

### ***Versatile AAT***

***Written by Foster Yim***



**Name:** Zoe Cheuk  
**Title:** Senior Accounts Clerk  
**Company:** Win Hanverky Holdings Limited / Rich Form Limited

### ***The AAT qualification, the perfect ladder for career and study advancement***

AAT graduate Zoe Cheuk tells us how she moved into an accounting career and how the AAT qualification has played a major role in her success.

### ***Tell us a bit about your academic background and why you chose to join the accountancy profession.***

I entered the job market right after matriculation. I had not studied accounting at secondary school, and my first two jobs were not related to accounting at all. My first job was as a customer service representative in a music and art centre. As a Form 7 graduate with neither work experience nor any professional qualification, customer service seemed to be one of the few choices available to me.

After one and a half years, I moved to a merchandising job in a small family-run business. There were no company policies or formal management; instead, personal preferences were dominant. The worst part was that I had to work over-time almost every day, sometimes till midnight. There was a limited chance for me to move up in my career in this environment, so I decided to move to my current employer, Rich Form Limited, as an accounts clerk. By then, I realized that I did not have sufficient accounting knowledge, so I decided to take the Accredited Accounting Technician (AAT) Examination. To better prepare for the examinations, I also studied for an accounting diploma course at Hong Kong Management Association at the same time.

### ***What do you do at Rich Form? Is your work satisfying?***

Yes, for sure. I prefer to work in a stable working environment and I have found that the accounting profession suits me. Since it is a subsidiary of a listed company, Rich Form provides ample opportunities for employees to grow. For example, when I first joined the company as an accounts clerk, I was only responsible for data entry. With increasing experience and accounting knowledge, I have been assigned more and more duties and tasks. I was promoted to senior accounts clerk when I had almost completed the AAT Examination.



Now, I prepare the monthly and annual reports for the group's financial manager and two supervisors in the subsidiaries; in addition I prepare audit documents for the external auditor at the year-end. I am also responsible for all transactions with factories in the mainland and with foreign banks and accounts. I find great satisfaction in my work.

***What made you choose the AAT qualification?***

I searched for information about diploma courses on the internet, and during this process I found that the AAT qualification was a prerequisite for many tertiary qualifications. I came to realize that this qualification could open doors for my career. As a sub-degree holder, I think it is a perfect starting point.

***How does the AAT qualification help you in both your career and your daily work?***

When I was promoted to senior accounts clerk, I received a 10 percent salary increment. The AAT qualification equipped me with knowledge and confidence in handling accounting matters. For example, OEM companies incur many costs in their supply chains, such as material costs, labour costs and shipping costs. The cost accounting knowledge covered in the AAT Examination helps me in computing and allocating these costs. Studying for the auditing paper also helped me understand the rationale and requirements of auditors better. In the past I simply had no idea what to give them!

***How do you feel about the examination?***

I think as long as you have devoted some time to revision, it is not hard to pass. Students like me who have not studied accounting before should take some revision courses. I found these really helpful.

***Do you have any studying plan in the near future?***

I want to study the Hong Kong Institute of CPA's Qualification Programme and become a CPA, as many of my colleagues have done. So my next step is to study for a recognized degree. I am applying for two degree programmes – the one jointly offered by the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs and the Open University of Hong Kong, and Edinburgh Napier University. If I am accepted by either of them, I will start my degree studies this coming September.

*Zoe Cheuk's study and career path*

Year	
2003	F7 graduate
2006-current	Accounts clerk / senior accounts clerk at Rich Form Limited
2007-2009	Undertook and passed Accredited Accounting Technician Examination Papers 1-8
2008-2009	Obtained Diploma in Accounting Studies from Hong Kong Management Association