A member’s view: Adela Cebotari

Briefings



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This month’s CIOT member spotlight is on Adela Cebotari, Founder of TARI Tax Consultants.

How did you find out about a career in tax?

I was looking for a job and a mom at my son’s school offered to share my CV with her boss at Vantis (now Beavis Morgan) for an administrator vacancy in the Corporate and Personal Tax team. I managed to convince Barrie Dunning, who interviewed me, that I was the right candidate. I think he felt sorry for me as I had already been through several unsuccessful interviews. My English skills were not at the level expected for the role and I lacked experience, but he gave me a chance, so I have him and Tina Mackerness to thank for my successful career in tax.

Why is the CIOT qualification important?

The CTA qualification cements your expertise and knowledge in UK tax and provides the ability to interpret complex legislation. It is not an easy qualification to obtain, so it is a demonstration of the hardworking nature of tax professionals.

Why did you pursue a career in tax?

In my first week at Vantis, I was perplexed (in a good, WOW way) by the discussions amongst my peers and baffled by their reading of the various figures of the tax computations. This opened a new level of curiosity, and I wanted to ‘be one of them’.

I repeatedly asked my manager for new assignments, where I could learn new aspects of the profession. Eventually, he said, ‘Your curiosity is exhausting, I think you should enrol on the ATT course.’ The rest is history. I completed the ATT qualification, followed by the CTA qualification, and in 2023 I completed a STEP advanced certificate on UK Tax for International Clients.

How would you describe yourself in three words?

Organised, curious and sociable.

Who has influenced you in your career so far?

There is not one specific person; several colleagues in the companies I’ve worked in, my wider networking community, clients that trusted me with their affairs and my husband, who has continuously encouraged me. I am grateful to each one.

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

Go for it! Be prepared to work very hard. Be patient, results don’t happen overnight. It is a well-regarded profession. Apart from learning the tax rules and how to operate the tax software, in the process you grow as an individual, improving your communications skills, critical thinking and your approach to various circumstances as tax is not just about numbers.

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

With the rise of the technology, specifically AI, those with an adaptable attitude to learning and an elevated degree of curiosity will continue to thrive.

What advice would you give to your future self?

Believe in yourself more and keep focused beyond the momentary hardship.

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

I grew up in the post USSR era in Moldova, when electricity was only available during set hours of the day. In winter months, when it was off between 6pm to 8pm, I would read under the candle lit lamps. I have always been obsessed with books, now the obsession has expanded to podcasts.