


[Inside MasterCard](#)
[Tools and Resources](#)
[MC Community](#)
[Project and Team Sites](#)
[People Place](#)
[Site Actions ▾](#)
[Quick Links](#)

[Browse](#)
[Page](#)
[Publish](#)
[MC Central Home](#) > [Five Questions for Christina Malek](#)


## Highlights

- MA Ambassadors profiles employees who are leading the way as brand ambassadors.
- Do you know someone who is an ambassador? [Send us an email](#).
- Look for another profile next week!

## Five Questions for Christina Malek


 Story contact: [Nieuwoudt, Jandre](#) on: 5/22/2014

Christina Malek is a business leader based in our Johannesburg office. She came to MasterCard one year ago from Philips Electronics and is a member of the Business Planning & Analysis team supporting the finance objectives across the Middle East and Africa region.

### 1. What do you most love about working here?

We work in a challenging and dynamic environment, and I am constantly learning as I work with different divisions and business units. I love that there are opportunities for me to grow. MasterCard is committed to helping its employees develop and progress their careers and provides many tools and resources to help us succeed. I particularly value that MasterCard supports women in leadership roles.

It's great to be part of a diverse team as I get to work with people from all over the world who have different backgrounds and skills. Such diversity drives innovation.

### 2. What makes you proud of our company?

Many of my friends think of the "Priceless" advertising campaign when I tell them I work for MasterCard, but really, working here is a priceless experience. I contribute to a company that makes a difference through our innovative products and solutions. We operate the world's fastest payments processing network - that's impressive and something to be proud of.

Also, MasterCard supports philanthropic efforts such as disaster relief efforts and employee involvement and volunteerism initiatives. It's important to do good, and MasterCard recognises and encourages that.

### 3. What's your favorite MasterCard product?

As a leader in the global payments industry, MasterCard's "cashless vision" is apparent in everything we do. It's difficult to pick just one product, but what we have done in South Africa to increase financial inclusion with the introduction of the SASSA debit card is a favourite of mine. It's a biometric social grants payment card that positively identifies recipients using unique identifiers such as fingerprints and voice recognition. With over 10 million cards issued in South Africa, MasterCard has opened up the world of financial inclusion to many who previously did not have access to traditional financial services.

### 4. Favorite value?

My favourite is agility. Having a dynamic decision-making structure in place is important to adapt to changing business conditions and being able to take advantage of new opportunities.

### 5. What's something most people don't know about you?

I'm an avid traveller and enjoy experiencing different cultures and meeting new people. I try to visit at least one new country each year as travelling opens my eyes and my mind to new ways of thinking. It also helps me understand people better by seeing where they come from and how things are done in their country, and it makes me appreciate the different things the world has to offer. So far I've been to 35 countries and hopefully, there will be many more in my future!



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Lester, Mary



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 [Garrow, Ron](#) 5/22/2014 1:01 PM

Christina,

Great article and I really enjoyed spending time with you in March on my visit to Johannesburg.....Look forward to seeing you again soon.....

