

Featured AAT

Written by Jack But



Name: Yvonne Tang

Job Title: Accounts Manager

Yvonne Tang has been working in the accountancy field for almost 18 years. She talks to us about how her boss recognizes her AAT qualification and also how the accounting knowledge she acquired in the AAT training helps her in giving financial advices to the company.

Tell us something about the company you are working for. What is your position and what are your duties?

My employer is a laboratory specializing in environmental testing. We test many sorts of things like water, soil, food, and so on. I have been with the company for about 11 years. As an Accounts Manager, my duties involve accounting, reporting, internal audit and administrative work. Two staff members work for me and I supervise their work.

What academic training did you receive before you attained the HKIAAT qualification? Are you taking any course now?

I obtained the LCCI certificate and then took three years to complete an evening certificate course at Technical Institute (Kwai Chung) from which I received four exemptions in the AAT exams. I spent five years to complete the remaining four ATE papers. I am currently studying an Advanced Diploma in Accountancy course at HKU SPACE.

Why did you decide to pursue the AAT qualification?

Simply speaking, the qualification is a proverbial quality mark recognized by employers across the board. Frankly I do not believe that people can go a long way in accounting or management without this qualification.



What are your views on the AAT exam syllabus? Do you find it practical and do you think it matches Hong Kong's market and business needs?

It's very practical indeed. For instance, the Hong Kong taxation syllabus allowed me to get a better understanding of local taxation. I did not realize that this kind of knowledge was in such great demand locally until I studied for the AAT exams in earnest. My studies benefit me and the company alike as I know the taxation system inside out and I won't make mistakes when filing our taxes!

Do you think the knowledge and skills covered in the AAT exams are relevant to your daily work and your current studies?

Indeed they are. It goes without saying. The Diploma I am currently studying for includes many areas which the AAT exams covers. The continuity can hardly be overlooked. It would be difficult for me to handle my present studies without the knowledge I learnt from the AAT qualification. The subjects I studied, such as Hong Kong taxation, information technology applications and advanced accounting, have helped me a great deal in the workplace as well. One of the examples I can give here is that my boss often looks at our company's gross profit and wonders whether the company is in a sound financial state. Since he knows I have completed the AAT exams, he always seeks my advice when he needs help in understanding the company's financial position.

How does the AAT qualification help your career development?

Our boss thinks it's very important that his staff have professional qualifications. He rightly believes that these qualifications make us capable of performing our duties better, which in turn benefits the company. He even says that people with the right qualifications can someday be in charge of crucial projects, such as new market development. When he found out I had passed the AAT exams and realized the professional standards that the AAT qualification entails, he was delighted for me. Now I have two staff working for me, I receive satisfactory salary increments, and my boss is quite enthusiastic about writing glowing references to help me apply for membership of professional bodies. I was amazed when he asked me whether I would stay with the company. I reckon my boss is truly impressed and recognizes my efforts.

Would you recommend that your colleagues and friends consider taking the HKIAAT examinations? Why?

Yes, I recommend high school graduates and associate degree holders to consider taking the AAT exams. If they really want to go into accountancy, the qualification is a must for them to survive in the trade. It also provides a short cut to promotion since the AAT subjects are so relevant to their work and up-to-date. By studying for the AAT qualification they will be able to stay one step ahead of everyone else.