



If you want to leap ahead

How AAT training can be your launch pad

AAT and training

PKF: Who are we?

If you are thinking of starting a career in accounting, why not join PKF? We are one of the UK's leading firms of accountants and business advisers.

We have a reputation for combining excellence in training with an informal, friendly work environment. Being a mid-tier firm – and not one of the 'Big Four' – also works in our favour. Because of our size, we're less bureaucratic. We're also more flexible, offering real scope for independent ideas and decisive action.

'Taking the AAT qualification at PKF provides students with a huge advantage. On the job training and structured support throughout their studies, means they gain fundamental accounting skills that really do aid their development.'

John Watkins – National Head of Training

PKF has a long history of recruiting Association of Accounting Technician (AAT) students and continues to do so. This provides a reliable and efficient resource to the firm; We are also recognised as an employer that invests highly in its people.

Founded in 1869, the firm is now part of PKF International – a global network of legally independent firms with a turnover of nearly US\$1 billion and more than 12,800 employees operating in over 100 countries around the world.

We work with a wide range of clients, including some of the UK's leading football clubs like Celtic FC, Liverpool FC and Fulham FC. Other clients include Group 4, Helix, The London Underground, the Department of Education & Science and Marriott Hotels.

Joining PKF will also mean you are likely to get involved in a wide range of activities right from the start. A good example of this is the cross-section of clients we work with, ranging from small family-owned businesses, to large PLCs in all industry sectors, to major charities and public sector bodies.

These clients all benefit from an integrated approach based on understanding of the key issues facing their businesses. This enables us to meet their needs at each stage of development and allows them to focus on building the value of their business, while you build your career.

Deepace Mistry (Leicester) found himself pleasantly surprised. 'When I started at PKF I told myself what to expect: lots of admin work! Then, suddenly, I was carrying out account jobs and assisting on audit. It was great that things progressed so quickly.'

'Then again, college is quite intense, so you do find yourself learning fast. Luckily the tutors are very helpful and have a lot of experience. You only have a few days at college to study for one unit, but I have found that many of the units I have studied at college have linked in with the work I do at PKF. This has been very useful both from a work and a college point of view.'

'I decided to study for the AAT as it is a well-recognised qualification that gives on-the-job training. It seemed a better route for me than university. I heard about the AAT at a school careers event. I wanted to train with a top-ten firm, so I decided to try PKF. Their location suited me and they were offering good training and development.'

'A typical day varies quite a bit. Most of the jobs that I carry out involve accounts prep work. This involves putting sets of accounts together. When going on audit I help assist the seniors. I'd certainly recommend this as a route into a career. It's varied, interesting and challenging all at the same time.'



Laura Green (Leeds) was very aware when she applied for a job with PKF that this was the right company for her. 'I didn't want to work in a small firm as I wanted to get a broader experience of clients. I also knew I didn't want to work at any of the 'Big Four' firms. In terms of size, PKF was ideal.'

As a trainee, she would normally study a couple of nights during the week and most of Sunday, 'although when it got closer to exam time (about four weeks before) study becomes your life!' That was three and a half years ago. Now a fully qualified AAT professional, Laura expands on a typical day: 'I get up fairly early and head into

the office. Once in, I read my emails and start work – checking the planning chart to make sure I know where I'm going, who I'm meeting etc. Some days I spend all day auditing in the office – others my feet never touch the ground as I'm meeting clients all day.'

Her team have proved themselves to be anything but stereotypical accountants: 'The best thing about PKF is the people I work with. In the last three years I have made so many friends. Even when we're all having a bad day, we can usually manage to cheer each other up.'

Michael Warncken (London) was very conscious of the reputation accountants have when he first joined PKF. 'In my spare time I like to read accountancy books... not really, not all accountants are dull! I go out with my mates, play football, write songs and play guitar.'

Michael went into accountancy because maths was his strongest subject at school. He wanted a career that involved numbers. The idea of a career that offered decent pay together with good qualification prospects also appealed. He was impressed by the diversity of PKF's trainee accountancy schemes.

'There just isn't such a thing as a typical day here,' he says. 'The division I work in gives advice and help about computer software on top of the auditing and preparation of accounts, so the work varies greatly.'

Michael's AAT course involved day release at college every few weeks, together with revision courses leading up to exams in December and June.

'Training on the job has a lot of advantages. We learn about how all sorts of different businesses work and get to put that into practice. It really does help you understand things.'



How to apply

PKF has an annual intake of AAT students each year. If you are interested in applying for these positions please complete one of the online application forms available from the web address below. **Direct applications are not accepted**

www.pkf.co.uk/careers

The minimum requirement for accessing the course is 280 UCAS points. Applicants will also be expected to meet the firms' standard in both verbal and numerical psychometric tests, as well as undertaking 1st and 2nd round interviews.

Further information

Choosing a career path is a crucial first step to success, so it is imperative that you are aware of all the facts and make the right choice for you. Some further information on a career in accountancy can be found on the following sites:

www.aat.co.uk

www.accountingtechnician.co.uk

www.icaew.co.uk

www.accountancyage.co.uk

www.icas.org.uk

www.pkf.co.uk

www.pkf.co.uk

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