



### ***Versatile AAT***



**Name:** Connie Li  
**Title:** Accountant  
**Company:** Jewelex Hong Kong Ltd.

#### **AAT qualification offers the best career path for you**

Accounting was not the first career choice for AAT graduate Connie Li after she left secondary school. However, once she realized that there were ample opportunities in the accounting profession, she chose this accounting career as her aspiration. Connie talks about how the AAT qualification provides a boost to her career and has opened a number of doors for her.

#### ***Why did you choose accounting? What draws you to it?***

I was a science student in secondary school. After graduating from high school, I tried different positions including being a receptionist, an administrative clerk and working in customer service. I never had the chance to experience accounting until I was assigned to do some accounting related work at one of my previous employers. The work aroused my interest in accounting and inspired me to pursue a career in this profession.

The ample opportunities offered in accountancy also attracted me to the field. There is always a substantial demand for accounting services in the market. This makes accounting an attractive profession to build a career on.

#### ***What are your key responsibilities at Jewelex Hong Kong Ltd.?***

I was an accounts clerk when I first joined the company, and was primarily involved in simple accounting tasks such as data entry and filing. About a year later, when I started to study for the AAT Examination, I was promoted to the position of accountant. I was assigned to handle full set of accounts ranging from maintaining financial records and preparing statements of financial position to facilitating timely payments to different parties involved in our business. I also need to file tax returns for the company, and handle some administrative and secretarial work within the finance and accounting department.

I report directly to Mr. Bhansali, the Director of Jewelex Hong Kong Limited, in regard to all accounting and financial matters, and update him on the status of our company's sales and profits with various accounting reports. In order to keep myself abreast of the daily transactions of the Hong Kong office, I also need to communicate and co-ordinate with colleagues located in other countries.



***Why did you decide to attain the AAT qualification?***

I understand that having a professional qualification is of utmost importance in order to develop a long-term career in accountancy. My ultimate goal is to become a professional accountant. However, as a high school graduate without any accounting qualification or experience, I needed to find an alternate path to achieve my target. Through the internet I found information about the AAT qualification, which is open to anyone who is interested in pursuing an accounting career. With the AAT qualification behind me, I can progress in the profession step by step, either by taking the Professional Bridging Examination (PBE) or a top-up degree which recognizes the AAT qualification.

***What have you learnt from studying for the AAT Examination, and how do you apply what you have learnt at work?***

I began taking the AAT Examination after I had started working for my current company. At the beginning, I was unfamiliar with most of the aspects of accounting. After studying for the examination, I have gained a much better understanding of various areas in accounting and the theories behind my daily work.

One of the areas in which I have improved the most is using accounting software. I became more efficient in utilizing software to better present data and reports. The other area is taxation. I am now able to help my boss handling tax returns, a task which had previously been outsourced to external accounting firms. In terms of co-ordinating with external auditors, I am now more familiar with the procedures involved and providing them with what they need. Furthermore, after studying for the AAT Examination, I have become more accustomed to various accounting terminologies which are used frequently when I process trading transactions.

***What advice would you give to students sitting for the AAT Examination?***

It goes without saying that both time management and hard work are necessary for success in the AAT Examination. Balancing work and studies is never easy. I have sacrificed plenty of my personal time to revision. However, with dedication, perseverance and good time management, you too can open up a world of opportunities for yourself in the professional world of accounting.

***Connie's study and career path***

Year	
2007-current	Accounts Clerk / Accountant in Jewelex Hong Kong Ltd.
2008-current	Promoted to the position of Accountant at Jewelex Hong Kong Ltd.
2008-2009	Undertook and passed AAT Exam Papers 2-8 (exempt from Paper 1)
Sept 2010	Commenced studies for the Bachelor of Professional Accounting with Honours top-up degree for AAT graduates, jointly organized by the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs and Open University of Hong Kong