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Being an accounting student with absolutely no work experience is quite difficult but thankfully going to RGU they give their students the opportunity to do a 48 week placement throughout third year.

I started my 48 week placement with EQ in June 2013 with only the knowledge from my two years at university and, although this was useful, it was completely different to putting that knowledge into practice. Everyone at EQ was so patient and helpful, even in the final weeks of my placement people were still happy to sit down and help me with these, whether it was letter writing or having my debits and credits the wrong way round (both of which happened quite a lot in the early days)!

The majority of my work on placement involved accounts preparation. It was really varied and interesting, and because no job is the same, it provided different challenges and experiences. Later in my placement I was completing tax returns and tax computations which helped me greatly with my tax knowledge in fourth year.

Throughout my placement I participated in various training sessions for example, a bookkeeping course with ICAS and all internal training, including EQ's tax training programme and junior technical meetings. These really helped build on my knowledge from both university and what I had already learnt during my time at EQ. It also enabled me to improve on the quality of my work because I understood it better.

Another great part of my placement was the social events which happen quite regularly throughout the year, from the Christmas parties and the staff BBQs to Go-ape and Go-karting. All of which were great fun!

I was fortunate to have my placement extended and be offered a graduate training post, commencing August 2015, which I gladly accepted and I am glad to be back with EQ and studying hard towards completion of my professional exams.

