

# Katie Reeson

Accountant (ACA)

Louth office

Qualified in August 2019



## What made you choose Forrester Boyd for your training?

Chantelle, HR Manager, and a team of other trainees presented at a careers event held at the sixth form I attended. I always had a keen interest in business and economics and I was intrigued to find out exactly what an accountant did on a day-to-day basis. Forrester Boyd was very well-known for its trainee accountancy programme and I had heard lots of positive things regarding the work, social life, and relationships that were built at the company.

During my time at sixth form, I felt very pressured to apply for University to gain a degree to develop a successful career as an accountant. However, Chantelle and the team at the time explained that the apprenticeship route into accountancy meant that I could qualify as a Chartered Accountant quicker than those choosing University. The idea of earning money at the same time was a bonus!

## What was your training experience like?

I studied with two different training providers, BPP and Kaplan. My exam tuition classes were based in Hull, Sheffield and Leeds and I would travel and/or stay over in a fully subsidised hotel during my leave.

The exam tuition is intense. I was used to studying hard for A Levels during my time at sixth form, but I knew I had to put the work in to pass all my accountancy exams first time. I was able to start studying for my Chartered Qualification in September 2015, where I met some very good friends who I studied with throughout my 4 years of training.

With being on the apprenticeship scheme, it meant that I also had to do some practical work experience alongside my studies. This would mean that during exam periods, I would have to revise after a day in the office and also during my weekends.

I very much enjoyed my periods studying in Hull, Sheffield and Leeds and managed to make some good friends along my journey that I wouldn't have got through my exams without.

## What is it like working at Forrester Boyd?

There is a lot of flexibility within Forrester Boyd as staff members have the ability to work flexible hours. If I am planning a weekend trip away and wanted to leave at 4pm on a Friday, I would be able to work extra hours Monday-Thursday in order to leave early without using my annual leave allowance.

## What do you like most about your job?

I work in our Academies and Audit department at the Louth office, which means that I am often out visiting client's premises to work. This means that I am not just stuck at my desk all week and I have the opportunity to interact and build my communication skills with our clients. Every day is different for me and I enjoy a good challenge.

## What about the social side?

Since joining, I have been on lots of work social events that have helped me meet and make some of my best friends. The social aspect is something that was very attractive to me, and it definitely did not disappoint.

There are yearly staff BBQ's, trainee bowling nights, and other spontaneous work events I have attended including Christmas quizzes and Charity events.

Initially, I was nervous about attending these events, however, all of my colleagues were very welcoming and I soon became more confident! We do a lot as a firm together and I feel that it has helped me gain the self-confidence I have today.

## What one thing would you say to anyone looking to join Forrester Boyd?

Speak to staff members! If you are unsure whether accounting is for you, or what route to take into accountancy (i.e. an apprenticeship or a degree) then give one of the offices a call or an email and ask any questions you would like.