



Hannah
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Accountant

What does your job entail?

I work as part of a small finance team and my day to day job includes the production of management accounts throughout the year and statutory accounts at year end, the compilation of budgets, completion of compliance reviews and payment of suppliers and staff as well as various ad hoc activities.

How did you get into this line of work?

Upon completion of my accountancy training contract I was keen to move into industry and put my qualification to use. The energy industry isn't a sector I previously knew much about beyond the electricity and gas I use in my own home, so it has been interesting learning about the industry whilst developing as an accountant.

Outline your career to date

After university, I worked abroad in Spain as an English teacher and website editor for several years before returning to Belfast where I worked for PwC in their Corporate Intelligence Department. I then started an accountancy training contract and moved within PwC to the financial services section of their Forensics Department. Once I had completed my training contract, I then started my current role in Mutual Energy.

Tell us about your qualifications and training

I studied law and Spanish at Queens University Belfast, during which I studied abroad at the University of Salamanca in Spain for a year. Whilst working at PwC I then studied for a series of internal and external qualifications in the field of accountancy and anti-money laundering. I then commenced my chartered accountancy studies in 2014 for a period of three years. Following qualification as an accountant I usually attend one or two professional training courses throughout the year, and these will usually be in tax and financial accounting.

What qualities are required for your job – personal and professional?

In terms of professional qualities, I think my job requires me to be flexible as we are a small team and there will be different priorities each month meaning you won't always be working on the same tasks. This is nice as it gives a bit of variety but requires good communication within our team and a willingness to work together to accomplish all our tasks. In terms of personal qualities, I think that my job requires some level of organisation to prioritise tasks and meet deadlines. A desire to learn and to work closely with others in your team and across the company.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself

I studied biology, history and Spanish at A Level when I was at school, did my work experience in physiotherapy and studied law and Spanish at University. Probably not the most efficient path to becoming an accountant but it shows you can change your mind and career direction at a later point!

Who has inspired you most in your life?

I wouldn't say that there has been one specific individual who has inspired me the most in my life so far, but I have been lucky to come across many inspiring people who have helped encourage and motivate me. These include teachers, hockey coaches, managers, fellow colleagues, and friends.

What advice would you give your 16-year-old self?

Probably not to feel rushed into making big decisions – take time and think about what you enjoy and how you could incorporate that into what you do going forward. I suppose I should probably tell myself to eat a few more vegetables and read more books too while I was at it!