



ACCOUNTANCY CAREERS & APPRENTICESHIPS



SHELLY TWEED

- Marketing Manager
- **Career route:**
 - GCSE's -A-Levels, University
 - Worked at Marks and Spencer Plc for 17 years
 - Worked freelance at a Retail Marketing Agency for 8 years
 - Joined First Intuition Chelmsford in 2018

Who are First Intuition?

- Ofsted Outstanding training provider
- Specialise in accountancy training
- Offer Level 2, 3, 4 and 7 apprenticeship programmes
- First Intuition have centres all over the country (including Southend and Chelmsford)
- Train over 10,000 students every year.

Accountancy Careers?

- You don't have to be a maths genius to become an accountant
- Modern accountancy uses software to crunch the numbers.
- The accountant analyses, formulates opinions and communicates.
- Accountants work in lots of different businesses
 - Practice Firms
 - Industry
 - Public Sector

THE OPTIONS

Post-16 options

- A' levels (or equivalent)
- T-levels
- Apprenticeships

Young people need to stay in a form of education until you're 18.

Post-18 options

- Higher Education (University)
 - *Diplomas*
 - *Foundation Courses*
 - *Degrees*
- Work
- Apprenticeships

Accountancy Careers –do you need a degree?

- 16+ - Start an apprenticeship, A' levels, BTEC, T' levels
- 18+ - Start an apprenticeship, higher education, study commercially/work
- Post-university – Start an apprenticeship or study commercially/work
- You can also study commercially at any time

What is an apprenticeship?

- An apprenticeship is a job with training and a salary.
- Through an apprenticeship, you will gain:
 - Technical knowledge
 - Practical experience
 - Skills and behaviours that you need for your immediate job and future career.

Levels of apprenticeships and their equivalents

	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	GCSE
Advanced	3	A level
Higher	4,5,6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

Important

Depending on the apprenticeship you might start at any level. It will vary according to how much knowledge or experience you already have.

Accountancy Apprenticeship Levels?

Level 2
AAT

Accounts Assistant

Level 3
AAT

Assistant Accountant

Level 4
AAT

ACCA Knowledge, CIMA
certificate, ICAEW CFAB

Professional
Accounting Technician

Level 7
ACCA, CIMA, ICAEW

Professional Accountant

- Most school leavers start at level 2 or 3 studying AAT
- The minimum requirement is grade 4 in maths and English GCSE. However, if you do not achieve this you can study a functional skills course as part of your apprenticeship.

How does an apprenticeship work?

- Apprentices find an apprenticeship in the same way as any other job.
- Apprentices spend most of the time at work, working for their employer.
 - *80% - Working*
 - *20% - Learning (off the job)*
- Reflective tasks demonstrate what has been learned.
- End-point assessment shows they have met the standards of the apprenticeship.

What does 'Off the Job' Learning mean?

- Formal Lessons – Classes/online with a college
- In addition to work-based learning:
 - *Shadowing a colleague to understand their role*
 - *Workshops and training days*
 - *Attachments to other departments*
 - *Industry, customer or supplier visits*
 - *Trade shows, online webinars and podcasts*
 - *Learning a new skill from a colleague.*

Are there any exams?

- All apprentices complete an '*End-Point Assessment*' which may include:
 - *A project*
 - *Submission of your portfolio reflecting on what you have learned*
 - *An interview and presentation*
 - *An exam*
 - *Observation in the workplace.*
- In Accountancy, apprentices complete **technical exams** to demonstrate they have mastered each module or topic.

Money Matters!

- In apprenticeship you will earn money straight away.
- You won't be accumulating any debt. Your apprenticeship is funded by the government
- Initial salaries may be in the region of £10,000 - £15,000
- Student debts after university are on average £40,000 to £50,000
- You could be fully qualified as an Accountant by the time you are 23.

An example...

Finance apprentice

- » School leaver at 18 with 'A' levels
- » 13-month level 2 apprenticeship
- » 15-month level 3 apprenticeship
- » 15-month level 4 apprenticeship
- » 30-month level 7 apprenticeship
- » Need 36 months practical experience»
- 2 accountancy qualifications by 22-23
- » No study costs
- » Starting salary at 18: £14 - £19k»
- Typically no debt
- » Salary at 21: £23 - £35k
- » Business experience

University finance student

- » School leaver at 18 with 'A' levels
- » 36 months at university
- » 36 months study once in work to get qualified
- » Need 36 months practical experience
- » Degree + 1 accountancy qualification by 24
- » Cost £9k per year in fees
- » Cost of additional living expenses
- » Debt on starting work around £40 - £50k
- » Starting salary at 21 - £18 - £24k

How do I secure an apprenticeship?

- Government website www.gov.uk/apprenticeships
- UCAS website
- Target firms you would like to work for.
- Do your homework on companies who invite you for interview.
- Free courses, webinars, podcasts etc.
- Send us your CV



If you need help deciding...

- Join our annual Accountancy Summer School (it's free)
- 10th and 11th July 2024
- Open to years 11, 12 & 13
- FI Chelmsford Centre – near Chelmsford train station
- You might decide accountancy is not for you (and that's good)
- Should help to make choices about what to do next

What you'll be doing at Summer School

DAY ONE

- Introduction to Accountancy
- Routes into Accountancy
- What does an Accountant do

DAY TWO

- Interview Skills
- CV Surgery
- Employer Q&A Forum



Thank you for listening

Any questions