

A day in the life

Photi Karagiannis
Senior Systems Engineer

5:15am

Mornings start early for me (after a couple of snooze hits). I'm competing in triathlon at the moment, so I like to get a training session in before work, which is usually a swim or a bike ride. Once I finally get myself out the door, it's straight to training, followed by a much-needed coffee, some breakfast, and then off to work.

8:00am

The office is still pretty quiet around this time, which is perfect for catching up on emails and planning out my day. As more people roll in, it's a good chance to have a quick chat, swap weekend stories, check in with our graduates (as a part of my Gradvisor role) and enjoy some casual banter before diving into work.

9:30am

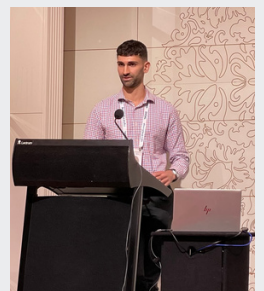
As a project lead, I like to host a daily stand-up meeting with the team. We go over what's been done the previous day, what's in progress, and any challenges people are facing. It's a great way to stay aligned and share insights that might help someone else out. At Shoal, we are given the trust to conduct our work with the client the best way we see fit, based on decades of experience in developing proprietary engineering procedures. This means we have a collaborative approach between team members, instead of being told what to do and how to do it.

After that, everyone gets stuck into their work—whether it's deep focus time, collaborating with others, or jumping into meetings.

12:00pm

One of the perks of working near the client site? Amazing Vietnamese food! Once or twice a week, we head out for a team lunch – not just with the immediate team but often with other Shoalers working on different projects too. It's a great way to stay connected, swap ideas, and just take a breather from work.

In 2024, I presented at the Systems Engineering Test & Evaluation conference (SETE). Co-authored with our Head of Engineering and an external Systems Engineering (SE) Expert, the paper was called 'Aligning Strategy, Research, and System Development, Leveraging Model-Based Systems Engineering Techniques'.



1:00pm

Afternoons are always different depending on what's happening with the project. Lately, it's been all about using model-based systems engineering to help our client solve complex problems. That means a mix of deep diving into models, checking in with the team to ensure we're using consistent techniques, and working with subject matter experts to refine our approach. We're lucky to have subject matter experts both at Shoal and on the client side. It really feels like we're embedded within the client's team, which makes the work even more rewarding.

4:30pm

I usually finish up somewhere between 4 and 5 PM, depending on when I started and how busy the day has been. One of the great things about Shoal is the flexibility in our workday – we can adjust our hours to suit our schedules as long as the client's happy (which they always are!). After work, it's time for another training session, usually a run or some strength training at the gym.



A group of Adelaide Shoalers headed to Mismatch Brewing Co after work.

About us

Shoal is complex systems design company. We use Systems Engineering combined with Modelling, Simulation and Analysis to help our clients define, analyse, decide, optimise, and deliver technology-intensive projects in complex environments across Defence, Space, Transport and Infrastructure.



Early careers

Learn more about early careers opportunities on our website.

shoalgroup.com



It was fun to represent Shoal at the Adelaide University Engineering Society Careers Night. We set up Mario Kart – an iconic Shoal tradition – and shared our experiences of working with Shoal.

7:00pm – Wind down

By the time I get home, it's dinner and YouTube, if my partner isn't back yet. If she is, we'll eat together and compare training stats – friendly competition keeps things interesting! Then it's packing my training gear for the next day and squeezing in some downtime before doing it all again.



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Senior Systems Engineer
Complex Systems Engineering

We understand that complexity can rapidly escalate and create pressure on already tight schedules, capability realisation, and budgets. Or all three. Our approach is not to reduce or over-simplify. We embrace the uncertainty in complexity and use our expertise to mitigate risks and capitalise on opportunities.

Contact us

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