Tuesday 18th October: Accountancy – The Inside Story

SPEAKER PROFILES

Stephen Wood
Senior Executive, Assurance, PwC

Stephen is a recently qualified ACA chartered accountant who has trained with PricewaterhouseCoopers. During his three years at PwC he has worked with a wealth of clients from different industries and sizes, ranging from FTSE 100 companies to SMEs. His responsibilities include critically analysing clients’ financial information in order to benefit shareholders and other key stakeholders’ investment decisions.

A piece of advice: “Work hard and be open to new experiences that will challenge you and put you under pressure, which will help you develop quickly and build the necessary skills towards a successful career.

Sara Gibson
Group Management Accountant, DMA (UK) Ltd

Sara’s responsibilities include producing monthly management account, dashboard reporting, budgets and many other diverse financial activities. One of the best things about her role is how different every day can be and the interaction this creates with all of her colleagues. She enjoys providing managers with the financial information they require for decision-making and relishes seeing the difference that a strong finance department can make to any company’s success.

Her role is varied, fast-paced and rewarding. Sometimes there can be a lot of projects that overlap and the challenge can be ensuring they are all delivered on time and to a high standard.

A piece of advice: “Try and secure work experience in different sectors of the industry and think about what roles you prefer. There are many different routes into the finance industry – find what works for you.”
Jemima Jones

Tax Director, Wilkins Kennedy LLP

Jemima currently heads up the tax department for the Heathrow office and specialises in advising owner managed businesses and shareholders over a variety of sectors. Day to day she advises on personal tax planning, corporate tax planning, transactions, restructuring and share schemes.

The best thing about her work is teaching staff and clients how to make their investments and decisions as tax efficient as possible, to ensure they walk into deals with a full awareness of the issues facing them and tax implications of anything they do. It is the most rewarding job and also very much appreciated by clients. Her biggest challenge can be keeping up to date with the ever changing legislation!

A piece of advice: It’s not for the light hearted, train hard and get your head down, expect long hours and tough exams but also expect reward when you qualify, the world really is then your oyster.

Paul Creasey

Director, Wilkins Kennedy LLP

Paul is Audit Director with Wilkins Kennedy. He helps people fulfil their ambitions, whether they are clients or colleagues, and has a diverse portfolio of clients covering international groups, privately held and venture capital backed businesses and not for profit entities.

Being their auditor and accountant means they’ll get in touch over a wide variety of financial related queries and it’s his job to either know the answer or find a colleague who does! That kind of variety means he is never sure what the day will hold and it’s really satisfying when you help someone and see you’ve made a difference.

A piece of advice: “Be prepared to study hard until you qualify – it’s hard going but worth it. And join a firm who are big enough to give you variety, a great training experience and let you come face to face with the entrepreneurs and managers of your clients but without getting lost in the crowd.”
Emma Gilson

Marketing Executive, ICAEW, Chartered Accountants

Emma is a Marketing Executive in the Student Recruitment Team at ICAEW. She currently works with schools, colleges, universities and ICAEW Authorised Training Employers in London and the South East of England. Her role is to promote ICAEW’s professional qualification, the ACA, to students by raising awareness of career opportunities in the accountancy, finance and business sectors.

She’s been working at ICAEW for three years and has gained great satisfaction from helping others to make informed decisions about their career. Emma runs a number of skills sessions to help talented students develop their employability skills and commercial awareness in order to gain confidence and succeed in securing a job in which they will enjoy and flourish.

A piece of advice: “Maximise all opportunities at university to develop employability skills, commercial awareness and an understanding of the career opportunities available. Be it through work experience, volunteering or getting involved in student societies. Our employers are looking for well-rounded individuals!”