



Name: Lisa James
College: South Thames College
Course: NVQ Level 3 AAT Accounting



In 1991 I moved to New Zealand, where I pursued a career as a computer programmer. As my career developed, I became involved in supporting the finance department of my employer, reviewing internal accounting issues and processes. It was a learning curve for me, and I had to develop my finance knowledge from the ground up. I completed a computerised accounts course which helped me develop relevant skills and knowledge. This opened up other career opportunities for me and led me onto working in a freelance role with other companies and self employed people, supporting them with routine accounting functions.

Although I had developed lots of experience in accounting and finance, I hadn't gained other relevant professional qualifications apart from the computerised accounts course. In 2007, my father died and I returned to England to support my mother. Although it was a tough time in my life, coming back to England opened up an opportunity to return to studying for me. I enrolled on a NVQ Level 2 AAT Accounting course at South Thames College, where I was given a test to assess what level my skills were at. The tutors were very supportive through the course and I gained a good grounding in basic accounting principles and processes. This course gave me a good base on which to progress to my current course, the NVQ Level 3 AAT Accounting.

I'm enjoying my course and it is providing me with the techniques that underpin my experience in finance roles. It has made me more confident about my abilities as an accountant and ensures that I am following set procedures in my work. As I am near to completing the course, I am now considering my options and hope to progress to the NVQ Level 4 AAT Accounting, which is equivalent to two years of a degree. By developing my skills and knowledge at a higher level, I will increase my employment opportunities.

The AAT is excellent, as it provides a springboard into many roles in accountancy. Alongside the technical knowledge, it also allows for a broader understanding of accounting and finance to be gained which is useful going forward into a career or onto higher education.



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