

The Second Three Years at Deloitte



Rachel in Muskoka, Canada, October 2010

Three is a very important number to me. I have long thought “you can run away from hell three years later” and “three years will pass fast”. So why three? A minimum of three years’ practical experience with an authorised employer or supervisor is required to become a Hong Kong CPA.

I have now been with Deloitte for three years. Admittedly, the long hours, hard work and pressure have sometimes led to second thoughts about my priorities in life. However, deep inside I fully understand



Rachel and colleagues at Deloitte's 2010 group dinner

that it takes a lot of hard work before the perks of the accounting profession can be enjoyed. I am looking forward to the second three years!

Interview with Miss Rachel Yip

R = Miss Yip

Q1. What are the major challenges of working at a multinational accounting firm?

R: I think time management and dealing with clients are the most challenging.

Q2. Do you have any tips for students who would like to apply for a Big Four position?

R: Strong technical skills are definitely an advantage in handling daily work. At the same time, analytical, interpersonal and generic skills are important, especially when one moves up the ladder. Enrich your knowledge base and broaden your horizons in different directions, such as through travelling or wine, tea or coffee tasting; just whatever you're interested in. Finally, be well prepared for the long working hours and working in mainland China.

Q3. How do you strike a balance between work, life and study?

R: I think a balance between work and life is a lifelong task. Admittedly I am rather committed at work, and will be until retirement. Yet, I still manage to travel and spend quality time with my family and friends. In the slack season, I also take short courses, such as drawing.

I think making a study plan and strictly following it would be very helpful for managing the CPA exam. Deloitte provides great assistance, including tutorials and mock exam papers, to its staff in obtaining the preferred professional designation.