



Jenny Winstanley, Reed Business School Tutor, congratulating **Jake Standing** from Spofforths Chartered Accountants, for achieving first place and the Quilter prize in his ICAEW Advanced Stage Business Reporting exam at the July 2012 sitting.

To be successful in the advanced stage exams I believe there are 3 key attributes required - focus, confidence and the ability to stay calm under pressure. I found that if I was not focussed then I needed to go and do something else for a little while, with the main aim of coming back refreshed and ready to work. You have to go into the exam hall oozing confidence - the hard work over the last few months had set me up perfectly for the exams and it was crucial not to forget that I was as well prepared as I ever could be. Finally the exams are time-pressured and throw up unusual scenarios, but by staying calm, breaking down the questions and answering the parts that could be answered more easily the exam becomes much more achievable.

Studying at Reed Business School gave me everything I needed to prepare for my finals - a tranquil setting with very little distractions, a well structured course made up of 3 different stages (introduction, completion and revision), and top quality tuition from knowledgeable tutors. The lessons are informal but structured to ensure that all aspects of the syllabus are covered, and the tutors are available to answer any questions whether it be whilst at Reed or when studying at home. The small class sizes also help to ensure that assistance is always available to individual students.

Exam practice is the order of the day, as more questions answered to time can only reinforce the skills needed for the real thing. Furthermore, having a broad knowledge of the syllabus is much better than learning one aspect in great depth - the depth is usually not required and can lead to wasted time in the exam. I found that I needed to take breaks, and especially during the revision stage it was vital not to burn myself out as all energy was needed for the exams the following week! Fellow students help to keep morale up, and the need to stay sociable is evident.

The availability of cooked meals each day means that study time is not eaten into by preparing your own meals. The kitchen staff are very friendly, and can accommodate a range of different requests - in addition to the fact that the food is top notch! The admin team are always approachable and ensure that the course runs seamlessly, leaving students to concentrate on studying and preparing for the exams.

Ultimately, I found it was down to me and only me to be confident in my ability - but Reed supply all the tools to knock the exams out of the park.

Jake Standing
Spofforths Chartered Accountants
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