> Q & A with Omar

**What sort of work did you do in college?**

On paper I studied biomedical engineering, but my interests were a bit more scattered (and still are, really). I carried a strong interest in design, and worked on independent projects (in engineering and industrial design mainly). Most notably, I completed a thesis in neuroengineering – in which I worked on developing a tool for predicting stimulation pulse parameters in primates. ‘How to zap paralyzed monkeys and incite movement’ is my informal thesis title.

**What were you looking for during your job search & what made you choose Arcadia?**

Building off my work in college, I wanted to merge my creative and logic-oriented brain. School, and the workface tend to partition these two ways of thinking, but I wanted to ensure that I have some degree of autonomy/creativity in a technical environment.

Arcadia’s (small) size and (high) rate of growth promised the responsibility that I wanted in a job. I saw that there was a lot of room for definition and improvement in Arcadia, and, during my interviews, got a sense that I could start my own projects in the company. Access to ‘sandbox’ data sources within the company, and examples of past projects cemented creative opportunities. And Arcadia’s mission – to improve care – really resonates with me.

**What team did you join at Arcadia, and what does your team do?**

I’m a part of the recently-formed Product Support team. We dig through data, run analyses, and fix product issues that arise from data movement or structuring. I catch myself saying ‘hm’ pretty often throughout the day – we get a lot of anomalous errors that require investigation and focus. It’s like a nerdier way of playing detective.

**Tell us about some cool work you’ve done in Product Support…**

I’ve been really excited about work in my meta-job –in making the Product Support team more transparent, efficient, and creative. I have lead an initiative to create and share innovation within the team, and I’ve also developed a tool that enables others to check the status of data extraction. I’m also working on some data visualization projects – like the Product Support team dashboard.

~~What is a typical workday like for you?~~

*I took this out –explaining what Product Support does kind of covered this, and going into more detail might be out of the scope of a casual/general Q & A – let me know your thoughts on this please!*

**Let’s step back a bit and talk about the workplace – what’s your favorite aspect of Arcadia’s culture?**

How casual the workplace is. I can sit on tables, wear high tops, and chat, pretty openly, to upper management. It’s a casualness that runs deep into the culture here – people are open to considering new ideas and projects. The datathon, a day of work dedicated to experimenting with healthcare-related visuals and ideas, is the best example of this. (maybe I should go into more detail?)

**What has been most unexpected about working here?**

I’ve started to view day to day routine through the lens of data analysis and visualization. I’m throwing numbers on everything, and thinking of visuals to represent interactions with people and my surroundings. It’s fun…and a little bit weird.

**What advice would you give graduating seniors who might consider joining the Arcadia team?**

My advice is to get advice (through the right avenue): set up a call with a team member here, and try to understand if Arcadia is a fit for you!