. We give a chance even to absolute generalists. Consider my case – I started as a political scientist, so really anyone can become a cyber specialist. New university graduates as well as people in their 30s who are considering a change of career and interested in new and promising directions can work here. Accenture is the ideal place to start a career, but also to develop in fields offering good prospects, while working in a firm with a truly amazing culture. Hope to see you there!

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