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My first experience with financial accounting was during my accountancy A-Level. I really enjoyed it and, even though I took a degree in mathematics, I intended to start a career in accountancy and took a financial accounting module at university when the opportunity arose.

I began working for Edmund Carr LLP in August 2011. When I first started, I was seated next to one of my new colleagues who was given the task of training me and introducing me to the firm's systems and procedures. All members of staff were more than happy to help me if I needed it.

I am now a qualified member Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) as of August 2015. My studies towards this qualification involved taking classes at First Intuition in Chelmsford, for which Edmund Carr LLP allows me time off from work so that I can attend. There are a total of fourteen exams, which I completed over a four year period, either three or four per year. The qualification covers a range of topics from financial and management accounting to business law, tax, audit and corporate governance. Working and learning at the same time was good because it was easier to make the connection between the theory and its application in the real world.

Our clients include sole traders, partnerships, limited companies, academy trusts and charities. I currently work on a number of limited company audits as well as audits of charities and academies. I also prepare self-assessment tax returns for a number of clients, attend stocktakes and prepare and submit VAT returns where required.

Now that I'm qualified I am keeping my accountancy knowledge up-to-date by taking part in continuing professional development courses that are kindly paid for by the firm. My long-term goal is to become a valuable member of the audit team.

Thomas Gill  
Qualified Audit Senior