



# What's it really like to be an accountant?

Katryn Smith, Manager, Audit and Assurance tells us about her experience as more than just a number cruncher at Deloitte

## Should you be good at math in order to become an accountant?

While math and statistics are important, you don't need to be a mathematical genius to become an accountant. Beyond the basics, developing your ability to manage and analyse data, and communicate what it means, is far more critical to your success.

## How hard is it to qualify as a CPA, do I need a degree?

The CPA qualification is challenging, requiring professional experience and passing a series of evaluations. While you need an undergraduate degree, you aren't limited to studying business or accounting. For example, I hold a BA in Economics and Geography. There are CPA Bermuda pathways for Bachelor of Commerce candidates to meet subject prerequisites for registration.

## What is a typical day as an accountant like?

What I love about accounting is that two days are rarely the same, and there are as many career paths as there are accountants. There is a huge diversity in the roles available. As an auditor, I spend time planning, researching and analysing data and processes, and communicating with clients.

## Isn't accounting boring?

A favorite joke of mine is: "What's the difference between a lawyer and an accountant? The accountant knows they're boring."

While there are boring aspects to any job, for me accounting misses the "boring" stereotype. I'm constantly challenged to develop skills and to keep learning. There's more creative problem solving and teamwork than you'd expect.

## Will my skills be in demand as an accountant?

Beyond purely technical skills, CPAs must develop and demonstrate competency in skills critical for a successful career, including teamwork and leadership, problem solving and decision making, and strong communication skills. As a result, CPAs are highly desirable employees and there is high demand for their skill set, even outside public accounting positions.

## Will I always be "crunching numbers"?

Accounting is so much more than calculations. You need to be able to use those numbers to interpret financial information. I spend as much time talking to management about their organisation and our observations, researching complex accounting and business issues, and consulting with specialists as I do "crunching numbers".

## Will I get opportunities to travel?

The wonderful thing about working at Deloitte Bermuda is that you work with clients that span the world. While you may not hop on a plane every week, there are opportunities to travel both for work and for our professional development programmes.

## Why join the Bermuda office first?

At Deloitte Bermuda, you have the unique opportunity to launch your career in a smaller, more flexible, and highly supportive organisation while still accessing international business markets and working with some of the largest, and most interesting, companies in the world. Local learning and professional education programmes are offered at Deloitte and will help you achieve the CPA designation and develop a flexible and fulfilling career, in Bermuda and beyond.

If you're interested in overseas experience, the CPA designation is globally recognised and opens doors internationally. Furthermore, in Bermuda we work closely and develop strong relationships with teams around the world, giving you the opportunity to jump start your global professional network. Within Deloitte, we have short and longer term mobility and transfer programmes for people interested in international experience, providing opportunities and support to help you shape your career and develop your expertise.