



Versatile AAT



Name: Miuky Tam
Title: Audit supervisor
Company: Quentin Wong & Co CPA

Surviving and thriving in a competitive environment

The accounting profession is a competitive arena where only the best can survive. A well recognized qualification opens doors to opportunities for success. Miuky Tam, an audit supervisor and an AAT graduate, tells us her formula for success in her career advancement.

Why did you choose accounting? What drew you to this profession?

I first started studying accounting during my HKCEE years. Accounting is an essential ingredient in every company and indeed every business. The substantial demand for accounting personnel and the wide application of accounting skills ensures appealing job opportunities for individuals with varying levels of education. This is the main attraction of the accountancy profession to me.

Why did you decide to attain the AAT qualification?

I hope to eventually become a qualified accountant. As a sub-degree holder, qualifying with AAT is the best way to get started on an accountancy career since it is recognized by employers. Moreover, it opened doors for me, helping me climb the professional ladder and paving the way for me to achieve my goal. I spent two years completing all eight AAT Examination papers and attained the AAT qualification in 2006. In 2010, I completed the Professional Bridging Examination (PBE), enabling me to study for the Qualification Programme (QP) offered by the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs. On the practical side, the AAT qualification equipped me with technical competency, as well as with good opportunities for promotion and salary increments.

What are your key responsibilities at Quentin Wong & Co.?

I first joined Quentin Wong & Co as an audit junior. I was mainly involved in routine tasks such as preparing audit schedules and testing. However, after completing all the AAT Examination papers in 2006, which coincided with the firm's expansion, I was promoted to audit senior in 2007. I was further promoted to audit supervisor in 2010 after I had completed the PBE. As I progressed along my career path, the nature of my work and responsibilities also shifted from routine and manual tasks to more client-based responsibilities.

Nowadays I focus primarily on liaising with clients, reminding them of important deadlines and helping them with questions they may encounter in any accounting matters. I am also responsible for allocating follow-up tasks to my subordinates, as well as supervising them in their work.



What did you learn from the AAT Examination, and how do you apply this knowledge at work?

The AAT Examination syllabus is an excellent source of the basic and integral knowledge an accounting personnel requires, including areas such as taxation, auditing and business law. These are all essential competencies for anyone who wishes to embark on a career in accounting.

The most obvious advantage of having this knowledge can be seen when handling enquiries from clients about taxation and accounting issues. The knowledge I gained from studying for the AAT qualification not only enables me to answer my clients swiftly and efficiently, but helps me deal with them in a professional manner. This daily application of knowledge is invaluable in enhancing my work performance.

What advice would you give to students currently sitting for, or planning to sit for the AAT Examination?

Balancing work and studies is no easy feat, especially for part-time students. When I was preparing for the AAT Examination, I need to juggle my packed schedule between my job and revision classes, leaving little time for my studies and social life. When I needed to work over-time, I had to miss lessons, which impacted on the effectiveness of my studies. However, good time management together with study leave granted by the firm ultimately helped me to succeed in the examinations.

It is always important to bear in mind that you have to be able to apply the knowledge you learn today in your work tomorrow. This application-oriented mindset can help you assimilate the concepts and theories you learnt more effectively.

What are your future plans?

In the immediate future I will focus on completing the QP in three years. This will undoubtedly help to move my career and skills up to next level.

Miuky's study and career path

Year	
2000	F 7 graduate
2000-2005	Secretary in a trading firm
2004-2006	Undertook and passed seven papers in the AAT Examination seven papers (exempt from one paper)
2005-2007	Audit junior in Quentin Wong & Co CPA (Practising)
2007-2009	Audit senior in Quentin Wong & Co CPA (Practising)
2008-2010	Undertook and passed PBE
2010-present	Audit supervisor in Quentin Wong & Co CPA (Practising)
present	Undertaking Hong Kong Institute of CPA's Qualification Programme (QP)