



Versatile AAT
Written by Aldric Chau



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Title: Accounts clerk
Company: RongGao Interior Contracting Ltd.

Open your door to a world of opportunities

Statements of financial position, statements of comprehensive income, and the concept of credit and debit may be the stereotyped jargons of accounting. However, these important accounting concepts mean a lot to Winni Wong, an AAT graduate. She talks about how the AAT qualification has given her opportunities at work in an interior design firm to explore the world of business without boundaries.

Why did you choose accounting? What do you like most about your career?

After I graduated from form five, I met with a friend one day and we talked about career development. Puzzled and confused about what to do with my future, I was enlightened by her advice to explore opportunities in accountancy. My interest in mathematics also motivated me in making this choice. Since I am good with numbers and interested in calculations, accounting comes naturally to me. Of course there are inevitably some challenges when dealing with complicated accounting tasks and problems. But the job satisfaction that comes along when a project is completed makes the effort worthwhile.

What motivated you to study for the AAT qualification?

After deciding to take the accounting path, I enrolled in an accounting diploma course run by the Hong Kong School of Commerce. Graduates of the course are eligible for an exemption from four out of eight AAT Examination papers. My teachers advised me that the AAT qualification could equip me with essential accounting and business knowledge. In addition, AAT qualification holders can move on to study for an accounting degree at Edinburgh Napier University. I decided to undertake the AAT Examination and completed the remaining four papers in three years.



What have you learnt from the AAT Examination and how do you apply your knowledge at work?

The breadth of the AAT Examination syllabus made me realize that accounting is not only about compiling the financial statements; it is the backbone to every business's operation. As a student from the science stream in secondary school, I went through a steep learning curve in studying the AAT Examination at the beginning. The four papers which I took were totally new for me.

However: no pain, no gain. I gained most from Paper 5 "Principles of taxation" and Paper 6 "Fundamentals of business law". The former offered me a chance to learn how to calculate my own salaries tax and the year-end tax provision for my company. Paper 6 was a challenging subject to master but very practical. It developed my understanding of the duties of company directors, and the filing requirements for accounting documents, etc. Through the AAT training, I also learned how to consolidate the accounts of various subsidiaries. This is all very useful in my daily work and in my future career development.

What are your key responsibilities at RongGao Interior Contracting Ltd.? Were there any changes in your duties after you completed the AAT Examination?

At the beginning, I mainly played a supportive role in handling different accounts. Preparing invoices, purchase orders, paper vouchers, and so on was part of my daily tasks. After completing all the AAT Examination papers, my employer recognized my commitment to accounting and my enhanced knowledge. I was given an opportunity to take charge of a large-scale club house and swimming pool revamp project, in which I need to manage the cash flow, costing and budget monitoring independently. The project lasted for two years. It was a fruitful experience for me to practise what I had learnt from the AAT Examination and to grasp the big picture of how to handle this kind of account from scratch.

Do you have any advice to offer students sitting the AAT Examination?

If you are determined to succeed in accounting, never get frustrated by the hurdles along the way. Behind all the seemingly cold numbers and spreadsheets, you will find accounting to be an inspiring part of business that leads you to a wealth of knowledge and experience – in areas such as taxation, auditing, management, just to name a few. Never set a frame for what opportunities the accountancy could offer, nor what you could possibly develop with these opportunities, as there are no boundaries!

Winni's study and career path

Year	
2002-2004	Obtained diploma in accounting studies from the Hong Kong School of Commerce
2004-2006	Undertook and passed AAT Exam Papers 5 to 8 (exempt from Papers 1 to 4)
2005-current	Accounts clerk in RongGao Interior Contracting Ltd.
2007-2010	Obtained bachelor in administration in accounting from the Edinburgh Napier University in collaboration with SCOPE / CityU