

Advice from a faculty member

Make yourself stand out with a well recognized qualification



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To get ahead in today's competitive world, a well recognized qualification is essential. Kenny Law, lecturer at IVE (Sha Tin), tells us how the AAT qualification can pave the way to a bright future by raising one's professional profile and building a solid foundation in accounting.

How did you start your career as an accounting teacher? What subjects do you teach?

I first worked in the commercial sector and was employed in external auditing, internal auditing and accounting. With my interest in sharing knowledge, I also took up a part-time teaching job at IVE for one semester. A few years later, a friend who was a lecturer at IVE, referred me to a full time teaching post at IVE (Sha Tin) which mainly involved teaching on the Higher Diploma in Accountancy and Information Systems programme. I like the idea of a career change to take on such a meaningful job. This is how I become a lecturer. I joined IVE (Sha Tin) in September 2006, and have been teaching here ever since.

Tell us something about your teaching experience.

I am now teaching different modules including cost accounting, financial accounting and accounting information system. The experience that I gained from real business world helps my teaching, especially at IVE where the focus is on delivering practical knowledge. Sharing real life examples and studying relevant cases are part of my teaching approach, and these allow students to understand and absorb abstract concepts and theories more effectively. To me, teaching is a challenging but interesting and satisfying job. The real values of a teacher are how you transfer the knowledge to students and inspire their motivation to learn. When your students are equipped with knowledge, confidence and dreams, you will find that your hard work has been well worth while.

What expectations do you have of your students?

I hope students can make good use of their time and enjoy time learning. As well as acquiring useful accounting knowledge, they should also learn to strike the right balance in their lives and whole person development; learning soft skills such as interpersonal and communication skills, and participating in different kinds of extra curricular activities. I believe these are the crucial elements to a successful future.



Tell us about your duties as an AAT advisor. What do you think of this scheme?

As an AAT advisor, I provide students with updates on the AAT Examination syllabus, the latest details of the AAT membership requirements and encourage students to participate in activities held by the HKIAAT, such as the Accounting and Business Management Case Competition. I truly believe that the AAT advisor scheme is a great programme because it enhances the communication between the HKIAAT and educational institutions and gives me a better understanding of the AAT qualification.

Do you recommend the AAT qualification to your students?

I strongly recommend the AAT qualification to my students and encourage them to become AAT members. The syllabus of AAT Examination is practical and comprehensive. The AAT qualification is also well-recognized in the profession. Nowadays having a relevant and professional accounting qualification has become a benchmark of their ability and can take them to the next level in either their academic or career advancement. The majority of our graduates move to a top-up degree but some opt to join the workforce in accountancy immediately and move forward by taking professional examinations.

A recent example is one of our graduates, C.H. Chong, who received the Top Student Award in Paper II of Professional Bridging Examination (PBE) in June 2009. He has already completed the PBE and is going to enrol in the Hong Kong Institute of CPA's Qualification Programme, as he wants to become a qualified professional accountant. The AAT qualification has offered him an alternative to an undergraduate course and a promising way to become an accounting professional.

What is your advice for students who plan to join the accounting profession?

I can see that there are many employment opportunities in the market, especially in the Mainland. To grasp these opportunities, I suggest students should equip themselves for the challenges, keep updated with accounting and industry information, work hard and devotedly, and try not to count the rewards for every effort. Being open minded about traveling around China and working in various locations is necessary today. Finally, continuing their professional education can make them stay competitive and improve their chances of promotion.

What are your plans for the future?

My goal is to do even better in my role as a lecturer, by continuously learning from my previous teaching experience and enhancing my pedagogic skills by attending training courses and seminars offered by the Vocational Training Council and other professional bodies.