



QP Graduate Career File

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What was your career and study history before enrolling in the QP?

I graduated in law with the University of Oxford and qualified as a solicitor in the UK. I practised as a solicitor, working mainly in corporate finance, in international law firms in London, Hong Kong and Toronto. I decided to move in-house and joined Hysan as legal counsel in 1999. I am now in charge of the group's corporate services: these include legal and company secretarial, human resources and administration, and corporate communications.

What made you decide to take up accountancy studies?

There's a great deal of interaction between the legal and accounting fields and I felt this connection even more strongly after moving in-house. Financial literacy is an important part of corporate life and I decided to work on mine. My initial thought was to improve my understanding of financial matters without necessarily getting an additional qualification.

Why did you join the QP?

Friends who are practising accountants encouraged me to join the QP, saying that this was a new approach to accounting studies in Hong Kong with practical emphasis which they thought would suit my purposes well.

How did your studies progress?

I first had to complete a conversion programme, which I did with Hong Kong Polytechnic University. I took my first modular exam in December 2004, and passed the FPE in 2005.

What benefits has QP brought you?

It's a very useful tool that has opened up many new areas and helps me be more efficient and effective in my work. In order to support business units properly in today's corporate world you need to be the line managers' business partner. Accounting and finance are the first steps in understanding how business runs.



Can you give any specific examples of how your qualification helps you?

It helps in many areas! For instance, in my management role it's important that I understand how budgets and business plans are done. In this year's final results announcement, we need to explain to shareholders, the media and other stakeholders the impact of new accounting standards, and it helps that I now have a more complete understanding of the underlying accounting issues.

Most other QP students are fresh graduates. Given your career path, what was it like to be studying with them?

Learning is a continual process. While my practical experience was an advantage, we were all pursuing the same goal, so my previous experience didn't make much difference.

Did other students ask for your assistance on the basis of your prior work experience?

Some of them did ask my help on legal matters!

What was your overall impression of the QP?

I would strongly recommend this course to others in the same position as mine. It's a very well-organised course and is highly practical in nature. It stresses the underlying concepts, which I think is essential. Financial literacy is a must for many people and taking the QP is a good way of ensuring you can communicate effectively on financial matters. It provides the tools you need to work in a commercial environment.

Do you have any advice for QP students?

QP is a very practical course. You should try to integrate with your daily work as far as is practical and possible.