

Jodie Ovens BA (HONS)

First Year CA Trainee (and ex- internship student 2016)

After applying through the ICAS site I had a quick response from EQ detailing the interview process. Before I attended the EQ interview I had previously accepted an internship with an Edinburgh firm but decided to attend the interview to make sure I was making the correct choice. At the EQ interview I felt an overwhelming sense of friendliness from HR and the Partner in attendance. The interview was calm and chatty and, dare I say it, even enjoyable. It was as much about me selling myself as it was the Firm selling themselves to me. The opportunities and variety of projects on offer won me over; knowing I wouldn't be stuck doing audit work was a bonus! I accepted EQ's 6 week placement (which was extended by a further 4 weeks part way through my placement).



The first day at any firm is daunting, however, I was assigned a mentor who put me at ease from the start. Over the course of the 10 week placement I experienced progressive and challenging training. I had the opportunity to prepare the accounts of sole traders, partnerships, limited companies and towards the end a charity. I was given a lot of responsibility which I thrived on but for any questions or difficult parts I had my mentor, and also my little pod of colleagues, to ask for help. Everyone was happy to help and it did not feel as though I was annoying or pestering them. No set of accounts were the same and I was excited to see how the next task would be different. In order to prepare the accounts, I had exposure to a variety of different software packages which I was glad to experience.

In my 7th week I got the opportunity to prepare tax returns and calculate sole traders, partnerships and corporation tax for some clients I had prepared the accounts for. I really enjoyed using the CCH software and would say this was one of my favourite weeks. As always, there was help on hand.

The office is a very sociable place. I often learnt about the personal lives of my pod and talked to other colleagues on my lunch hour. I was lucky enough to be asked along to a social event having only been working at EQ for a week or so. This shows their friendliness and commitment to make everyone feel as part of the team. One lunch time a group of colleagues and I had lunch at a local restaurant, again making me feel like an integrated part of the team.

I am extremely grateful to have been given this opportunity to work for EQ for 10 weeks and meet the people I did. It put my University theory into practice and confirmed my goal to become a Chartered Accountant. I was thrilled to be offered a CA Trainee post starting in August 2017.