

Keira Malkowska MA (HONS) CA (qualified as a CA in 2014) Senior (and ex- internship student)

I graduated from Edinburgh University in 2007 with a degree in International Business – and no idea what I wanted to do next!

After several years working in interesting but varied positions, I decided it was time to seriously think about what career path I wanted to follow. After a lot of consideration, I felt that a career in accountancy would be interesting and rewarding. However, with no experience I didn't really know where to start. I was lucky enough to have a few family members and a friend's parents who work for accountancy firms so was able to pick their brains.

I realised that getting work experience was the best starting point as this would help me with job applications and also make sure that this was the career path for me!



I was offered an intern placement with EQ in 2010 and spent 8 weeks working with the Firm. This experience was invaluable and straight away I was given accounts jobs to prepare. I learned so much within that short space of time that following my placement, I was fortunate enough to be offered a CA training contract with the Firm which I started in August 2011. As I don't have a relevant degree, I studied the TC level of the ICAS qualification via blended learning (a combination of block release and home study). I sat (and passed) the TC exams in December 2011. I quickly realised all the talk on the amount of work required is most definitely not exaggerated! I studied for the TPS level of the ICAS qualification under the new modular block release system for this level. Studying for the first 2 papers over 9 months, sitting them in June 2013 and completing the second 2 papers in December 2013. I passed all four papers and went on to complete the final level of the ICAS exams (TPE) and was admitted to membership in 2014.

EQ is a great firm to work for. I know they have a good reputation for staff training and confirm this certainly seems to be the case. There is always someone available to help you with any problems or queries, no matter how small or silly they may seem and you have the chance to work with a wide range of clients and businesses. There is also a great social side to the Firm, such as the chance to participate in charity events or the "summer" BBQ, sometimes in the pouring rain! I would urge anyone interested to apply.