

Versatile AAT

Expedite for a clear life goal



Name: Jannette Wai
Title: Accounts Clerk
Company: Sinminchu Publishing Co. Ltd

From study to work, Jannette Wai has always been fascinated by the accounting profession. She tells us how AAT Examination prepares her to overcome challenges when moving forward to advanced qualifications, and helps her in taking up more complicated tasks assigned by her employer.

Can you tell us about your education background? What made you become interested in accounting?

Like many other accounting personnel, I developed an interest in accounting since studying principles of accounts at secondary school. When I graduated, I had already planned to pursue the AAT qualification. However, I found that it was not easy to land an accounting job without related work experience and qualification. My first job was not related to accounting at all.

I like accounting because I can make use of what I am good at – dealing with numbers. Also it comes with a more promising career path than many other jobs. I have been in this industry and with Sinminchu for seven years but I have never been bored with my work, and can easily keep myself motivated.

What made you choose to acquire the AAT qualification?

One key advantage of the AAT qualification is its articulation to CPA. For those who do not have a bachelor's degree, AAT is a great way to articulate up to Hong Kong Institute of CPA's Qualification Programme (QP), after the completion of the Professional Bridging Examination (PBE). I had already heard about this great pathway when I was still a secondary school student and that's why I decided to go for it without hesitation after my graduation.

Can you tell us what you do mainly at work?

At Sinminchu Publishing Co. Ltd, I handle invoice reconciliation, financial statements and ledger management. When I first started to work in Sinminchu, I had already taken some AAT Examination papers and found that the knowledge I had learnt applied well to my daily work. When I had successfully completed all the eight examination papers, I was assigned more advanced tasks, such as helping my manager to consolidate reports and analyzing the company's financial situation.



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What have you learnt from the experience in pursuing the AAT qualification?

I took six years to complete all eight AAT Examination papers. During the process, my examination technique improved enormously. For example, I learnt how to interpret questions properly, plan my time well and answer the questions effectively. Improving these techniques is a valuable asset as I will need to take many public examinations in the journey to becoming a CPA. With this experience, I could complete the PBE within two years.

In addition, I found the AAT Examination syllabus very compatible with my daily work. AAT Examination Paper 7 "Financial Accounting" provides me with insights in improving the handling of accounting documents. Paper 2 "Business Communication and Organization and Management" also boosted my confidence in communicating with vendors and stakeholders.

What was the biggest challenge you faced during the examination?

AAT Examination Paper 6 "Fundamentals of Business Law" was a headache for me! The syllabus included a great deal of legal jargon and complicated case studies. In addition, I had never before touched on legal matters so it was all totally new to me. To tackle this paper, I practiced past papers and formed a study group with friends to share experiences and study tips.

Can you share with us your insights on study planning?

Accounting personnel have long working hours. But once you have developed a study plan you need to follow the schedule and review the study materials day by day. The process to the CPA designation may be long and tedious, but I would suggest students act fast since the accounting requirements and business environment are changing rapidly. We need to equip ourselves with the necessary knowledge, skills and competency.

What's special about accounting for a publishing or magazine trading business?

Two key factors are important when evaluating the finance of a publishing company. They are cost and inventory control. Printing costs keep rising. Hence, prudent cost awareness and negotiation are required in the business. Inventory control involves co-ordinating with our partners in all distribution channels to make sure there is sufficient stock as well as a clear mechanism to document all the stock movements.

What's your next career goal?

I've just started my QP study this year and therefore I'll focus my time and efforts on study first. I hope I will continue to contribute what I have learnt to the company.

Jannette Wai's study and career path

2001	F7 graduate
2001-07	Completed eight papers of AAT Examination
2009-11	Completed PBE
2012	Student of the Hong Kong Institute of CPA's qualification programme
2005-current	Sinminchu Publishing Co. Ltd

