



## *Thoughts from an accounting student*

### **A professional qualification opens a range of opportunities**



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Programme: Higher Diploma in Accounting  
(an HKIAAT accredited programme)

Institution: Hong Kong College of Technology

Candy Wong knows what her goal is: to acquire the best skills in accounting. She is already well on her way to achieving this goal by studying an accountancy programme to attain a professional qualification. This will open up a number of options, for both further study and future career choices.

#### ***Can you tell us about your educational background? When did you first learn about the HKIAAT and the AAT qualification?***

I was an arts stream student back in high school. After my Form 7 graduation, I realized that it was difficult to find a job without having any qualifications or work experience, so I chose to study further. My friend recommended that I enroll in the Higher Diploma in Accounting programme offered by the Hong Kong College of Technology (HKCT) due to its good reputation. I then did some research and found that the course was accredited by the HKIAAT and that graduates are eligible to claim exemptions from the AAT Examination. I decided to take the course and I am now a year-three (final year) student.

HKIAAT is a well-recognized accounting organization and obtaining the AAT qualification will demonstrate my competency in accounting. Therefore, getting the AAT qualification is important to my career development in a workplace that recognizes the value of qualifications.

#### ***How did you find accounting when you started your studies? Which subject is most challenging and which is most interesting?***

Due to my lack of accounting knowledge, I had much more to learn than fellow students who had already studied accounting in high school. On the other hand, there were occasions where I found case studies easy to grasp because of my strength in English and my good analytical skills. Overall I find the class inspiring – we learn from each other every day.

The most challenging subject for me is financial reporting. If my attention wanders in class, I am unable to follow the flow. I like taxation the most because of its practicality. I look forward to being able to prepare tax returns on my own when I become a taxpayer in future.



***Tell us about your academic achievements. What is your study method?***

I received the Outstanding Achievement Award from my college in year one and two. I was also awarded the HKIAAT Scholarship 2009/2010. It was a long journey for me to achieve these awards. However, I still remember the days when I found my studies difficult and needed to practice questions over and over again.

My tips for success are “never give up” and “practice makes perfect”. These two mottos have encouraged and given me power to stick with my ultimate goal. I have wasted a lot of time and already learnt from mistakes made in high school. I know I have to work even harder to catch up and achieve what I want. I always practice as many exercises as I can and I am not shy to ask if in doubt. I have discovered that the best way to achieve my goal is to make accounting a part of my everyday life.

***How did you immerse yourself in an accounting environment?***

Since 2007, I have been working as a part-time accounts clerk in a property company where I can apply my basic accounting knowledge. I work roughly 20 hours per week. I also participated in the HKIAAT Accounting and Business Management Case Competition this year. In the competition, I had a chance to attend business seminars to enhance my technical skills in analyzing a company's financial data and to develop my report writing skills. This large-scale project gave me real-life experience and it made me feel like I was a real accounting professional.

***Have you any plans for your future?***

With the encouragement and support from the HKIAAT scholarship, I am determined to attain the AAT qualification and aim to develop my career in the accounting profession. I know that with this qualification, I will have more options for further education and career development.

I recently had interviews for several accounting degree programmes offered by local universities. In addition, I also applied for the position of Assistant Taxation Officer with the Inland Revenue Department as AAT graduates may be considered as having the relevant accounting knowledge for appointment to this post. I still have not had a concrete decision on my future yet. If I get the job offer, I may study a degree on part-time basis. All in all, there are a lot of advancement opportunities and, one way or another, I will continue to develop my studies and career in accounting.