

PwC Apprenticeship Programme – Sharing by AC Students

Student Sharing 1:

Experience Sharing by Daphne Chan Ching Leuk, BBA in Accountancy, 2019 Cohort

My apprenticeship experience was unique and memorable, and I am very honored that I could join this programme during my university life. The PwC culture is casual and comfortable, which makes it feel like a family. I am especially grateful to have had the experience at one of the largest financial services providers in the world in PwC, as I was able to interact with different industries (steel, clothing, real estate, trading, and others). Thus, my two semesters of internship broadened my horizons to different industrial operations.

Furthermore, as PwC is one of the top professional audit firms and employs many professional and intelligent auditors, I learned a lot from the company and its staff. Most of the seniors at the firm were very patient and kind in teaching me different auditing knowledge, as they understood that I had not taken any auditing courses before the apprenticeship. My most unforgettable moment was when I was working on my first engagement. During this engagement, my main task was vouching, testing, and collecting confirmations. I needed to call the client's customers, vendors, and banks daily to ensure I could collect all the confirmations by the end of the reporting date. A week before the reporting date, there were still many bank confirmations that I had not collected adding up to over 40% of the total. I contacted the delivery center customer service for the updated delivery status every day, but they just replied that they would follow up and respond soon. Fortunately, one day before the reporting date, the bank told us the company had already received the confirmation but sent it to the wrong person, who is not our manager. Therefore, I collected all the confirmations before the reporting date and

successfully finished my assigned task. This was the most unforgettable moment of the whole internship. Every day, I was so worried and excited to know the confirmation status as I did not want to disappoint my senior. Fortunately, I did not disappoint her and finished all my tasks on time.

The firm provided us with a lot of training in the first weeks of the internship and some extra training after the peak season (e.g., on how to use the Aura and Halo platforms), from which we

learned a range of auditing knowledge and skills, ranging from the concepts to their application. Many of these things were new to me, as I never knew that auditing work involved testing, sending confirmations, performing legal, land, and company searches, etc. Fortunately, some of the knowledge I had learned at university was useful for completing my assigned tasks. For example, I had learned how to read audit reports in Corporate Accounting I so I could complete the tie-casting functions without any assistance from my senior.

After this apprenticeship, I understand that auditing requires teamwork for which communication skills are essential. This apprenticeship programme was very rewarding and well worth joining because it gave me early exposure to the auditing world and helped me to understand what skills or techniques I lacked and needed to prepare before re-entering the big PwC family after graduation.



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Student Sharing 2:

*Experience Sharing by Queenie Cheng Kwan Lai,
BBA in Accountancy, 2019 Cohort*

During my audit apprenticeship at PwC, I had the privilege of gaining invaluable professional experience in the accounting and auditing field. Collaborating with a team of seasoned professionals, I honed my skills and expanded my knowledge in various audit engagements, providing assistance with analyzing financial statements, evaluating internal controls, and identifying potential risks and issues.

As an audit intern, I was passionate about the work I was doing and recognized the critical role that audits play in ensuring the accuracy and integrity of financial reporting. My hands-on experience gave me a deep appreciation for the complexity of audit engagements and the importance of meticulous attention to detail.

Working in a dynamic and fast-paced environment, I was continuously challenged to think critically and solve problems effectively. I was encouraged to ask questions, seek guidance, and engage in open communication with my team members. This allowed me to learn and grow at an accelerated pace, developing skills in multitasking, prioritization, and efficient task completion, all of which are critical in the audit field.

Throughout my audit apprenticeship at this reputable firm, I was able to apply the knowledge I gained from various courses to real-world scenarios. One of the most significant takeaways was being able to apply classroom knowledge to practical cases, such as handling property, plant, and equipment accounts and depreciation. This experience allowed me to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills as well as attention to detail. I am thankful to the Department of Accountancy for giving us such a great chance to learn and develop skills in the accounting and auditing field.

In addition to gaining practical experience, I also focused on my personal and professional development. I learned from experienced managers and audit experts who shared their experiences and provided tips on how to handle challenging situations. Developing skills in stress resistance, determination, and time management enabled me to improve both personally and professionally.

Overall, my audit apprenticeship at PwC provided me with an incredibly rewarding professional experience. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked alongside talented individuals and contributed to the success of various audit engagements. I am confident that the skills and knowledge I gained during my apprenticeship will serve me well as I continue to pursue a career in accounting and auditing.

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Student Sharing 3:

Experience Sharing by Petra Au Hoi Ying, BBA in Accountancy, 2019 Cohort

Throughout my two semesters of apprenticeship, I learned a lot about the auditing industry and gained practical experience working with a wide range of clients, including banks and public companies. I had the chance to work on various audit engagements and was able to see first-hand how an audit process works in one of the largest and most respected professional services firms.

One of the most important lessons I learned during the apprenticeship is the importance of teamwork. Working with a team of experienced professionals helped me to develop my communication, collaboration, and leadership skills.



Another memorable experience is having had the opportunity to work in different industries and sectors. PwC has a diverse client base, which allowed me to gain exposure to various industries and develop a broad range of skills and knowledge.

Overall, my internship with PwC has been an invaluable experience that has prepared me well for my future auditing career. I gained valuable soft and technical skills and made some great connections along the way.

I recommend this apprenticeship with PwC to anyone interested in auditing, as it provides a unique opportunity to gain practical experience and develop professional skills with a top-tier organization during the second and third year of tertiary studies.

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Student Sharing 4:

Experience Sharing by Stanley Lam Wing Ho, BBA Accountancy, 2019 Cohort

I am honoured to have been selected by CityU as one of the PwC apprentices. The apprenticeship programme runs for two semesters and is designed to provide students with an immersive learning and working experience, giving us a glimpse into the day-to-day operations of a top-tier professional services firm.

From observing how the staff approached complex problems and interacted with clients to being given chances to work on projects independently, the programme allowed me to develop my problem-solving and analytical skills. These skills will not only benefit me in my career but also have already helped me in my school life, as I have been able to communicate and work more effectively with my peers and professors.

Most importantly, by spending time with a company that values diversity, inclusivity, and collaboration, I learned how to work in a team, manage my time efficiently, and take responsibility for my work. These skills will be invaluable as I continue my schooling and build my career.

It was a precious chapter of my life as I gained practical skills, developed a deeper understanding of the professional world, and obtained valuable insights into the corporate culture of a leading professional services firm. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in this programme and look forward to applying the lessons I learned to my future academic and career pursuits.



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Student Sharing 5:

Experience Sharing by Attie Mang Fen Ching, BBA in Accountancy, 2019 Cohort

The PwC apprenticeship programme runs over two semesters. In the first semester, you are expected to work as an intern and handle some easy and repetitive work. In the second semester, colleagues treat you as a first year associate who is able to work independently and handle more complicated work, such as a simple analysis of financial statements.

After my two semesters in the apprenticeship program, I have found myself quite interested in the field of auditing. Although most of what I did in both semesters were basic and ordinary tasks in the audit procedure, I was given some chances to do some more advanced, but not too complicated, work, such as analyzing simple financial statement line items on income statements and balance sheets. This is more challenging work, as it requires more knowledge of the accounting theories behind it. It gave me a wider insight into different companies' operations. I am really grateful to have had the chance to perform some tasks related to my major. Someone said that auditing is a fast-track to the financial sector compared to other fields, and I believe this, as auditing is an occupation that gives one a lot of exposure to many aspects of the financial sector. In PwC, every colleague is allocated tasks that correspond to their pay grade, and the standards and regulations related are constantly updated. Therefore, auditing is not a repetitive job, and even after being in the field for years there will always be something new to learn and explore. This is what I learned from these two semesters. I hope the knowledge that I gain from my courses at CityU will enhance my efficiency and effectiveness when I return to PwC after graduation.

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Thank You Note:

by Alice Chan Fong Ting,

BBA in Accountancy, 2019 Cohort

The apprenticeship program is really fruitful and worth joining. I would also like to take this chance to thank Dr. Raymond Wong and Dr. Annie Mok. Without their patience and guidance, I would not have been able to continue with the program in the second cycle.