

Successful graduate

A taxing vocation

Yan Yeung combines the diverse skills learnt from the QP when working in a Big Four tax department.

Conversion convenience

From her choice of studies, Yan Yeung, senior manager, tax services at PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited, looked destined for another profession. She was one of the first batch of students to undertake a grueling four-year-course at The University of Hong Kong that earned her two degrees: Bachelor of Business Administration (Law) and Bachelor of Law. However, becoming a lawyer was never really her intention. When I chose the curriculum, I did not have a fixed plan – I just chose something that was new at that time,” she says.

Yeung turned to accountancy when she twice worked as an intern at a Big Four firm while studying.

“I learned about accounting, business and law at the same time when I worked in the tax department during my internship,” she says, “so I thought taxation would be a very good choice for me, allowing me to make use of the knowledge of both curriculums I had studied.”

Having studied business and law at university, Yeung then went on to complete one of the Institute’s accredited conversion programmes before enrolling directly for QP. She did this as soon as she finished her full-time studies and got a job. The clear route map QP offered for non-accounting graduates was one of the programme’s key advantages for her, she says. “If I had taken another qualification, I would have had to take a lot of examinations. I am pleased that I made the wise decision to choose QP. With its broad curriculum of four core modules, I was taught solid technical knowledge and I had many opportunities to discuss case problems during workshops which helped me reinforce what I learned from textbooks. It was extremely helpful to a student with a non-accounting background.”

She adds that QP was the preferred accountancy qualification by her employer at the time. She was pleased with the support shown, while she was studying, by both the firm and the Institute. She also appreciates very much that QP content is so practical and highly relevant to her daily work. “All four modules feature skills that I need to know when I do my job: taxation, financial accounting, auditing, management accounting – I need to have knowledge in all of them.”

Yeung says she found the workshops of QP to be challenging but very useful. “It is a chance to meet more people, it is a chance to communicate with people from different fields, and it is a chance to learn things from others – rather than just concentrate on your own study materials.”



Graduate profile

Name	: Yan Yeung
QP graduation	: December 2004
Education	: Bachelor of Business Administration (Law) and Bachelor of Law, The University of Hong Kong
Job title	: Senior manager, tax services
Company	: PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited
Hobbies	: Travelling, learning Korean and Japanese, watching movies

Back to tax

When Yeung was studying, she worked as an intern for a year in the tax department, and then another year in the audit department – an experience which confirmed what she wanted to do long term. “I prefer a career in taxation,” she says. “Some people like audit because they have the chance to work in clients’ offices and to move around, but I am not that sort of person.”

In 2003, Yeung joined PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited as a tax associate and has stayed there ever since; rising to the position of senior manager, tax services. The biggest plus of her job, she says, is the opportunity it affords her to work with a broad range of clients – large-scale companies from a very broad range of industries including consumer products, industrial products, information technology, telecoms and entertainment – and with overseas clients and colleagues in other offices around the world. In particular, she works very closely alongside the firm’s China tax department. Placed in the tax department, she was able to combine several skills she acquired from QP. “QP workshop training has really enhanced my communication skills and gave me confidence in meeting people from different backgrounds. In particular, when I was seconded to the New York office and worked on some international tax assignments.”

“I enjoyed meeting many different kinds of customers and they are all big multi-national corporate clients. Because of the international clients, I get a chance to know other people and to learn about their tax jurisdictions.”

What are the most useful pieces of advice you have been given in your career?

- Apart from strengthening your technical knowledge, you have to grasp the opportunities to enhance your communication and interpersonal skills.
- Be practical and flexible, and take the initiative in talking to your clients to understand their business.
- Building up your business network is a key to success.



Interview and reporting by Richard Lord