

Lia Hay

Dundee Office Intern 2017

I found the internship application for EQ through the ICAS website. Shortly after applying, much to my delight I was invited to attend an interview at the Cupar office. The interview was one of the nicest interviews I have attended. It was very relaxed which caused me to feel at ease and I felt that it allowed my personality to come through. After this interview I was invited to the Dundee office to meet some of the managers there. Again, I felt very welcomed by everyone in the office. Both of my meetings with employees of EQ left me with very positive thoughts about the firm and the wish that this is where I wanted to work. Thankfully, that wish came true as I was offered a six week placement in the Dundee office which I was more than happy to accept.

I had no idea what to expect on my first day at the firm but I was met with overwhelming friendliness from everyone in the office and thrown in at the deep end with my first job for a client. I think it is fair to say that, at the beginning of my placement, I felt that I was totally out of my depth when undertaking jobs and that I did not have a great deal of confidence in my abilities out-with university. Roll on six weeks later and it is amazing what you can achieve. I still have a huge amount to learn but if someone had told me that I would prepare full sets of accounts on placement I never would have believed them. This to me was probably the most rewarding part of the experience, knowing that I have actually achieved something real in a working environment.

Besides from accounts preparation, I was given the opportunity to work in the areas of taxation and audit whilst completing my placement. I was very excited to undertake some work in tax as this has been an area that I really enjoyed studying at university. Auditing in practice surprised me as, from my time at university, I had previously dismissed auditing as everything I had covered on the area was very dry. Actually, getting to experience practical audit work and not just reading it from a textbook has completely changed my mind. This to me is the greatest advantage of getting to work in a firm that is not completely departmentalised.

Aside from my working achievements, my time at EQ was made even more enjoyable by the people who work here. The office is a very friendly and sociable place and it is clear to see that everyone here cares about one another. During my time here we had office lunches to celebrate exam successes and I greatly appreciate being asked to come along as it made me feel included as part of the accounting team.

I would urge any student who is considering whether a summer placement is worthwhile to apply as I have found it to be the most rewarding and helpful experience so far whilst at university. I only wish that all of my peers had the same opportunity to work in practice as I have. My time here has really cemented my goal after university to become a Chartered Accountant and has made me consider also thinking about undertaking the CTA qualification on top of that.