

Successful graduate

On the road to success

Andrew Wong, Senior finance manager, shares his experiences on how studying QP has helped him achieve his career aspirations.

A dream and a goal

From an early age, Andrew Wong knew what he wanted to do with his life, and set out to find the best way to achieve that. He is the son of an accountant who rose through the ranks to become a managing director of a large company. Wong completed his secondary-school education in Hong Kong before graduating from the University of Manchester, where he double-majored in accounting and law. After graduation, he returned to Hong Kong and joined a Big Four firm for five years before moving to City Telecom (H.K.) Limited, as a senior manager in the finance department. "I have similar aspirations to those of my father; to be a managing director of a company, or perhaps to start my own business, but it all depends on the opportunity," Wong says. "I chose to study accounting because I knew that it is the language for business communication."

"In business, there are a few key aspects that senior management needs to be familiar with – sales, marketing and accounting. With accounting knowledge, you are able to diagnose how companies do business; understand what they are doing and the rationale behind. Given accounting is the most technical of those fields, it appears to me that it would be better to study accounting earlier in university, and pick up the other aspects on the job. The technical knowledge is harder to learn when you get older," Wong says.

Learning the right way

Wong is not shy when it comes to explaining his motivations. He says that he chose to attend university in the United Kingdom because of its inspiring educational system. But when it comes to gaining his accounting qualification, there is no doubt that he will choose QP – a renowned programme with a global recognition.

QP's training is practical and interactive with emphasis on the application of knowledge rather than rote learning. Because of its open-book examination format, QP students are trained to research and find useful information to solve real-life business problems.



Graduate profile

Name	: Andrew Wong
QP graduation	: December 2005
Education	: Bachelor of business administration in accounting and law, University of Manchester
Job title	: Senior manager - finance
Company	: City Telecom (H.K.) Limited
Past experience	: Assistant manager, KPMG
Hobby	: Reading
Role model	: NiQ Lai

“With QP, learning is not spoon-fed. The breadth of knowledge is greater. Through workshop discussion, you learn that there is no absolute answer to a case problem. That is how the real world works. You need to know how to analyze issues, find the right information and apply it – these are the most important skills to learn from QP,” Wong says.

Moving with an innovative mind

Now, in his role at City Telecom (H.K.) Limited, Wong is in a position to truly appreciate the benefits of QP. “My company is about innovation and change in integrated telecommunication services. When I was hired, they looked for a business manager, not just an accounting manager. An accounting manager has technical know-how, but business is a broader genre, and I would offer that to my employer. The world changes so quickly that the book knowledge you learn becomes obsolete very quickly. You might be the smartest in school, but you need to train yourself to be a flexible person who understands adaptability and responds to change in a timely manner. That is what QP gives you, the analytical and problem solving skills to stay current and to keep up with the day-to-day challenges.”

Tips for tackling challenges:

- Keep up with current issues. View from a macro perspective and think about how to apply knowledge in a practical way.
- Work on your presentation skills. Practise as much as you can to build up the confidence.
- Open the mindset to changes. Seize every opportunity to learn new things.



Interview and reporting by Christina Ko