



‘My placement showed me that accountancy is a career path I would like to follow. It is a very interesting and varied field of work’

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Placement Company: Grant Thornton – a global business advisory company offering financial and business advice in over 110 countries



I choose an accountancy work experience placement to see what an accountancy career involved and determine if it was an area I wanted to pursue.

Before my placement I assumed that accountants sat in an office all day, working through piles of accounts and dealing with how much money a company/person made. After a week at Grant Thornton my views have totally changed! Accountancy is a far more interesting and dynamic field of work than I first imagined.

I didn’t have a ‘typical’ day as you can see from my placement programme!

MONDAY	<p>MARKETING DEPARTMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helped organise a charity event and an employee’s retirement dinner • attended a working lunch to discuss the team’s projects <p>Showed me that accountancy can be a varied field of work.</p>
TUESDAY	<p>SHADOWING A BUSINESS PARTNER</p> <p>This provided a good insight into how businesses are structured and how the job undertaken by a director differs from those undertaken by other staff within the business.</p>
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY	<p>TAX DEPARTMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learned how to work a basic set of accounts • spent time reading through sets of accounts and making sure they were all correct. <p>After two days I felt confident that I could create and work a basic set of accounts.</p>
FRIDAY	<p>AUDIT DEPARTMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • looked at the information collected in order to create a set of accounts. <p>This experience highlighted the great depth of understanding auditors need of the business they are working with. It was a very interesting day showing me that a career in audit is something I would consider.</p>

My placement taught me much more than just how to create and work with a basic set of accounts. It taught me social skills which I can use everyday including communication skills, discretion and confidentiality – very important skills needed as an accountant.

The 3 things I really enjoyed about my placement were:

- 1. The independence** – being able to choose which type of work you want to do and being trusted to work for yourself and not being told what to do all the time.
- 2. The variety** – i had the opportunity to do lots of different types of work.
- 3. The company ethos** – although they are a global company, everyone seemed to work together as one big team and I was welcomed into that team as soon as I started my placement.

For someone considering an accountancy work experience placement I would say “Go for it!” It gave me a good idea of the skills that are needed to become an accountant.