

## Successful graduate

# Banking on QP

For Emily Ho, QP sharpened her competitive edge for moving on to a career in the financial sector.

## Appliance of science

Emily Ho, internal auditor for DBS Bank (HK) Limited, was interested in developing a science-related career before she decided to become an accountant – so it is no surprise that her career has seen her focus on the technical side of the profession. “I was not an accountancy student, but I started my career as an accountant,” she says. “I made the decision in the third year of my bachelor degree. At that time, I very luckily got an offer to study for a master of philosophy, which was related to engineering and science.”

Her success continued when she received several job offers upon graduation. Eventually, she was attracted to a Big Four firm because of its reputation for professionalism. “When you think about becoming an accountant or an auditor in Hong Kong, you need to acquire a wide range of skills. I appreciate QP for providing a comprehensive training which well-equips me with diversified skill sets. Also, I was amazed by the work exposure at the Big Four firm. I had opportunities to meet with different clients, and I received a lot of good training there.”

Eventually, Ho decided she needed to acquire more new skills and felt that the only way to do that was by leaving the firm to work in the commercial sector. “I joined a bank, where my job required a lot of analytical, logical, quantitative skills. It is rather challenging for me, which is why I like it – I can keep learning new skills and challenging myself.”

## QP the indispensable qualification

The bank she initially joined was Standard Chartered where she worked as a manager in the front-line, but last year she moved to be an internal auditor at DBS. “I find the most interesting thing is to focus on risk assessment,” she says. “I would like to be an expert in risk assessment and regulatory compliance; we need not only accountancy knowledge, but also communication skills.”

Ho says that the aspect of her current role she enjoys most is its diversity. “I am very impressed because I can work on various projects. I find this really interesting because it allows me to accumulate more new knowledge and skills.”



### Graduate profile

Name	: Emily Ho
QP graduation	: December 2007
Education	: Bachelor of mechanical engineering and master of philosophy, The University of Hong Kong
Job title	: Internal auditor
Company	: DBS Bank (HK) Limited
Past experience	: - Senior associate, PricewaterhouseCoopers - Manager, credit and marketing, Standard Chartered Bank
Hobbies	: Travelling, reading, handicrafts, cooking and swimming

QP was a particularly indispensable qualification to help Ho in her career advancement, given her academic background was in science rather than finance. "Compared to other qualifications, QP is fast-track – it is a better pathway for non-accounting graduates like me to learn and to get practical experience," she says, adding that QP's workshops were especially useful for learning real-life workplace skills.

### **What are the most important skills that young prospective accountants need to acquire to be successful in their careers?**

- Strong quantitative and qualitative skills: accountants should be well equipped to resolve numerical and analytical problems.
- Strong interpersonal skills: accountants do not always work on their own. They should precisely and concisely communicate with stakeholders or management.
- Willingness to undertake continuous learning: accountants should keep themselves competent in handling difficulties by updating their knowledge from reading, practice at work, and life-long study.



Interview and reporting by Richard Lord