

Advice from a faculty member
Run for your accounting life



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Lifelong learning is essential in the present day. Caius Wong, teacher from Hong Kong Christian Service Kwun Tong Vocational Training Centre (KTVTC) sets herself a role model for her students. She talks to us about her teaching experience and her views towards the accounting profession.

When and why did you start your teaching career?

I began my teaching career immediately after college. In the early years, I mainly taught Chinese language and art. After obtaining my first degree in accounting and economics from the University of London, I started to teach accounting programmes at KTVTC and it has been 15 years since then. In order to enhance my knowledge and professionalism in teaching, I obtained two master degrees and some relevant qualifications in education, accounting and finance during the last decade.

Being a teacher is meaningful as I can deliver practical knowledge as well as demonstrate a positive attitude towards life to our next generation. Moreover, I have a diverse exposure in teaching students from primary to tertiary and people from different backgrounds in the society. That is the reason why I have been in this field for more than 20 years.

Tell us more about your teaching life in KTVTC.

KTVTC is a long-established vocational training school for adults and secondary school leavers in Hong Kong, and therefore our courses are mainly aimed at equipping students with practical skills which are useful for employment.

Accounting is one of the most popular courses in our institute. At present, we have four accounting programmes and one of them – the Diploma in Professional Accounting – is accredited by the HKIAAT. Graduates can be exempted from a maximum of four papers in the Accredited Accounting Technician (AAT) Examination.

As a social service unit, KTVTC also tailors courses to fulfil the needs of different segments in the society and I also have the chance to take part in delivering these courses. For example, I have taught school principals and executives working in non-governmental organizations the knowledge and skills they need to manage their organizations' accounts and finance.



Apart from teaching, I participate in various student activities like ICAC seminars and war games. Also, I organize visits to disadvantaged people in mainland China and a study tour to Sabah. I found these activities fruitful as they help students enhance their interpersonal skills and understand themselves more, helping them become more mature.

What subjects you are teaching now, and how do you motivate your students to learn?

I am now teaching advanced accounting, financial accounting, business economics, statistics, and ethics in accounting. Apart from using an expository approach in delivering knowledge, I also adopt a discovery approach to motivate students to explore and construct their own knowledge actively. Therefore I frequently talk about current accounting issues with students and facilitate group discussions among themselves.

What do you think of the AAT qualification?

HKIAAT is a reputable institute in Hong Kong and the AAT qualification gives a clear route for sub-degree students to pursue their career advancement in the field. The qualification indicates the proven professional capability of its holders. Most of the graduates of Diploma in Professional Accounting go on to acquire the AAT qualification, and some of our outstanding students obtain the qualification in as little as two years. We had one remarkable example recently, the 2009-2010 HKIAAT Scholarship recipient from our school who graduated just this year. He enrolled on the June 2010 session of the AAT Examination and passed all the three AAT papers in one go. He is planning to move on to the Professional Bridging Examination (PBE). I sincerely hope that he will have a prosperous future.

Do you have any tips for students who plan a career in accounting?

Accounting is an indispensable element in the economy. With the blooming Chinese economy and the role of Hong Kong as a major gateway to mainland China, there is no doubt that opportunities for Hong Kong accounting professionals are increasing. To grasp these opportunities, young people should keep enhancing their knowledge. As you sow, so will you reap. As long as students work hard at their studies, they will have a good start to their career. Some brilliant students are being recruited prior to their graduation. Hong Kong is a knowledge society and lifelong learning is an overwhelming trend. I would encourage students to develop their career by continuous learning after graduation. In my view, acquiring solid work experience and a recognised professional qualification at the same time is vital for accounting professionals.