

## Kathryn Smeaton BA (HONS) CA (qualified as a CA in 2011)

### Supervisor (and former RGU placement student)

I graduated from The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen in July 2008 with a BA (Hons) in Accounting and Finance. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of my degree I was required to complete a 48 week placement and I was fortunate enough to secure my placement with EQ, within their Forfar office.

The placement provided a great opportunity to build my knowledge and expertise in the field of accountancy, whilst providing me with further insight into accountancy in practice and the various other areas involved. During my placement I participated in a wide variety of work. I assisted in the preparation of both accounts and tax returns which gave me an excellent grounding for my final year studies. I also attended training events, including one for the computer package, Sage, which is used by many accountancy practices and their clients. This training was extremely helpful in furthering my understanding of the package.

The staff at EQ were all friendly, enthusiastic and, above all, eager to help. No question goes unanswered and nobody grudges helping even if I did feel, at times, that I was asking a really silly question. The atmosphere within the office is friendly and I was made to feel part of the team immediately. The Firm also encourage appraisal forms to be completed for larger assignments and I found these particularly helpful as it gave me a sense of achievement when I received a good appraisal on an assignment, but it also noted how I could improve things the next time round.

I really enjoyed my placement at EQ and the staff events were always really enjoyable too – whether it be the Christmas nights out or the staff barbecue! All in all, I had a great experience and found my placement extremely helpful and a great incentive to do well during my final year.

Following my placement at EQ, I was then fortunate enough to be offered a CA training contract with them. I started my training contract in August 2008.

I successfully completed my training contract, following the completion of my ICAS exams. It was very hard studying at night following a hard day's work, but it has definitely been worth it in the long run!

I have very much enjoyed my time at EQ to date and look forward to the future here.

