

### ***Featured AAT***



**Name:** Rita Leung

**Job Title:** Accountant

Rita completed the ATE Examinations in 2003 and received the top student award in Paper 5 – Hong Kong Taxation in 2001. She talked to us about why she chose accountancy, her study tips and how her studies help her in the daily work.

#### ***Tell us something about the company you work for.***

I work for an international freight forwarder and I have been with them for almost 15 years, since I left high school.

#### ***What is your current position and what are your job duties?***

I am an accountant and my main duties include reviewing financial reports, preparing management reports, reconciling our overseas agents' accounts, balancing the budget, and even designing and overseeing training programmes for my department's recruits. My work now deals more with the management side of the business than book-keeping, which is what I did previously.

#### ***Had you studied accountancy before you attained the AAT qualification?***

I learnt some basic accounting concepts when I was doing my HKCEE. When I started working for this company, I found myself almost totally lacking in accounting knowledge and so I started LCCI studies. Shortly after obtaining the



LCCI certificate, I enrolled in an evening accountancy course offered by the Institute of Vocational Education (IVE), from which I received four exemptions for the HKIAAT examinations. I studied at the evening school for three years.

***How do you find the knowledge and skills covered in the AAT qualification apply in your day-to-day work?***

Not until I started to work did I find myself so ignorant of the work I was doing. In fact, accounting is not merely about figures but also covers many aspects of the day-to-day work of a company. After finishing the HKIAAT examinations, I had gained a much deeper knowledge of how a business is run and how its operations are interrelated. What I learned from studying for the AAT qualification allows me to see a much bigger picture than the one of simple cash flow management that I previously envisioned. For instance, I am now able to pinpoint mistakes in audit reports, which is a definite plus. Other subjects such as taxation and business law also help link me to upper levels of management. I believe the two years spent preparing for the AAT qualification was time well spent and it has helped further my career.

***How do you find the AAT qualification helps you in your job?***

It did not get me an immediate pay rise! Joking apart, the knowledge and skills I learnt from the process of getting the AAT qualification continue to be a key factor in boosting my career. The competencies that I gained from the AAT qualification improve my performance at work. By the same token, management certainly take note of my enhanced performance which gets me onto a promotion shortlist. Furthermore, if you wish to take your studies further, the AAT qualification is a must: it is a basic requirement for additional accounting studies.

***You completed your bachelor's degree in accountancy last year. Did the HKIAAT qualification assist you in studying for the degree?***

Most definitely. The qualification provided the basics for my advanced studies. Without those indispensable ideas and skills, I don't know if I could have coped when I was doing my degree since nearly every subject was intrinsically integrated with the stuff I learnt from the HKIAAT. In my opinion, the qualification is a threshold to the higher level of accountancy studies.