

## Successful graduate

# Lifelong focus

Vincent Kwok has always wanted to be a successful accountant – which was why he chose QP as his preferred accountancy qualification.

### Making the smart choice

Not many people know exactly what they want to do as early in life as Vincent Kwok – but for Kwok, his dream career is always going to be in accountancy. “I decided to become an accountant when I was at primary school,” he says. “The first reason is that I love mathematics and numbers. The second reason I decided to do it when I grew up is that I find being an accountant is rewarding and challenging. It is a respectable profession that is admired by many people – and then of course there is the money and job security.”

As part of his long-term commitment to the profession, Kwok started studying for QP shortly after he graduated from university – about six months later, in fact. “At that time, I knew that QP would provide a good foundation training for a prospective accountant like me. It is a renowned and well-structured programme that is widely recognized around the world. I believed that pursuing a CPA qualification via Hong Kong Institute of CPAs QP could bring many job opportunities and career advancement to me.”

He says that, for many students, the open-book nature of QP examinations is very attractive – the challenges it creates makes it a good preparation for working life. “Because of the open-book examinations, you do not need to rote learn and memorize everything. Instead, you have to analyze case questions from different perspectives and suggest practical solutions. So, unlike other examinations, your skills in locating useful information as well as applying technical knowledge to a real case situation are enhanced and are transferable to your daily job.”

### Commercial considerations

Before joining Cheung Kong, a renowned property developer with more than 50 people in its finance department, Kwok worked as an auditor for two Big Four firms. He says his experience of working in the practising sector was invaluable, providing him with a grounding in and an understanding of the challenges he would meet later in his career. “I decided to work in a commercial organization when I was studying in university,” he says. “I started my career with an audit firm as I wanted to better equip myself and gain wider knowledge of the business world. As an auditor, I needed to communicate with different clients, and to understand a diverse range of industries’ strengths and weaknesses. My horizon was broadened and I learned more about my interest. This helped me decide which industry I wanted to work for after a few years.”



#### Graduate profile

Name	: Vincent Kwok
QP graduation	: December 2004
Education	: Bachelor of business administration in accountancy, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Job title	: Accountant
Company	: Cheung Kong (Holdings) Limited
Past experience	: - Audit manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers - Senior associate, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
Hobbies	: Badminton, computer games and travelling overseas

That eventually led him to join one of the most diverse companies in Hong Kong: Cheung Kong (Holdings) Limited. “At the time I was looking for new job challenge, Cheung Kong was recruiting staff that would be in charge of its hotel operations and also some PRC projects. I felt that was a good match for my qualifications and interests,” Kwok says.

## Careering ahead

He adds, working in the commercial sector has been a positive experience because it has allowed him to gain experience of a far broader business role. “As an auditor, I mainly focused on the figures – compliance with rules and regulations. Now I am focused on the operations of a company – anything I can see that could affect the business.”

It is QP which brings Kwok sound accounting training of technical knowledge and skills that are essential for management. “In QP workshops, we were given many opportunities to learn proactively and work with others as a team in solving real case problems. Through active group discussion, we were trained to be good team players and our skills in communication, negotiation and presentation were polished.”

Kwok shares that he is targeting a management role within the next five years, and with the focus and ambition he has shown so far in his career, it would not be at all surprising if he achieves that.

### Tips for QP students:

- Devise a career plan as early as possible.
- Grasp every job opportunity to equip yourself for meeting future challenges.
- Apply as much as what you have learned from QP in your daily work.



Interview and reporting by Richard Lord