



Charlotte

Why take the Higher Apprenticeship route

I did an apprenticeship to get paid to learn, both in the classroom by working towards chartered accountant status and learning through building experience from day to day work on the job - work with colleagues who have vast experience. Also to save university debt and I should be fully qualified two years quicker by entering as a higher apprentice rather than a graduate.

Advice

Research!! I researched the career I wanted to pursue to gain a better understanding of what would be required of me daily in the job, I researched the firms I was applying to for information such as:

- divisions of the firm (assurance/tax/consulting), clients of the firms
- the professional qualifications that I would undertake during the scheme, etc.

Contacts – build a network. Try and get contacts that can give you advice when applying, go to events that firms will be present at and talk to people who represent the firms you're wanting to apply to as they've probably already been through the exact same process in applying that you're going through, ask questions and try to get email addresses to ask further questions.

Try to get some work experience within the field of work you're applying for. I also enhanced my A levels by studying for the AAT Level 3 Diploma in Accounts at college two evenings a week.

Make your application perfect and get lots of different people to read it and give advice on how it could be improved.

What about applying/being Interviewed?

If you apply everywhere to gain greater experience of the entire application process it gives you a better chance of gaining a placement, as they are highly competitive. Do mock interviews and research into assessment centres. Ask people who may have undertaken this kind of process before

How are you finding it now?

I started the apprenticeship at PwC in September 2016 and already I'm enjoying the job very much, no two days are the same. I'm constantly meeting new people whether that's different colleagues or clients.

I'm travelling everywhere going to different offices, clients sites and college for professional qualifications and training - I'm working towards the ICAEW ACA chartered accounting qualification. It's challenging with the jump from college to work and the jump from A levels to professional qualifications but a good challenge.