

ICAS[®]

CA TRAINING IN INDUSTRY

ICAS 

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KELVIN LEE training with



The Royal Bank of Scotland

Kelvin wasn't sure what he wanted to do when he left school but decided that accountancy would provide him with the greatest array of transferable skills. With this in mind he decided to study accounting and finance at the University of Strathclyde. Although he couldn't be certain where he would end up, he was sure that accountancy would equip him to succeed in the future. Kelvin is training to become a CA with RBS and is currently on secondment in his final year of training with Citizens Bank in Boston, USA.

WHAT DOES BEING ICAS TRAINED MEAN FOR YOU?

Having a professional qualification opens up opportunities that may not be available to those without the qualification, for example it is difficult to get promoted past a certain grade in finance without a professional qualification. I chose ICAS as I was keen to get a good technical understanding of accounting and finance. I think that the CA qualification carries a certain

amount of weight behind it. It gives prospective employers confidence that you are capable enough to pass a tough set of exams with the knowledge and skills that businesses value. In the business world reputation is everything. The CA qualification gives you that, it trains you technically as well as providing the certificate to prove that you have reached a high level of competence in the work place.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Every six months I move into a different area of the company which has given me the opportunity to gain a wide range of experience. In the last three years, I have gained experience in group management reporting, project reporting and governance, treasury, customer and product analysis and I'm currently working in decision support for business banking in the USA. I have travelled quite a bit which is definitely the best perk of the job because I get to see not only how things in the office vary, but also how different the culture is. I am based in Edinburgh, but have lived in London for six months and worked in Amsterdam for a few weeks.

Designed specifically to meet the needs of industry and commerce, our TOPP (Training Outside Public Practice) scheme has been running for over 15 years. We train CA students to the same high standards and follow the same syllabus as those training within accountancy firms.

The scheme was motivated by the increasing movement of qualified CAs into the wider area of industry and commerce. Rather than waiting to employ newly-qualified CAs from audit firms, many industry employers now choose ICAS to train CAs to meet their specific needs from the outset.

With support from ICAS, companies as diverse as RBS, Aggreko, Aviva and Standard Life are now developing their own CA professionals with specialist industry knowledge and all-round business skills.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

You can find more information online at icas.org.uk/becomeaca

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