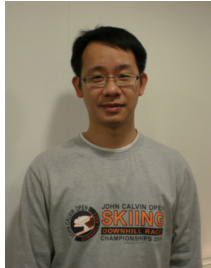


Employer in the spotlight

Written by Foster Yim



Name: Tony Yeung
Title: Accountant
Company: Health Quotient Consultants Company Limited

AAT graduate is competent, independent and reliable

Tony Yeung, accountant at a skincare and health products company, tells us how AAT graduate Daisy Tai helps him with her efficient handling of the company's accounts.

Tell us about the company.

Health Quotient Consultants Company Limited (HQCC) is a skincare and health care products trading company, and was founded in 1998. We provide safe and evidence-based healthcare products to our target customers, who are mainly office ladies with high purchasing power. Currently, we sell a number of major brands of skincare and health supplements in our 14 outlets in mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau. Our products can also be found in other chain retailers, such as Mannings. We also do wholesale business, and the turnover split between retailing and wholesaling is seven to three.

What are your main roles in the company?

I have been working at HQCC for ten years. I am now the accountant in charge of the company. I have two subordinates and Daisy is one of them. I lead the team and prepare different financial reports and forecasts which I present to the management on a timely basis. As the company is part of the fast-moving consumer goods industry, we have to keep a low cost for our operations and work in a highly efficient manner so as to remain competitive. Order taking and delivery processes have to work seamlessly with the support from the warehouse and backend-accounting system. Therefore, it is crucial for us to have effective accounting policies and procedures to ensure efficient and accurate internal controls.

How do you know about the HKIAAT? What are your views on the HKIAAT and the AAT qualification?

I am in fact an AAT student and therefore I know the benefits of the AAT qualification very well. This qualification is widely recognized by employers in Hong Kong. The examination syllabus is broad and covers a diversity of business disciplines which are required by today's accounting personnel. The AAT qualification opens up the world of accounting by equipping candidates with state-of-the-art accounting knowledge and business know-how. It is earning increasing recognition among employers based on the excellent performance of AAT qualification holders.



How does Daisy impress you?

Daisy is a reliable, independent and meticulous person. She focuses precisely on every single duty she is assigned. Daisy is mainly responsible for accounts payable. From the way Daisy handles the accounts and the quality of reports that she submits, I can tell she is a good accounting personnel with proper training and that she possesses superb analytical skills. She also demonstrates computer and accounting software literacy. I believe these skills have been gained during the process of preparing for the AAT Examination. Given her growing knowledge and experience, I plan to assign her more advanced duties, perhaps even a job rotation.

As an employer, what qualities do you expect from accounting personnel? Do you think it is important for your staff to attain a professional qualification?

First and foremost of the qualities needed is integrity. Accounting personnel are exposed to temptation for improper conduct or even fraud and therefore integrity is of the utmost important. Second, being sensitive to figures and meticulous are important qualities that all accounting personnel should have. Having a well-recognized professional qualification is a must. I would recommend the AAT qualification to people who would like to embark on the accounting profession. Compared with some other elementary accounting qualifications, AAT is much more all-rounded. Not only does it teach you the skills and knowledge you need to become a junior accounting personnel, it also paves the way for your future promotion and advancement. Last but not least, diligence and hard work are always the best friends of success.