Kelly Meiklejohn BACC (HONS) CA (qualified as a CA in 2016)

Assistant Manager (and ex- internship student)

Having had no previous work experience in an accountancy firm, I was a little anxious when I joined EQ for 10 weeks as an intern. I applied and was invited to what turned out to be one of the friendliest interviews I have ever had! To my delight, I was successful in gaining a placement. The next few weeks flew by and suddenly it was my first day. I was pleasantly surprised at how quickly I was given the responsibility to complete tasks and made to feel like part of the team.

Everyone was more than happy to help, showing me the ropes (including how to use the complicated photocopier!) and answering any questions I came across when completing various jobs. I used a variety of different accounting software in order to process accounts, some of which I had previous knowledge of from university modules. I also had the opportunity to complete tax returns and tax computations which was very useful in supplementing my learning with my third year taxation module. I also enjoyed the fact that, within EQ's offices, there are Juniors, Seniors and Managers all sitting together which allows you to gain various perspectives and work with people with different levels of experience. The internship is a great way to get an insight as to what accounting in practice is really like. It allows you to build on the knowledge you have gained in university and work on your practical skills.

As well as working hard, the staff at EQ also have a great social side. I was lucky enough to attend the annual staff barbecue while I was there on placement, which was great to get to know everyone outside of the workplace and thankfully it didn't rain that year!

It was an all-round, extremely valuable experience and, following my placement, I was fortunate enough to be offered a CA training contract with the Firm and commenced CA training in August 2013. I had a busy few years both in and out of the office with TPS study and exams. Thankfully I passed the first two exams at TPS level and then the final TPE level in November 2015 and was admitted to membership in 2016. Since then I have developed and progressed from Junior to Supervisor grade.