

6. Daniel TSANG – Accounting – Certified Accountant

When I chose the programme for university

I remember that accounting was a popular subject

I understood that accountant was a professional and stable job at that time

It has prospect and suits my character

So I chose to study accounting

I naturally entered the industry after graduation

I worked in one of the Big Four accounting firms

My main duties were auditing clients' financial statements

And writing auditors' reports

I entered into a listed company after I gained some experiences

As a chief financial officer

Besides writing financial statements

I am also responsible for the financial planning

And tax arrangement of the company

As well as corporate merges and acquisitions

It is more diverse

No matter you are an auditor or a chief finance officer

You have to face different clients and

Handle different projects

Working time is long

Therefore, you need to arrange the time and work better

In order to finish the tasks

If you want to become a certified accountant

You need to take exams

Whether you have studied accounting in university or not

You can still take the professional exams by Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants

After passing the exam and working for three years in the field of accounting

You can become a certified accountant

Qualities that an accountant needs to have

Apart from being self-motivated

You need to be interested in numbers and business knowledge

As well as being able to think independently

And analytical

You have to attend to details, patient, serious and proactive

You need to have good communication and interpersonal skills, and team spirit

I think the most challenging thing is to remain competitive

Because of the rapid development of technology and artificial intelligence

As well as the ever-changing business mode in the society

I think accountants in Hong Kong need to keep abreast of the times

We should enhance accounting knowledge and professional standard

The society keeps developing and changing

Including accounting standard, legislation, regulations

Including Inland Revenue Ordinance, Company Law, Listing Rules

Therefore, accountants need to keep learning

Gaining knowledge and enhancing financial skills

In order to cater for the needs at work and remain competitive

When I graduated and started working in one of the Big Four accounting firms

It was during the Asian financial tsunami in 1997

Until SARS in 2003

Economy in Hong Kong was in recession

Every industry, including accounting firms, were cutting staff in a large scale

Fortunately, my clients at that time were all listed corporations

So I managed to escape from the staff cutting trend

It made me realise accounting industry could also be attacked by economic recession

So I knew that I had to enhance my professional knowledge and broaden professional areas

Therefore, I usually went to Mainland China for different kinds of auditing projects
I also got certified in China at the same time
Becoming an accountant in China enhanced my confidence in my ability
It helped me a lot for my future career
Accounting work is usually very busy and challenging
Overtime work is inevitable
However, I usually forget time when I am too devoted to work
Therefore, I always communicate with family and friends
To obtain balance between work and private life
I suggest students take part in internship program of accounting firms and other organisations
During summer holidays
You can understand more about the industry and the work flow
It offers a great help to enter the industry
There are many types of accounting work
Young people should find development direction according to their abilities and interests
No matter it is auditing, tax or finance accounting, you have to be determined and enthusiastic
You cannot be afraid of hard work and need to learn new knowledge continuously
You should foster good communication skills and relationship with others
As well as establishing team spirit
It would be beneficial to future work