

Work Experience Programme.

Will Lent - VFO

Why did you choose PEM?

I was introduced to PEM and the opportunity through Fiona. PEM stood out as a fantastic place to work as it holds a high reputation as a top accounting firm in Cambridge. When I found out that it does the accounts for several colleges in Cambridge and its charitable foundation, I realised this fact more. Overall, I felt that PEM was a highly trustworthy and respected company.

How did your role develop and what did you enjoy most about it?

There were lots of things that I really enjoyed while working at PEM. For one, everyone was super friendly and helpful. There was never a moment when I felt like I couldn't ask a question or ask for support. Everyone seemed very keen to explain their work and give me the best insight into how the company operates. At the start of the week I was given some practise doing processing and bank reconciliation. I was also included in a few meetings and this was really interesting. Overall, my role shifted from a mostly observant and learning role, to one where by the end of the week I was able to happily do processing and VAT with minimal help. I enjoyed learning and improving my understanding of the different aspects that accounting involves.

What skills were useful in this profession?

There's obviously a lot of skills that you would need for accounting. The ones like time management,

communication skills, being detail oriented, ability to adapt and learn a new system or software and of course proficiency in excel.

But I think more generally you need people skills to build relationships and trust with coworkers or clients.

What experience have you gained with PEM?

Seeing as this was the first time I had ever worked in an office environment, I have gained experience in lots of aspects like meetings, working at a desk with people around me and learning how to use the tools in an office. In terms of accounting, I now have experience doing processing, VAT returns, management accounting and carbon accounting. Learning about how all these work was very interesting and valuable to me.

What was your favourite aspect about your role?

My favourite aspect about my role was that I was never pushed into the deep end. I never felt that I was completely out of my depth because everyone was really accommodating and understood that I had very limited experience in the area. However I felt at some points, once it was suitable, I could work on my own and complete tasks without much supervision, which I really liked.

Describe working at PEM in 3 words.

Collaborative, engaging, supportive.