

Successful graduate

Top of the Class

With the help of QP, Yeung Tin Wai achieved success – academically and professionally.

Examination excellence

High-flyer Yeung Tin Wai is one of QP's many success stories. Not only does he work as a senior consultant for Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu; he is also an academic award winner.

Yeung works in the Big Four firm's tax department. "In my current role, I mainly prepare tax returns and computations, and submit them to the Inland Revenue," he says. "I also help the seniors with tax consultancy projects," which can involve more or less anything.

From early on in life, he knew he wanted to be an accountant. "I graduated with an accountancy degree, so I started to learn about the accountancy profession when I was at university," he says. "As a student, I was convinced that the accountancy profession would give me a clear career path – a more stable and foreseeable future."

Yeung started QP after graduating with his bachelor degree, studying for the accountancy qualification between September 2008 and February of this year. He was very successful at his study of QP, being awarded the ICAEW/Simon Morris Memorial Prize for outstanding achievement in the QP, and became the candidate to pass the four QP modules with the highest aggregate marks. "It came as a surprise because other candidates were very strong," he says. "We all had good educational background, so the competition was keen." Yeung says he believes that his success was mainly down to the sheer quantity of hard work he put in. "After graduation, I spent almost every Saturday and Sunday studying. Some people just study at the last minute, but I spent more time so I understood the materials better."

A practical programme

For Yeung, the decision to study for QP was a straightforward one. "I believed that doing QP would be the most direct way to get into the accountancy profession," he says. "The QP structure is excellent, with four core modules and a final examination. Combined with working experience, you can become a CPA. And because it is offered by the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs, the statutory licensing accounting body in Hong Kong, it has a lot of credibility."



Graduate profile

Name	: Yeung Tin Wai
QP graduation	: December 2009
Education	: Bachelor of business administration in professional accountancy, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Job title	: Senior consultant
Company	: Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
Hobby	: Reading

The workshops that form the backbone of QP study were useful on several levels, he adds – they were good training for the examinations and for work. “One advantage of the workshops is that they helped me prepare for the examinations. If you are just studying for examinations, all you can do is study past examination papers. With workshops, you can discuss what might happen, because the questions are similar to those in the examinations. It is a good point of QP – it allows students to start preparing earlier.”

Yeung says that being assessed on presentations during workshops was also very useful. “In our daily lives, very often we have to present to clients and seniors, so it is good preparation.” In particular, he says, the short preparation times in the workshops, meaning candidates needed to organize their materials quickly, was excellent practice for the sort of situations that crop up all the time in real-life working situations.

Like many candidates, Yeung also praises QP’s open-book examination system, again because it mirrors real life better than the traditional closed-book system. “It means you do not waste too much time reciting materials,” he says. “In my daily working life, all materials are available to me all the time. So QP gave me a good opportunity to learn about applying knowledge rather than rote learning.”

For Yeung, QP has prepared him for a brighter future. “My career path is good and very clear,” he says. “A career in the accountancy profession is quite challenging; we have to deal with many clients. QP helps me to adapt and apply my knowledge every day, which I am sure will be good for my career development.”

Tips for success in QP examinations:

- Start preparation earlier and practise past examination papers to look for areas of improvement.
- Grasp every opportunity to apply the knowledge to daily work to reinforce your understanding of the subject matter.
- Manage your time and prioritize work to devise an efficient study schedule.



Interview and reporting by Richard Lord