

## My Unexpectedly Colourful Journey Through Accounting

3 DECEMBER 2025



I graduated from CityUHK with a BBA in Accountancy in 2010 and started my career as an auditor in Singapore. After returning to Hong Kong, I had the opportunity to work in Shanghai and Beijing through secondment programmes.

### My Life in Singapore

During my final year at CityUHK, I was fortunate enough to be selected for a study tour to Singapore organised by CityUHK professors in collaboration with various CPA firms. The programme included office visits and opportunities for interviews with several firms. I was thrilled to receive offers and I began my career at RSM Singapore in 2010.

As a local Hong Kong girl, the transition from student life to professional life – and from my hometown to a foreign country – was not easy. I was very fortunate to have supportive colleagues who helped me adapt to the demanding environment of auditing. Over the years, we have built strong friendships by working hard and playing hard together. Even though I left the firm more than 10 years ago, we have maintained close ties and they remain lifelong friends.

### Why Was Starting My Career in Singapore an Excellent Decision?

- Both Singapore and Hong Kong apply IFRS, which means that your skill set and qualifications are fully transferable. My experience in Singapore has been a considerable asset to my career.
- You work with colleagues of diverse nationalities, giving you the chance to discover different cultures, even if you're not in a large company.

### My Life in Mainland China

After obtaining my first qualification (ACCA) in Singapore and strengthening both my technical and interpersonal skills, I returned to Hong Kong and joined RSM Hong Kong. Through secondment opportunities, I worked at different times at RSM Shanghai and Beijing. Adapting to a completely new work environment and culture was a challenge, but it allowed me to gain valuable knowledge about state-owned enterprises and red-chip companies.



## My Unexpectedly Colourful Journey Through Accounting

---

### Breaking the “Boring Accountant” Stereotype

Once back in Hong Kong, I joined Deloitte and later Grant Thornton, deliberately moving away from pure statutory auditing. I obtained my Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) and Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) qualifications and transitioned to

- M&A due diligence
- Forensic investigations and litigation support
- Internal controls & risk advisory
- ESG & sustainability reporting

Some people think that being an accountant in a CPA firm is boring; I can tell you that this is not the case! This profession has allowed me to travel to various countries, including the US, Ireland, and Southeast Asia. The completion of a project provides immense job satisfaction. You can always redirect your career when you are looking for new challenges and excitement.

### 15 Years Later – Some Lessons

Looking back on the last 15 years spent in Singapore, mainland China, and Hong Kong, here is my advice:

- Say “yes” to opportunities that scare you a little – moving overseas, switching service lines, and taking difficult professional exams all terrified me at the time.
- Accounting is a platform, not a cage – with curiosity and continuous learning, you can progress as far as you dare to imagine.
- Technical skills open the door, adaptability and relationships keep you in the room.

I’m excited to see where the next 15 years will take me. The profession is constantly evolving, and so am I.