

## Successful graduate

# The bigger picture

QP has proven invaluable in leading Lenny Wong into his career in business – via his career in accountancy.

### A rounded role

For Lenny Wong, working in the accountancy profession was the perfect entree into the broader world of business. Wong is currently a senior manager, corporate governance in Li & Fung Group. After graduation, he worked for seven years at a Big Four firm and was promoted to a relatively senior position before his move to the commercial sector.

As a member of the corporate compliance team in Li & Fung Group, Wong is involved in aligning the corporate vision to foster ethical principles that respect the environment, people and communities in pursuit of economic performance and enhancing stakeholders' values. His role also takes him to a wide range of business activities focusing on operation efficiency and risk management, how to run a business effectively, and applying accounting theories in a commercial field. "It is more than just auditing," he says.

What attracted him to accountancy in the first place was the opportunity to learn business from the inside; where the distinction between accounting knowledge and mainstream business practice become blurred. "I decided to pursue the accountancy profession after graduating from secondary school," he says. "I had been studying science. With a logical thinking background, accountancy was a good platform for me to understand business. Furthermore, it is a reputable profession: with respectable social status, stable work, and rewarding financial returns."

### Internalization

Wong took his QP examinations the year after he graduated with his bachelor degree at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He went straight into the programme, he says, because of its obvious practical applicability in the workplace.

"I heard about QP when I was at university. I liked it because its open-book examination format places more emphasis on the application of knowledge, rather than just rote learning. It allows you to learn from theories and apply them to real-life cases. There is a lot of information available. You can search for any information but what you need to do is to think critically and suggest feasible solutions."



#### Graduate profile

Name	: Lenny Wong
QP graduation	: December 2001
Education	: Bachelor of business administration in professional accountancy, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Job title	: Senior manager, corporate governance
Company	: Li & Fung Group
Past experience	: Assurance manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers
Hobbies	: Travelling, hiking and sports

“One special attribute of QP is that you need to be very specific when you are answering the questions – be relevant to the case and situation, understand the root causes and rationale behind. That also applies to the real world; when you do an assignment for a company, you have to focus on specific features of that particular company, in addition to considering external factors. How you analyse cases in QP training is similar to how you analyse cases in real life,” says Wong.

On top of equipping students with an understanding of and a feel for real-world working practices, QP also helps us to develop valuable people skills, says Wong. “In the interactive workshops, you have lots of opportunities to exchange ideas with different participants with different opinions. We have to present our ideas clearly and support them with rationales, and very often even have to influence others. This is what happens in real life – and that is the most important skill in business.”

Wong adds that by working for two years at his current employer, his work allowed him to gain exposure to various aspects of a multi-national corporation with an initiative of “Think globally, act locally”. Work is also coupled with training on critical and analytical thinking, not to mention the people management skills. This is what the QP training has equipped him and set him on the road to continuous learning.

“The role of accountants keeps evolving. To be business partners or consultants of a company, we need to equip ourselves to cope with the upcoming changes!” adds Wong.

### **How QP graduates can make themselves appealing to prospective employers?**

- Be proactive and willing to learn. Keep yourself up-to-date with a global vision. Work with passion and life-long learning is the best investment for yourself!
- Develop sound communication skills. Be open-minded, respect cultural differences and individuality when communicating with people from different stand points.
- Be confident and concise. Employers always look for candidates who can digest loads of information and present it precisely and concisely.



Interview and reporting by Richard Lord