



Feature interview
By Zoë Byron

Route to success with QP

Name: Xerxes Chow
Job Title: Finance Manager
Company: Proview International Holdings Limited



What was your undergraduate degree in?

My undergraduate degree was in Accounting at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), where I graduated in 2002.

What made you choose Accounting?

Studying in Accounting offered me a great opportunity for professional development and gave me a more secured and steady foreseeable career path.

What did you do after you graduated?

My first employment was with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, in their auditing department. My duties mainly consisted of auditing and accounting. I had to work closely with clients in different businesses. It was good experience as I learned how to deal with and understands the needs of various clients, as well as their business. Additionally, I learnt and effectively utilized appropriate auditing technique in various circumstances and sharpened my accounting knowledge.

How did you hear about QP?

In 2000 the Institute established the Prospective Student Society (now known as QP Club) at my university. During this time I was in my second year of studies and I was chairman of the Accounting Student Society. I then honourably became nominated as the first student representative of the HKUST to serve on the QP Club. Through the club's activities I was given lots of helpful information about the accountancy profession, the Institute and the QP offered by the Institute.

What made you decide to enrol in the QP course?

I knew that it would prepare me well for my future employment. The QP Club gave me a lot of insights into the benefits of the QP; for example, the workshops provided excellent training for real-life work situations. Through the workshops I learned that working is not about reading books and just getting information, but knowing how to apply the knowledge in a practical way.



How did you find the QP went?

The workshops in particular were very useful as the different subject areas covered allowed me to place myself in a variety of work situations. Since starting my present job, I have found myself in many similar circumstances, so QP has made me much more prepared with regards these experiences.

What does your current job involve?

I'm a Finance Manager of a listed company. My job is broader than other equivalents as it does not only involve accounting, but taxation and financial management as well. My duties mainly deal with financial reporting, and other financial matters and issues. Although my first job taught me consolidated accounting techniques and gave me broad exposure, I have gained more comprehensive business knowledge in depth now. I must offer my sincerest thanks to my bosses whom have given me such opportunities, and QP, that has equipped me well, and I now use what I learned there to analyze the issues in different aspects, so that I can cope with new challenges in the job.

How do you think QP has helped you to develop your career?

I think it has taught me how to cope with different work situations and challenges, and how to use the knowledge to make myself more flexible. As I mentioned earlier, the questions covered in QP in both the exams and the workshops share a lot of similarities with what I have faced in my work. The topic coverage was also very broad, not only practical examples but current hot issues were covered. In particular the final exam which concentrates on connecting the four modules was helpful, as it teaches me to integrate various technical knowledge and skills practically. For this, I believe QP has helped me a lot in my career.

Where do you see your career going next?

I would like to stay here as long as I can, I enjoy it because it keeps me challenged and has good prospects.

Have you got any advice for QP students?

I would recommend students to work hard in their job and pay attention during the workshops, as these will be of great use later on. I also think you can learn a lot from your QP classmates, so listening and contributing in discussions is also important and can lead to better performance in the workshops and a better overall mark.

Prospective CPA
January 2007