A Member’s View: Pamela Chatterjee

Briefings



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This month’s ATT member spotlight is on Pamela Chatterjee CTA, ATT, Tax Manager at Glazers Chartered Accountants.

How did you find out about a career in tax?

I started off working in audit and accounts at an accountancy firm (after graduating in civil engineering) and did not really enjoy it. However, whilst undertaking my chartered accountancy exams, I discovered that I really enjoyed studying for the tax exam. So after becoming a part-qualified ACA I took a sideways step into the tax world and haven’t looked back.

Why is the ATT qualification important?

Studying for the qualification gives you a good foundational knowledge of the main taxes, and having these letters after your name provides reassurance to colleagues and clients that you can help them with their tax compliance queries. It doesn’t hurt that it is a globally recognised qualification.

Why did you pursue a career in tax?

I thoroughly enjoyed learning the subject matter whilst training to be an accountant – so much so that I changed careers as I knew I would be much happier dealing with tax queries!

How would you describe yourself in three words?

Extrovert, enthusiastic and ebullient.

Who has influenced you in your career so far?

I have had the pleasure of working for three bosses who each had an almighty impact on my career trajectory. Firstly, Jill Springbett (currently tax partner at MGR Weston Kay), who was my first tax boss. She taught me the basics and was always very generous with her time. Wekeep in contact.

Secondly, the late Peter Legg who taught me inheritance tax planning skills and how to deal with all manner of challenging clients. He had so much joy for inheritance tax planning, it was contagious. I have many happy memories of working for him – he was an extremely sharp man with a wicked sense of humour.

Finally, Tim Keeley (tax consultant), who has taught me many tax planning skills and is always on hand to provide sound advice – for which I am eternally grateful. I keep in touch with him regularly too.

I also had a wonderful mentor when doing my CTA exams – Steven Pinhey (who now works for the ATT). He was always available to listen to my concerns and guide me, usually over a fabulous lunch. He did such a wonderful job as I am a first-time passer.

What advice would you give to someone thinking of doing the ATT qualification?

Do it! It is a very well-respected, universally renowned qualification and you will learn a lot. Plus you earn the privilege of having these three letters after your name.

What are your predictions for tax advisers and the tax industry in the future?

We will always be required, especially whilst the tax legislation remains so convoluted and complex. Not everyone can make sense of the tax rules – hence the need for tax advisers who can interpret the tax legislation correctly to assist with all manner of financial transactions. I cannot see this need diminishing even with the advent of an AI world.

What advice would you give to your future self?

Don’t bother with accountancy. Go straight into the tax world!

Tell me something about yourself that others may not know about you.

I used to be an aerial acrobatics student at Circus Space.

Contact

If you would like to take part in A member’s view, please contact Melanie Dragu at: mdragu@ciot.org.uk