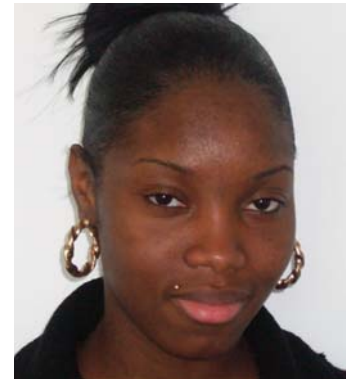




Name: Sheenell Dawkins
College: South Thames College
Course: NVQ Level 3 AAT Accounting



I developed an interest in accounting when I was studying a BTEC First Diploma in Business, for which I achieved a Distinction. The BTEC gave me a useful overview of working in business, but it was the finance units which I really enjoyed. This inspired me to enrol on the NVQ Level 2 AAT Accounting course, which I passed successfully in June 2008. I am now studying for the NVQ Level 3 AAT Accounting and due to complete in June 2009. My plans are to progress to higher education to study for a degree in accounting and finance. Through the South East London Lifelong Learning Network, my college has progression agreements with local universities, which has meant that I have been able to find out about options studying for a degree in my area.

The AAT has been excellent in developing my accounting knowledge, as it provides a full overview of all the essential accounting procedures and techniques to get me started in my career. Alongside studying a course that is recognised by employers, I am developing skills that I know the industry need from new entrants. Part of my course is to undertake work experience, enabling me to apply what I have learnt in college to a work environment. I undertook my placement in retail, where I was responsible for the cashing up and opening/closing balance of takings each day.

Once I have finished my studies I hope to gain a career in payroll, as alongside using my finance skills I am looking for a career where I can help people understand their finances better. Working in Payroll will enable me to support people in being more aware of their own finances, alongside understanding how changes in tax and national insurance will impact upon them.

I would recommend that people who are thinking about gaining a career consider an AAT course. Not only does it help to develop skills and knowledge that are needed for a career in accountancy, it also enables progression to university. I think that the higher level of education that you can get, the better it will be for your career. A degree or higher level course can help to open up doors and progression opportunities. You just need to be determined and go for it!



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