

My Journey toward Professional Growth

Being an Accounting student at the City University of Hong Kong is the most impressive thing throughout my life. There are three things that I would like to recall, which left me the most profound impression, they are caring culture in the Department of Accountancy, being a trainee in the Accounting Scholars Program (ASP), and being a semifinalist in open competition, EY Young Tax Professional of the Year 2020 (Hong Kong).

First of foremost, when I was studying at the City University of Hong Kong during the first semester, I was totally under stress. No matter how much time I put effort into my study, my performance was still under mean in class. I was disappointed in myself, and I lost the direction in my future and my career path. “What should I do with my bad academic performance?”, this is the only question I kept asking myself throughout two months. Fortunately, I met Tracy Yeung, a Graduate Teaching Assistant, who was my tutor in my course. During the consultation, she listed out every problem I had and suggested some solutions to them. She encouraged me not to be afraid of failing because everything that goes through is part of the path to success. After the consultation with her, I found out my direction in my study and career path again. Hence, I improved my study skills and gained good performance in the academic area that semester.

Besides, I joined the ASP in the second semester at the City University of Hong Kong, which is also an impressive experience. ASP is a program led by David Yip, which nurtures accounting experts in career development, communication skills, table manners, etc. During the ASP journey, I learned a lot of knowledge, which is not delivered in lectures and tutorials. To illustrate, Mr. Yip lets us know how students can communicate with partners and directors in Accounting firms to leave them a deep impression, what kind of topics those partners and directors are interested in, office politics, and so on. After the training workshops, I figured out that a good Accounting expert is challenging because they are good at hard skills and soft skills. More importantly, those soft skills would not be delivered at the University, which needs to be experienced in the workplace. I am glad that I attended the workshops before graduation, which help me better prepare myself and avoid making mistakes in the interpersonal area.

What is more, I entered into a Tax competition, EY Young Tax Professional of the Year 2020 (Hong Kong) (YTPY 2020). YTPY is a competition related to Taxation and Tax Planning held by EY annually, which invites penultimate and final year students to participate in Hong Kong. Fortunately, after the screening process and the first round, I was selected to participate in the semifinal in the YTPY 2020. In the semifinal, I was allocated to work with other students from different universities, namely the University of Hong Kong, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Lingnan University, and the Hang Seng

University of Hong Kong. Before the competition, we did not know each other. And EY required us to finish a presentation regarding a case study in Taxation and Tax Planning in three days. The materials' preparation was challenging because none of us knew how to research and analyze the tax matters in-depth and provide valuable opinions to the panels. My team worked hard on studying the advanced ruling cases in three days, Inland Revenue Ordinance, and Departmental Interpretation and Practice Notes (DIPN). Fortunately, we completed the presentation successfully. Although I could not get into the final round, I felt so glad to participate in this competition. The reason is that I know that communication skills with colleagues are essential in teamwork, which is as important as hard skills.

In a nutshell, I would like to appreciate the Department of Accountancy providing a caring environment to students and let students realize hard skills and soft skills are the keys to success in every industry.



ASP Workshops



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