

School Leaver Programme

Robert Young – Manager

Why did you choose a career in Accounts?

I had no idea what I wanted to do when I left school; I sort of stumbled into accountancy.

Why did you choose the opportunity to join EQ's school-leaver programme over college or university?

I had decided that full time education was not for me, and really wanted to get a job that would allow me to progress/ further my skills and earn money at the same time. I had enjoyed business studies at school and also had a keen interest in agriculture, so getting a job with EQ was quite lucky.

Why did you choose EQ Accountants?

EQ had a fantastic reputation in the local area as a progressive firm of accountants, with a second to none training programme for both school leavers and university graduates. They also had strong links to the agricultural sector which was a massive draw for me.

What's a day in the life of a Trainee Accounts Assistant like?

For the first year it is all about finding your feet and getting used to the change from a school environment to a working environment, it was a huge culture shock in the first couple of months. Every day in the office was a school day (and still is) accounts and tax legislation are constantly changing and there is always something new to learn.

What qualifications are you studying towards?

I am ACCA qualified.

What did you enjoy most about being a Trainee Accounts Assistant at EQ?

When I was training there were a lot of other trainees, we all helped one another to progress and get through the exams. We had some great social nights and all got on really well. I also really enjoyed learning about the clients that the firm had, building relationships with the clients etc. This has helped me massively in my progression at the firm.

What 3 qualities do you think a Trainee Accounts Assistant needs to have if they are to be successful?

1. Ability to communicate. Anyone can be a number cruncher, but to progress you need to be able to communicate within the office and with clients.
2. Perseverance. Working full time and studying for your professional exams is hard work. You need to be able to see that the short term (3 years) pain of study is well worth it to become a qualified accountant.
3. Adaptability. No two days are the same in the office, you need to be able to adapt to client demands and legislation changes.

Advice for those interested in applying

Do it! I have never looked back since joining the firm and have progressed to manager at the tender age of 31! (I look much younger than this obviously.) Accountancy can open up doors to almost any job in business and I have never regretted my decision to join EQ.

