

*Versatile AAT***AAT Examination enables a good study-work-life balance**

**Name:** Tsoi Fan  
**Title:** Senior Accounting Clerk  
**Company:** Citimex Textiles Limited

With the flexibility offered by the AAT Examination, Tsoi Fan is able to juggle her family life and career aspirations while progressing towards her professional goals.

***How did you join the accounting profession?***

When I first started working, I was a clerk in a listed company. Part of my job was to deal with some simple daily accounting tasks, such as depositing cheques or handling petty cash. Gradually, I was promoted to more specific accounting roles and started developing my career in the accounting profession. Then I changed my job. I have been at my current company, Citimex Textiles Limited, for over nine years now and am a senior accounting clerk. My company has extensive businesses in Mainland China and Hong Kong, but my team only handles the accounting matters of the Hong Kong business. I take care of a variety of accounting tasks, such as taxation, cash flow and other financial reports.

***How did you learn about the AAT Examination?***

I started working right after I left secondary school. After working for a few years, I wanted to obtain a professional qualification as it would help with my career development. I first took a Diploma in Accounting Studies, which equipped me with fundamental accounting knowledge. I first heard about the AAT Examination from the school. The programme that I studied made me eligible for partial exemption from the AAT Examination. I felt that the AAT Examination was a good way to progress through accounting, as it is flexible and widely recognized. It is also a bridge to the HKICPA's Qualification Programme ("QP").

### *Was it difficult juggling between family life, work, and examinations?*

One advantage of studying for the AAT Examination is that I could work at my own pace. I only took one examination paper per year, so it was relatively easy for me to find time to study. I had my baby while studying for the examination so I took some time out to look after my family. Of course, some sacrifices had to be made, and I sometimes had to study over the weekends. On the whole, however, it was not too burdensome since I was able to adjust my schedule to complete the AAT Examination.

### *Did you find the AAT Examination useful for your everyday work?*

Definitely! The AAT Examination is designed to give students a practical grounding in the accounting field, so I was able to apply much of my studies to my work. I learnt, for example, how to recognize assets, how to present accounts to auditors, etc. When I first began my job, I followed my predecessors' work procedures and was only able to learn from that as I did not have any solid accounting knowledge. However, after studying for the AAT Examination, I found that I understood the reasoning behind the different accounting procedures and my all-round accounting knowledge enabled me to handle a wide variety of tasks. This is very useful for my current job and for my career development.

### *How do you envision your career development?*

I am currently studying a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting offered by Edinburgh Napier University. Gaining entry into the programme was largely due to my status as an AAT graduate, as it was one of the requirements. Studying for this programme gives me a more solid theoretical understanding of the accounting concepts. Once I complete my degree programme, since this is an HKICPA accredited programme, I will be able to take the QP. However, I have not decided whether I will pursue the QP yet, as my family life is very important to me too. I think I will take everything in my stride, and if I can find the time to handle the examinations, then I might pursue the QP!

My goal is ultimately to move up the career ladder, hopefully to a managerial position. I have been with my company for a long time. While there are certain benefits to working in a familiar environment, I would like to challenge myself more, perhaps at an accountancy firm. However, only time will tell... I can only say for now that I will move forward one step at a time!

### **Tsoi Fan's study and career path**

1996 – 2004	Clerk at Shenzhen Investment Limited
2006 – 2008	Diploma in Accounting Studies (part-time) from Hong Kong School of Commerce
2009 – 2013	Completed AAT Examination with exemption from four papers
2004 – present	Senior Accounting Clerk at Citimex Textiles Limited
2014 – present	BA (Hons) in Accounting from Edinburgh Napier University