



CT Partners



External Auditing Is Not The Only Way For Graduates

A number of mentors and I shared our career path to mentees during a recent ACCA mentorship programme event. Our group of mentors consisted of a banker, IPO consultants, a civil servant and an internal audit specialist. No wonder that CPAs are not only for external auditing, but also many positions in the society.

It is only a process, but not destination

Some of our mentors worked in the Big 4 or second-tier accounting firms many years ago. It makes sense that graduates would like to join the Big 4 firms since there, they would gain extensive professional knowledge as they have the biggest and widest range of clients and the most difficult challenges. However, statistics show, less than one percent of graduates become partners in the Big 4 firms every year.

In my opinion, it is worth spending three or four years working in external auditing before selecting your specialty.

Even more important than auditing and taxation is communication and teamwork skills. To be honest, the size and quality of one's social network will determine how successful you will be in your future career.

In my unforgettable early years, my colleagues and I worked overnight, caught the first train home in the morning and returned at 9:00am every day. Some of my best friends and existing clients come from those years of hardship.

There are many destinations

After gaining a few years' experience, you may discover a possible career path. When the economy is booming there are many accounting jobs to be found. You can work in the commercial field in supporting departments and there are other professional services in addition to external auditing and taxation.

No matter what your first job is, all graduates should have faith, be eager to learn and wait for the opportunities to come.



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