

# A STUDENT'S VIEW

## BA Accounting & Business - The Flying Start Programme



**Eleanor Easton,**  
*on the benefits of the BA  
Accounting & Business programme*

*'there's a real sense that  
they have all invested in  
your long-term future'*

*'– it was the best  
decision I've ever made'*

### **How did you come to be on the BA Accounting & Business programme?**

'I was aware of the link between Reading and the Henley Business School, and knew from its reputation that it would stand me in good stead. But the course also offered more exemptions from the ACA programme than any other, and offered a virtually guaranteed place at PwC if I completed the programme. So I visited the campus, and saw how modern and green it all was, and I was hooked!'

### **So what were your expectations, and how did the reality differ?**

'I knew the course would be intensive, and I thought that because of this, I'd be stressed the whole time, but it wasn't like that at all. We had fantastic support from the tutors and lecturers and the social side was superb. I got involved in lots of societies – such as ballet and photography – and the people I met and mixed with in halls will, I'm sure, be lifelong friends.'

### **What did you most enjoy?**

'I really didn't expect this, but the placements with PwC were great. We had an opportunity to be 'real' auditors and apply our learning in a very practical situation. The placements covered the spring term in the second, third and fourth years, and we are treated exactly as graduates would be, with quite a lot of responsibility, which is both daunting and exciting! And being away from Reading during those periods definitely makes me appreciate university life more.

'But working within PwC is good fun, too. It's a friendly atmosphere and very collaborative. Everyone is so willing to help, and there's a real sense that they have all invested in your long-term future, so I never feel like I'm just there for a work placement. Of course, my first day at PwC was a bit intimidating, but you soon get over that. And knowing that you have a senior member of the PwC team assigned to help you throughout the programme – even when you're back at Uni – gives you lots of reassurance.

'The programme's interactive workshops have also enabled me to mix with lots of likeminded people who share many of the same goals as me, but with totally different perspectives; meeting people from so many walks of life, other cultures and countries – that has been especially rewarding.'

### **What advice would you offer to anyone considering this programme?**

'I'd say: 'Go for it!' – it was the best decision I've ever made, and I'd recommend it to anyone. The application process can seem a bit complex, and the initial assessment day at PwC was a bit nerve-wracking at first, but these are just steps on the journey, so don't be put off by them. Research the website, and speak to someone who has been through it.

'If you've got the mindset that you're going to enjoy it, you'll have an amazing experience...'

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