

Advice from a faculty member

Well equipped with AAT qualification for a better career



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Information explosions, the global village, virtual reality: the list of new-era terminologies goes on and on. As the business landscape alters, accountancy too does not stand still. Wilson Ng, an accountant-turned-lecturer, encourages students to equip themselves with both technical and soft skills for this new era and to strengthen their position through demonstrating their competence.

With his rich work experience in the accounting field, Wilson opted for a teaching career in accounting and is currently teaching a diploma programme in accountancy launched two years ago at IVE Tuen Mun campus. "I don't look on this merely as a teaching job because I enjoy transferring knowledge to students, given my previous experience," says Wilson who has a real aspiration to provide quality accounting education.

Brand new set of requirements

Since the term "globalisation" was coined, people have started to be aware of the increasingly intense competition and that information is power. Whilst information is delivered through a web of channels every minute, the nature of accountancy has also been altered, according to Wilson. "In the past, an accounting technician's role was more of a data processor but nowadays they are part of middle management in all kinds of business." Wilson adds that most routine data handling tasks have been computerised and therefore accounting personnel nowadays have to do more than data processing.

Data analysis, generalisation and presentation are broadly the "new" tasks for accounting practitioners. In dealing with these, Wilson says accounting professionals should be equipped with strong analytical power, mature communication and good presentation skills. On top of such behavioural competencies, the seasoned accountant emphasizes that technical knowledge should not be neglected. "Although the computer has helped us to streamline accounting process, we still need to grasp accounting principles and regulations to make it works," notes Wilson.

Gathering strength with competence and recognition

Practical experience at work is essential for practitioners to foster the above qualities. Wilson believes that a well-structured qualification such as the AAT can also help students join the accounting profession in a much easier way. By preparing for the eight AAT exam subjects, students can lay a solid technical foundation for themselves.



Meanwhile, during their exam preparations, students are trained to learn independently and handle complex information effectively, bit by bit enhancing their analytical power.

By joining the seminars and business case competitions organized by the HKIAAT, students can participate in team projects related to accounting, gradually becoming good communicators and team players. Wilson comments that the HKIAAT not only provides a wide networking platform for people interested in accountancy to meet and share views, but it also gives students motivation to study and move forward. An affiliation such as the Prospective AAT Club provides students with peer support when first stepping into the profession.

With Wilson's past accounting experience in both a CPA firm and the Inland Revenue Department, he sometimes acts as students' career counsellor. He sees the AAT qualification as a benchmark for the industry. "It helps you learn the skills you need, and convince employers of your professional knowledge and recognised competency. Without doubt, every employer wants to keep a team with accredited competency in his profession." He stresses that having the AAT qualification is definitely a plus on CV and a good talking point for students during job interviews.

Attaining a qualification, building winning qualities and absorbing work exposure like a sponge are Wilson's advice. In addition, he also considers EQ to be an indispensable element for today's accounting personnel as they can face stress from work, especially under this economic situation.

A teaching career in accountancy is bringing Wilson incomparable job satisfaction. The best time he shares with his students is when their hard work is recognised. In the recent HKIAAT Accounting and Business Management Case Competition, Wilson's students formed a team and won the second runner-up position as well as best presenter awards. This has marked a memorable page in Wilson's teaching career and is the motivation for him to keep nurturing more accounting professionals in the future.