

Versatile AAT

AAT opens the door to different industries



Name: Fanny Siu
Title: Accounts Officer
Company: Hong Kong Carpet Holdings Limited

Upon completing the AAT Examination, Fanny Siu seized the opportunity to step up to a more senior position in a different industry. She tells us how the AAT qualification helps her master new challenges and attains her career goals.

Why did you choose accounting upon graduating from secondary school?

I studied Principles of Accounts in secondary school and I found that I had a strong interest in dealing with numbers. More importantly, accounting provides many career opportunities with relatively low entry requirements. Individuals without qualifications can still land on an accounting job at entry-level and then climb up the ladder gradually by pursuing professional qualification or higher education.

You were studying part-time for both the diploma and AAT while working – how did you strike a balance?

I only needed to attend lessons twice a week and therefore this did not disrupt my daily work. However, I would recommend that part-time students develop a good study plan and stick with it in order to keep on schedule with preparation for the examinations.

Why did you choose to pursue the AAT in addition to your diploma?

I did research and compared AAT with other accounting qualifications. I came to realize that the HKIAAT is a subsidiary of Hong Kong Institute of CPAs which is a globally recognized body in the professional accounting field. Also, AAT graduates can continue their studies via the Professional Bridging Examination (PBE) or top-up degree. The professional development path is clear and wide for AATs.

Did you find the AAT Examination challenging? What were the major challenges and how did you handle them?

The challenge mainly came from technical knowledge which I lacked, such as the materials covered in Paper 5 “Principles of Taxation” and Paper 6 “Fundamentals of Business Law”, as I had not learnt this from my previous studies and work. Therefore I enrolled in some preparatory courses and attended examination technique seminars organized by the HKIAAT. These were extremely useful in my preparation for the examinations. The tip is not just memorizing concepts but fully understanding them by linking them with real-life situations which you may encounter at work.



Hong Kong Institute of
Accredited Accounting Technicians
香港財務會計協會

You changed your job and industry after attaining the AAT qualification. Why did you take this decision? Was it easier for you to find a new job after passing all the AAT Examination papers?

After finishing all eight papers of the AAT Examination last year, I had gained the confidence to take on more challenging duties. That was the reason why I decided to quit my job in the catering company and work for my current employer, Hong Kong Carpet (Holdings) Limited, as an accounts officer. The new job provides more opportunities for my knowledge and enables me to put the competence I have gained from studying for the AAT qualification to best use.

During the job seeking process, I could see that the AAT qualification was valued by employers because it was frequently asked about during job interviews. It proved to potential employers that I was devoted to the accounting field and they would be confident in assigning more advanced duties to me. Also, AAT offers me a bridge to the Qualification Programme (QP) via the Professional Bridging Examination. Taking this path can help me reach my career destination: becoming a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Do you find the content of AAT Examination studies applicable to the industries you've worked in?

The accounting knowledge I've gained is very useful in all kinds of businesses, and even in my own personal life. For example, I learnt various accounting and reporting treatments when studying for the financial accounting papers. Although the standards are regularly revised, my studies for the examination equipped me with the basic accounting requirements for all industries. In addition, the studies for Paper 5 "Principles of Taxation" showed me how to properly calculate company profits tax and my salaries tax.

While I was still working in the catering company, I was already able to transfer the AAT knowledge to my daily work such as categorizing revenue, expenses, costs, assets and liabilities. I found myself more involved and efficient in the work at that time. Now, as an accounts officer in my current company, I need to liaise with banks and factories frequently and the knowledge gained from my AAT studies has enabled me to effectively handle daily transactions, manage assets and maintain a prudent cash flow. Also, I have learnt how to run a costing analysis when buying or selling stock from factories in order to achieve economies of scale.

What's your next step to achieving your goals? And if you could choose again, would you still opt for accounting as your education and career?

I am currently a student for the PBE and will soon be taking a part-time degree in accountancy at the Edinburg Napier University. In the long term, I plan to complete the QP and become a CPA. If I could choose again, I would still opt for an accounting career and the AAT Examination is definitely the right start for all people who have the same background as me!

Written by Aldric Chau



Fanny Siu's study and career path

2001	Form 5 graduate
2001-2007	Book-keeping clerk in small enterprises
2005-07	Diploma in Accounting and Information Technology at YMCA College of Continuing Education
f2007-10	Accounts clerk in Tao Heung Group Limited
2006-10	Passed Accredited Accounting Technician Examination eight papers (with exemptions from two papers)
2010-present	Accounts officer in Hong Kong Carpet Holdings Limited
2011	Registered as Professional Bridging Examination student