

# A member's view: Valerie Leung

Briefings



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This month's ATT member spotlight is on Valerie Leung, Indirect Tax Assistant Manager, Grant Thornton UK Tax & Advisory LLP.

## **How did you find out about a career in tax?**

I first discovered tax during my accounting degree at university. While most students dreaded the taxation modules, I found them oddly fascinating. It wasn't just about calculations; it was about understanding how laws apply in practice. That curiosity led me to explore the profession further, and the more I learned, the more I realised how dynamic and rewarding tax could be.

## **Why is the ATT qualification important?**

It provides a strong foundation in technical tax knowledge and a wider understanding of the business environment. The CBEs sharpened my commercial awareness and practical thinking, while Papers 1, 2, and 6 laid a solid base in essential tax principles and trained me to approach tax problems confidently. These

skills are now part of my everyday work.

## **Why did you pursue a career in tax?**

Tax felt like a good fit for me. With my background in accounting and a Master's degree in data, I was drawn to the analytical nature of the work – solving problems, interpreting legislation and applying logic in a structured way. It's a field that constantly evolves, which keeps things interesting. Plus, there's real satisfaction in helping clients to navigate the maze of tax rules and seeing the impact of your advice.

## **Describe yourself in three words**

Curious, adaptable and motivated.

## **Who has influenced you in your career so far?**

Basically, everyone in my firm has influenced me. From the day I joined, I've received guidance and encouragement from senior colleagues who helped me build a strong foundation. Their support and kindness have shaped how I approach challenges and continue to grow. I've also been inspired by my peers – through countless days (and nights!) of revision and shared learning, we've explored the beauty of VAT together and supported each other in building meaningful careers.

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

Go for it! ATT gives you a strong foundation in tax and a broad understanding of the UK tax system. It sets you up to become a well-rounded adviser, ready to tackle real-world tax issues with the confidence to thrive in the area you choose to specialise in later.

## **What are your predictions for the tax industry in the future?**

Technology will play a major role in shaping the future of tax. With the rise of AI tools, advisers will need to adapt – using tech to work more efficiently while applying human judgement to ensure accuracy.

## **What advice would you give to your future self?**

Don't stop learning. Tax is constantly evolving. Even after years in the industry, I know I'll never stop adapting. Staying curious and open to change will keep me growing into a better adviser every day.

## **Tell me something that others may not know about you.**

I'm originally from Hong Kong - one of the few places without a VAT system. Starting my VAT career in the UK felt like stepping into a whole new world. Learning how the system works, especially from an international perspective, was challenging and exciting. It sparked a genuine interest in an area I never expected to enjoy.