

Employer in the spotlight – Gloria Leung

Be passionate and ambitious on your right path

Different qualities are required for different professions. Gloria Leung, audit manager at Dominic Y. C. Ng & Co., gives her views on the key personal traits needed to be a successful accountant and offers career advice.



Dominic Y. C. Ng & Co. is a local accounting firm specialized in accounting, auditing and tax services, and which has been in business for nearly 30 years. There is a total of ten staff in the firm. Gloria Leung, audit manager, has been with the firm for 12 years. Her main responsibility is to lead and supervise the team performing accounting, auditing or taxation tasks for clients. She provides her team with technical updates on relevant changes and developments in the profession. This role requires her to be well-acquainted with tax rules, as well as accounting and auditing standards.

Gloria is a member of the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs. As such, she has known about the AAT qualification for a long time. “I see that the new qualification framework launched two years ago meets the needs of the broadening

role of accounting technicians. The qualification is practical for junior to middle level accounting staff who wants to equip themselves in the dynamic business world,” says Gloria. “The AAT Examination is a good channel for sub-degree holders who have great interest in the field to strengthen their accounting knowledge and get well prepared for their further career development. Many young people, like our audit trainee Ryan, do not hold a degree but want to enter and advance in the profession. AAT provides them with the opportunity to achieve their goals.”

Criteria for recruitment

Ryan has been with Dominic Y. C. Ng & Co for half a year. Gloria thinks that he has great potential, and that’s why she chose him from among all the other

candidates for the job. “Although I knew Ryan had no audit experience, during the interview he was able to demonstrate a good understanding of the basic accounting principles and knowledge – this had been obtained during his studies for the AAT Examination. Moreover, he showed a proactive and positive attitude of being willing to learn. As a result, I can see that the AAT qualification is a useful benchmark in the recruitment process. If a candidate holds the AAT qualification, this immediately tells me a lot about their readiness to dedicate themselves to the profession.”

Gloria finds that Ryan possesses a strong knowledge base in accounting and tax, and is proficient in preparing financial statements and tax computations. While most of the time Ryan only needs to support the audit function, Gloria is satisfied with his input. “Although Ryan has only been with our company for a short time, he is able to spot the important issues, discuss with the team and seek advice. I believe these are the results of the training gained from the preparation for the various AAT Examination papers.”

The accounting profession is a challenging and fast-changing industry. Everyone should get well-prepared in order to stay competitive. “It is vital for us to keep abreast of the latest developments and updates to standards and guidelines in this ever-changing environment. The AAT qualification is a practical choice for sub-degree holder like Ryan, who can grasp the latest and all-round technical knowledge and prepare for their career advancement by undertaking Qualification Programme of the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs” Gloria continues.

A lifelong career and commitment

So what does Gloria think are good qualities for an accounting professional? She says that strong numerical skills, while important, are not enough. Accountants have to maintain a patient, tough, motivated and willing-to-

learn attitude all the time. While professional qualification and solid accounting knowledge is the minimum requirement for getting into this profession, strong analytical, problem-solving and communications skills are indispensable for performing the job successfully because accounting is not just about working with numbers.

“What’s more, the working environment is increasingly competitive nowadays and a large number of accounting graduates join the job market every year. Young and junior professionals should really put their heart into their careers and make the effort to acquire a well-recognized professional qualification,” she elaborates. “Becoming a successful accounting professional is a lifelong process. Professional qualifications are essential for long-term career development, not only for internal promotion within your company but also a tool to compete in the market.”

Head down the right path, stay on it and make progress

“I believe Ryan has been following the right path so far and is heading in the right direction. Since he is still young and relatively new both to the profession and to our company, I would suggest that he tries to gain more solid experience and further familiarize himself with different areas of accounting, auditing and taxation work. This could help open up more opportunities for him to progress in the profession. He has already started his degree programme at the Open University of Hong Kong and will take Professional Bridging Examination very soon. These further studies will definitely support him down the professional road,” says Gloria.

She has plenty of encouragement for Ryan. “There will be plenty of opportunities for him to grow in the company. If he continues to upgrade himself and keeps up his excellent working attitude, he will be able to get promoted and be assigned more complicated cases, such as supervising other junior staff on different projects.”

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