

Advice from a faculty member

Opening doors with AAT qualification



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Charlotte Chan has been an accounting lecturer at Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE) (Chai Wan) for about five years, teaching mainly management accounting and financial management courses. In her role as part of the AAT Advisor Scheme, Charlotte has also been a career counsellor for her students' personal development and AAT related issues. "I'm more than happy to be an AAT Advisor because this gives me extra opportunities to explore students' needs," Charlotte notes, adding that the scheme makes communication easier between the HKIAAT and IVE for the benefit of students.

"I am often approached by students for advice on their career development. I explain to them the benefits of getting a qualification and what's in it for them," Charlotte says. HKIAAT, as a professional organization, offers a qualification tailored for accounting technicians in Hong Kong. Employers prefer candidates with this qualification because the AAT exam syllabus is comprehensive, covering most areas that accounting personnel need have to be competent in. "The AAT qualification's localized syllabus shapes students by imparting to them the crucial accounting competence required by our market via the eight all-encompassing subjects," Charlotte adds.

She thinks that the New Qualification Framework (NQF) launched in June will uphold the standards required for HKIAAT membership and will therefore further develop the accounting technician profession. "What's more, the Professional Assessment included in NQF will sharpen the AAT graduates' awareness of ethical issues in the profession," Charlotte says.

Students whose ultimate goal is to rise to the top at work need a pragmatic element to their career development. Since the current labour market holds many university graduates, Charlotte notes that a qualification can help students stand out from the crowd. "It is essentially a testament of what you have achieved in this profession so far," she says. Charlotte feels that a qualification gives you the opportunity to be offered an interview where you could present your talents. "Broadly speaking, as the language of business, accounting is also a preferred skill for any industry."

A qualification, though, is not everything. Charlotte sums up by reminding students that there are qualities such as language proficiency and communication skills which are vital for accounting personnel. "However, a qualification is an integral part of every accounting professional's development path."