

## Feature Interview: Pang Lai Shan

*Jason Krupp*

**Name:** Pang Lai Shan  
**Job title:** Accountant  
**Company:** Jetso Mobile

**What first attracted you to accountancy, and what characteristics and skills would you say are necessary for a career as an accountant?**

I was first attracted to accountancy because I am not a sociable person. However, in my first accounting job, I found that other than being attentive and having a well-ordered mindset, good interpersonal skills and presentation skills are very important too because accountancy involves communicating with others - reporting to managers and things like that.

**Did you study accountancy before you enrolled in HKIAAT?**

I obtained the LCCI (London Chamber of Commerce and Industry ) certificates before I attended HKIAAT.

**How did you hear about HKIAAT, and why did you enrol?**

I first read about HKIAAT in a magazine. Then after I completed my LCCI studies I attended an HKIAAT seminar for people interested in pursuing a career in accountancy. I enrolled because I wanted to develop and advance my career in accounting.

**How did you find the Accounting Technician Examination (ATE) and the Professional Bridging Examination (PBE)?**

I found the exams to be fair, even coming from a non-degree background. Preparing for them wasn't too difficult, but it is important to work through the material very carefully.

**You received a distinction on your PBE, specifically in management accounting. How did you prepare for your exams?**

I studied for the exams by spending a lot of time practising on past papers. When going back to check my answers I always made sure that I understood the ideas behind the answers rather than wasting time just memorizing the correct answers. Also paying attention in class is very important.

**Did you claim any exemptions in the HKIAAT examinations?**

I received an exemption for ATE Paper 1 - Financial Accounting because I had achieved a distinction in my LCCI examination.

**How long did it take you to finish all your exams?**

I took two years to complete the ATE qualification and another year for PBE.



**What is your current position and what are your responsibilities?**

I am an accountant for Jetso Mobile, a telecommunication services firm. My main duties include handling the full set of accounts and preparing vouchers, reconciling the general ledger, preparing financial reports and cash flow management.

**Do your HKIAAT qualifications equip you to do this job well?**

Yes, they help me enormously. The syllabus is designed to be very practical, and what I learnt in studying for the ATE and PBE links up very well with what is required of me in my job. This gives me an advantage over people who know a lot of accounting theory but have very little practical experience.

**Does your employer support your qualifications?**

Yes. In fact my boss paid for my examination fees.

**Looking ahead, what do you think your next career step will be?**

I don't have a clear career path at the moment. My next step is to become a qualified CPA, and then from there perhaps I may move to a multinational company with good benefits.

**How far are you from becoming a CPA?**

I already finished two modules of the HKICPA Qualification Programme. I still have two modules and the final examination to complete. I expect to finish in another year.

**Would you recommend the HKIAAT courses and qualifications?**

Oh yes, for sure! I have already recommended HKIAAT to several of my subordinates.