



Lynne Woolley, Reed Business School Tutor, with Prize winner Charlotte Wells

We get to know Reed Business School Student Charlotte Wells, (Francis Clark LLP) following first place in the UK and the 'Spicer & Pegler' prize in the FAR exam December 2013 sitting.

1. What is your background?

I am primarily a Maths student - I have always loved Maths and studied it throughout school and university. At sixth form I also studied English and Sociology to get a broad range of subjects as I was unsure at this point what I wanted to do in the future. Then I went to Plymouth University and focussed my studies on Maths and Finance. Now I work for Francis Clark LLP in their Truro office in the Corporate Services Department, helping with accounts and audit services.

2. What made you choose your ICAEW career path?

At university I did an accounting module in my first year and really clicked with the material and the concepts. Since then I was always on the look out for accountancy based jobs in Cornwall that would allow me to train whilst gaining practical work experience. ICAEW really appealed to me due to the broad range of topics covered - from the standard accounting ones to tax and financial management, and the fact that it is recognised worldwide! It just so happened that the firm I wanted to work for (Francis Clark) offered a training contract for the ACA qualification.

3. What were your thoughts on the new syllabus FAR subject and how did you approach your studies?

I really liked the new FAR syllabus - I think it makes sense that FA and FR were merged together as they fit in well together as they provide both the numerical and written elements to a question. With studying for FAR I made sure I knew the syllabus before going to Reed for the revision courses, so that this time could be spent practising questions and perfecting exam technique - advice that I was given by one of the tutors at Reed which was very helpful!

4. What has the hardest exam you have taken so far?

Definitely Financial Management (June 2013). It was always going to be a time pressured exam - but I have never felt under this much pressure before due to the sheer volume of requirements the exam had. I took a quick minute or two to panic, then luckily I pulled myself together and got on with it. I think you need to take an exam bit by bit, otherwise you could get overwhelmed by the content and not perform as well as you could have done.

5. What is it like to study towards your ICAEW exams at the Reed Business School?

All the staff are so friendly and the tutors are second to none. I ask a lot of questions and they are always available to help out - it's really good to know that there is someone to go to when you need some advice or guidance with your studies. Reed Business School is just brilliant - like a home away from home!

6. What tips could you offer to other students who are studying or thinking of studying ICAEW?

Study with Reed! ICAEW is a huge commitment, the exams are designed to test you and you'll fall short if you don't put the work in, so potential students need to be aware of this and be motivated and determined to do well. You get out what you put in - so make the effort!

7. Do you have any superstitions/lucky charms for your exams?

I was always told that you make your own luck, so I just make sure I put the work in and that I'm completely prepared for every exam I sit.

8. Reed Business School courses are designed to allow students to progress through their studies and exams with the same group of peers, how have you found working in this way?

I have made some amazing friends through studying at Reed and I don't think I would enjoy it as much if I was studying on my own. When a big exam is looming it's really nice to chat to others and be around people who are in the same boat as you. I like to bounce ideas off my friends and find that it is a good way to learn as people pick up on different things during a class and can offer a different view on subjective topics or just talk you through something when you're stuck!