

## ***Thoughts from an accounting student***

### **Gearing up for future challenge**



**Kelvin Lau**

Programme: Associate of Business Administration  
(Accountancy)  
(an HKIAAT accredited programme)  
Institution: Community College of City University

Diligent final-year accounting student Kelvin Lau tells us about his energetic school life and his plans to embark on the accounting profession upon graduation.

#### ***Can you tell us something about your hobbies and personality?***

Well, I am a rather outgoing person. Any outdoor activities with a group of people definitely interest me. Ball games are my favourite sport while I also read and play chess sometimes to enjoy a more peaceful time.

#### ***Why did you choose to study accounting? What made you enjoy studying accounting?***

I became interested in this special subject when I first learnt about it in secondary four. I think part of the reason why I found accounting so intriguing is the inter-linkage among different parts of accounting: auditing, financial reporting, taxation and so on. They all look different but indeed are highly related. I welcome challenges because I get a lot of satisfaction when a problem is solved. That keeps me focused in every lesson because I cannot afford to miss a single topic or I won't be able to see the big picture. Also, accounting is a stable career with promising future. What I have learnt from accounting is very practical and highly transferrable in developing any career.

#### ***When did you first hear about the HKIAAT and the AAT qualification? Are you going to pursue AAT qualification to enhance your competitiveness?***

I heard about the HKIAAT and the AAT qualification back in secondary seven when it was introduced by our teachers. Certainly I will pursue the qualification because it is my aspiration to become an accounting professional one day and becoming a member of the AAT is a critical step I must take to get there. Also, in a highly competitive market such as Hong Kong, attaining a professional qualification is extremely important.

#### ***After finishing your current programme, what are your plans?***

My goal is to become an accounting professional. I plan to enroll for a bachelor degree programme as I think having a university degree is of paramount importance for everyone today. I will study hard to gear up for this challenge. I also plan to pursue professional qualifications like AAT or even CPA. I may take the Professional Bridging Examination during my studies, so that I can enter the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs Qualification Programme earlier.



***You gained some accounting experience from a summer job, what do you expect from your future job in this profession?***

Last summer I spent some time in a small accounting firm handling the more basic accounting tasks. That gave me the first-hand experience of working in this profession. In future, I would also like to start at a small accounting firm rather than big firm as I can work in different divisions, which equip me with all rounded skills. I can see myself engaging in lifelong learning because I believe that is the way to go in this profession where rules change all the time.

***What implications does the recent financial crisis give you?***

As a student, I am fortunate that I have not been affected by this tsunami. However, it gets me to start thinking about my future. I realize that to stay competitive, I have to start preparing and equipping myself with more competitive edges. Also, to distinguish myself as a green graduate, I have to be more motivated and willing to learn.

***If there is one unforgettable moment in your school life, what would that be?***

After organizing a study camp named 'Learning to Learn', not only did I learn a lot, I also helped other students to unleash their learning potential. Towards the end of the event, a student came to me saying 'thank you'. That simple yet hearty compliment really moved me. And I will keep up my positive learning attitude in my accounting study and future career endeavors.