

Employer in spotlight

The right attitude carries you a long way



Name: Steven Yue
Title: Assistant Manager
Company: Kerry Holdings Limited

In a sea of eligible candidates and a competitive job market, what can you do to make yourself stand out and convince a prospective employer that you are the right fit for the company? Steven Yue, Assistant Manager at Kerry Holdings Limited, shares his views on the importance of an employee's attitude, and gives some tips for those who are interested in joining the accounting profession.

Give us a brief introduction to your company.

Kerry Holdings Limited is a member of an international conglomerate in the financial investment and property development businesses. We have a finance department with more than 20 staff, which is led by the financial controller and which has various managers in different fields. As one of the assistant managers, I oversee part of the company's financial daily operations including bank loan arrangements, investments and funding, consolidation of subsidiaries, and handling receipts, payments and invoices.

Which of Dennis Mak's qualities impress you?

Dennis joined our company a few months ago. What strikes me most about him, even after such a short period of time, is his willingness to learn. Dennis has an impeccable working attitude that makes him stand out among his peers. He is willing to do what he has to and to ask about what he doesn't know, and will always heed advice. This attitude shows that he is a person who is committed and looks to move on and up in his career.

Dennis is still young and relatively new both to the profession and to our company. Naturally he will need to gain experience and familiarize himself with different areas of accounting in order to move further along his career path. However, his excellent attitude will be an invaluable trait and will undoubtedly help him go far.

What are your views on professional qualifications in relation to accounting personnels' careers?

At an initial stage, I think it all depends on what kind of position a prospective employee is looking for. For example, if you are looking for an entry level position, an employer usually would not expect anything beyond basic knowledge. However when you move up to intermediate to senior level positions, a tertiary education background in addition to a recognized professional qualification like AAT and Certified Public Accountant (CPA) would be expected.

In fact, once you have entered the accounting profession, undertaking professional examinations is an essential part of your career life. These qualifications are necessary for internal promotion within your company as well as to better equip yourself against external competition.

Apart from knowledge and a professional qualification, as an employer, what qualities do you expect from prospective accounting personnel?

In my opinion, what is most important, and indeed what makes one candidate stand out from others with a similar background, is the individual's attitude. I think it is crucial that those starting out in this hierarchical profession should display an aptitude for learning and starting from zero. If you are unwilling to learn, the chances are you will not be given many opportunities even if you manage to get the job. Attaining professional qualifications would be a proof of your effort and devotion and would help you climb up the hierarchy,

What in your opinion are the future opportunities for Dennis?

As Dennis develops and hones his abilities, I am sure there will be many opportunities for him. He will be given more chances to work in different business areas: this will be essential for him to broaden his horizons and to widen his competencies. Kerry is a large company, and we can provide plenty of opportunities for Dennis to grow as he continues to accumulate knowledge and experience.