



Feature interview
By Zoë Byron

Route to success with QP

Name: Edmond Pang
Position: Business Analyst
Company: Standard Bank Asia Ltd.



You have a master degree in business administration. What was your undergraduate degree and why do you want to be an accountant?

I obtained my first degree in accounting and finance in 2001 at the University of Hong Kong. Both my bachelor and master degrees have laid down good solid foundations for me to work in the business field. With my background in accountancy, I was able to understand the financial situation of the company I am working at, but felt that becoming an accountant will enable me to better appreciate how different business strategies can impact on the financial performance.

Why did you decide to follow a career in finance?

I decided to work in the banking industry because it is a growing sector in Hong Kong and the nature of the profession is dynamic, challenging and fascinating. Furthermore, banking plays a fundamental role in the economy. It provides a good environment for me to learn more about the financial aspects of Hong Kong.

Can you tell me a bit about the working experience you gained at your previous employments? What particular useful skills did you learn?

I started my career as an executive trainee at Chong Hing Bank, formerly called Liu Chong Hing Bank, and I was heavily involved in the preparation of management reports as well as financial reporting. My second job was at the Bank of Communications where I was assigned to the assets and liabilities management team. I was responsible for conducting research and analysing the trends and customer patterns of various business activities. From my experience at these institutions, I have learned to look at things from different perspectives and have gained valuable insights into accounting. I also learned how to apply information technology to complete my tasks more efficiently.

How did you hear about QP?

I heard about QP while I was doing my undergraduate studies at the University of Hong Kong. I attended QP introductory sessions organized by the HKICPA where I learned a lot more about the programme.



What made you decide to enrol in QP?

I decided to enrol in QP for many reasons. Firstly, QP is not only locally well known in Hong Kong but is also internationally recognised. Secondly, I liked the format of the programme, with its up-to-date and well-structured module materials and the use of lots of practical examples. Thirdly, I was really impressed by the interactive workshop environment which could help me sharpen my analytical, technical and presentation skills. I believe these are essential skills that lead to success in today's business world.

Tell me a bit about how the QP went. Which areas were particularly interesting or useful?

The most interesting and enjoyable areas of QP were the workshops. We had the chance to share our knowledge and viewpoints with both the facilitators and other students. We also greatly benefited from the group discussion as we were required to solve unseen questions as a team. This not only trained us to think logically and apply our technical knowledge to the cases, but also gave us the opportunity to build up friendships with our teammates.

Do you enjoy your current job with Standard Bank Asia Ltd, and how do you think QP has helped you with your career?

I enjoy working at the Standard Bank Asia Ltd as I am exposed to a variety of different areas. I am responsible for preparing consolidated financial statements, managing variances, maintaining information systems for budgeting as well as other ad hoc accounting-related duties. QP has definitely helped me in my career, particularly in technical areas such as financial reporting and financial management.

Where do you see your career going next?

As there is always so much to learn, my aspiration is to further enhance my professional skills in order to cope with the ever-changing business world.

Have you got any advice for QP students?

I think QP students should be proactive in their learning process and keep abreast of the latest standards and regulations. They should also try to apply knowledge in a practical way rather than just memorising the study materials. Preparing a quick-notes file that summarises the key issues will certainly help in handling both the workshops and the examinations.