

I joined Edmund Carr in June 2019 after completion of my A-levels at New Hall School. In September 2019 I began to attend college at First Intuition to study towards the Certificate in Finance, Accounting and Business (CFAB).

The certificate comprises of six exams that include accounting, management accounting, principles of taxation, assurance, business/finance and law. Edmund Carr permit study leave for all college courses and also allow study leave of two days prior to each exam. We are also permitted leave for skills days and for completion of our level 4 apprenticeship obligations, for instance to write our portfolio which outlines the progress that we make in our professional development throughout the apprenticeship. Skills days are run by First Intuition and aim to aid with developing soft skills such as teamwork and communication within a professional environment. The combination of work and studying provides me with a practical context for the theory that we learn at college.

In October 2020 I successfully completed my final exam and gained my CFAB qualification. I am now studying towards the ACA qualification on a level 7 apprenticeship. The qualification comprises of nine exams, six at 'professional level' and three at 'advanced level'. These exams expand on the content learned throughout the CFAB qualification and require more detailed, long form answers on situational based problems that reflect realistic scenarios that you may come across when working as an accountant.

During my time at Edmund Carr I have worked in the Audit and Accounts department. The work in the department ranges from preparing accounts for limited companies, sole traders and charities to auditing various types of companies, schools, pension funds, charities etc. Each job requires a unique approach which can prevent the work feeling repetitive.

Austin Hawkins

ACA Trainee