



Featured AAT

Written by Aldric Chau



Name: Fiona Lau

Company: GP Electronics (HK) Limited

Reaching a professional standing

Accounting is an essential part of every business's lifeblood. Fiona Lau, Accountant at GP Electronics (HK) Limited, believes that accounting professionals play a principal role in ensuring smooth business operations. That's why she opted for the AAT qualification, which she feels equips her with everything she needs to pursue her higher career goals.

Tell us something about the company you work for.

I work for GP Electronics, a company specialized in the development, manufacture and marketing of electronic products. I work in the division covering hi-fi products and other consumer electronics.

Describe your position and job duties.

I am mainly responsible for preparing cost analyses. When a new electronic product is about to be launched, I have to prepare the cost analysis reports for management. This work involves an in-depth investigation in the cost of every part along the manufacturing process. Another of my roles is to handle budget forecasts and related tasks.

Why did you choose accountancy as your career?

I've been in the accountancy field for 16 years already. Before this, I was a marketer. But then I realized that every company must have accounting personnel to ensure their smooth operations. So I opted for this secure and important profession which serves as the backbone of every business.

What academic training did you receive before attaining your AAT qualification?

I took the LCCI qualification as my entry point. After that I considered taking up further formal academic qualifications but I changed my mind after having a child. Later I took up some short courses in subjects such as business and commerce before studying for the AAT qualification.



Why did you decide to study for the AAT qualification?

I believe that the AAT qualification provides a very strong edge for sub-degree holders to stay competitive in the market. It is a qualification that has unique value for the employers, as AAT graduates are set apart from others in the market. Another reason why I chose AAT is that the eight subjects gave me a comprehensive understanding of various disciplines, including taxation, law, and auditing.

How long did it take you to earn your AAT qualification? How do you find the knowledge and skills covered in your studies help you in your daily work?

It took me five years to complete all eight AAT exams. Making every endeavour in the examinations, I even achieved a distinction in some of the subjects such as advanced accounting. All the knowledge and skills learnt from the AAT qualification are very helpful in my daily work. This is especially true for the financial analysis part. I am now able to conduct systematic analysis on all the figures and present them in a clear and concise manner. Another useful and practical area was IT: knowing how to use Excel for data analysis and processing has been invaluable.

How has the AAT qualification helped you in your career development?

It has exerted a very positive influence on my career. After I became an AAT graduate, my boss started giving me more opportunities to try different types of job. Before I was qualified, I tended to be engaged in operational tasks. Now I have been given more opportunities to perform analysis for management.

Do you think the AAT qualification helps you in your career development? How?

In general I believe that the AAT qualification gives its holders greater bargaining power with our employers and enables us to attain a higher level in our careers. It has made me more confident and competent at work as my bosses are very supportive of these studies.

What is your plan for your career or further studies?

At this stage, it is my plan to have a rather stable job that I enjoy doing for the rest of my career. The AAT qualification has certainly helped me securing this favorable position. Currently I am considering pursuing a Bachelor's Degree or the Professional Bridging Examination in order to be eligible for the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants' Qualification Programme.

Would you recommend that your colleagues or friends take the AAT qualification? Why?

Definitely! It is a very practical and useful qualification. As an AAT graduate, I can have a stable and secure career. This qualification is also a door opener. It has provided me with many interesting options for further study or in pursuing a professional qualification.