

Advice from a faculty member

AAT – A Key to the Accounting World



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Ada Ho, AAT Advisor and subject leader of Caritas Institute for Further and Adult Education – Kowloon, tells us why the AAT qualification should be considered by those who want to join the accounting profession.

Tell us something about your career background.

As an accounting-major university student with a strong passion for education, I originally planned to be an accounting teacher immediately after completing my studies. Since practical work experience is important in teaching work, I first worked in the auditing field, from a trainee to a senior auditor, for three years. I then moved to education and started teaching accountancy at Caritas Institute for Further and Adult Education, and have been working there for ten years now. I was a Form 6 and Form 7 accountancy teacher at the beginning. I am currently a lecturer and the subject leader in accountancy.

What motivates your teaching?

Student development is my biggest driving force. Students usually start off with a short-term programme such as the Yi Jin Project. All they want is to get a job after completing the Yi Jin Project and achieving the equivalent of five HKCEE passes. However, their views change over the years. We strongly believed that their future can be better with every additional effort they make. Many students now have long-term plans to study for certificate and diploma programmes and to take the AAT examination. It is very encouraging to know that some of them will soon complete their top-up degree and be ready to start a bright career in the accounting profession.

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

As an AAT advisor, I act as the bridge between the HKIAAT, our school and the students. I provide students with information about the HKIAAT and its qualification, and answer any questions they have while registering for the AAT examinations.

Without a doubt, the AAT advisor scheme has strengthened the relationship between the HKIAAT and our school. Students can get more first-hand information updates on the examinations, qualification, seminars and activities from their AAT advisors.



Do you recommend that your students take the AAT examination?

I will definitely recommend the AAT examination to my students as it consists of eight practical and useful papers such as auditing, taxation and business law. Attaining the widely-recognized AAT qualification makes one's curriculum vitae more competitive and also help in pursuing further studies or advancing one's career. Because of its popularity, we have tailor-made our certificate and diploma courses to help students better prepare for the AAT examination.

What tips would you give to students who are preparing to join the accounting profession?

Accounting is a profession which requires not only knowledge, but also ethics and a high professional standard. Therefore, students should strive to complete the AAT examination first, since possessing all-rounded knowledge is the key to success in this profession. After that, training of an ethical mind-set is necessary, because working in accounting is all about being professional, independent and honest. The introduction of Professional Assessment by the HKIAAT under the new qualification framework reflects the vigorous ethical requirements in this profession. In addition, in handling their daily work rhythm, students need to have endurance and patience. Last but not least, hard work is a vital element of one's success.

What expectations do you have of your students?

I hope that they will achieve their goals, broaden their horizons, enjoy student life at Caritas and develop friendships amongst their peers. In terms of personal qualities, I hope that they will learn to have stronger endurance and not to give up easily.