



# The key step in your career...

Whether you're considering accountancy for the first time or your career is already underway, your choice of employer could determine how far you go in this challenging and rewarding profession. It's important to understand the strengths and capabilities of a firm before you apply, and to consider not just what you can do for your potential employer, but what they can do for you.

This brief introduction provides an overview of our work, the opportunities we offer and the support and structures we have in place for employees.

Count on us TN

We've been in business for more than 25 years and the knowledge obtained allows us to bring a deep understanding to many business sectors such as energy, technology, manufacturing, engineering, leisure, farms, landed estates, property, and many more.

## Who are we?

We are one of the leading independent firms of chartered accountants in North East Scotland. The firm has 5 partners and more than 40 members of staff. Most of our partners have backgrounds in large firms and have chosen an independent structure so they can remain 'hands-on' in the business, dealing directly with clients, business intermediaries and employees on a day-to-day basis.

We offer a full range of accounting, tax and business advisory services. Our clients range from start-up businesses to companies with international interests.

Our size and client base mean we can provide an interesting, challenging and varied experience for all staff whilst recognising the individual strengths and needs of each employee.

If you work with us you'll be given responsibility at an early stage. You can expect direct involvement with clients while working alongside senior and experienced members of our team. There will always be someone available to give on the job' training and support, and we pride ourselves on an inclusive corporate culture fostered by social as well as professional activity.

You can count on us.

# What to expect if you work with us

In our profession the latest technical knowledge is essential. All of our staff receive ongoing training in-house, attend external courses and benefit from continuing professional development (CPD).

We are authorised by ICAS to train CA students and are a platinum-approved training practice for ACCA. We also take part in the Robert Gordon University placement programme for undergraduates on the Accounting and Finance degree course.

We are always keen to receive applications from experienced accountants, including those who are part qualified and recently qualified. Roles may involve accounts preparation work, audit assignments, preparing management accounts and providing payroll or assistance to clients.

From time to time we recruit school leavers and provide training. Ambitious candidates with aptitude and a positive attitude can also expect support in gaining accredited accounting qualifications.

We have a busy and successful tax team, and we're always on the lookout for university graduates and experienced tax professionals. Working as part of our tax team could provide an excellent opportunity to build a senior role within the firm. If you're interested in joining us in this field, you'll need experience, initiative and good client management skills.

# Graduate & Trainee Recruitment

## **ICAS Training Contract**

Each year we seek to recruit a number of graduates to enter three-year CA training contracts based in either our audit and accountancy or tax departments.

We are committed to each trainee's long-term career development, and provide a supportive training environment. We pay for the cost of all classes and first-sitting exam fees, and offer contractual paid study and exam leave as recommended by ICAS. We want our CA students to pass exams first time, and the majority are successful. However, if something does go wrong for someone with potential, we will provide additional support to achieve a favourable outcome.

Our CA students undertake a variety of client assignments. Exposure to larger and more complex assignments increases progressively in line with experience and ability.

Each year we advertise on the ICAS website, usually in September, and **applicants can apply online via ICAS**, **or directly through our website.** We aim to conclude our recruitment by December annually.

## **ACCA Training Contract**

ACCA provides an alternative qualification for those who do not wish to undertake the CA training route. The firm employs ACCA students who join us either from further education, such as an HND or degree course, or from other employers where they may have already started ACCA studies.

Training is flexible and study is undertaken primarily through the use of home-based study packs. The firm pays for all educational material and the first sitting of each exam. Paid study and exam leave is provided.

ACCA has recently introduced a five-year training programme which is suitable for school leavers.

Our ACCA students undertake a variety of client assignments allocated in accordance with experience.

Applications should be made directly via our website – www.mestonreid.com

# University Placement Opportunities

## **Robert Gordon University**

We aim to have a long-term relationship with our placement students. Providing their work is satisfactory, our policy is to offer a CA training contract on condition of attaining a minimum 2:1 degree. This means that as well as obtaining a wide range of hands-on experience in audit, accountancy and taxation, placement students enter their final year at university with the promise of a job upon graduation.

Generally, our placement students join us in June and work until the following July or August. However, these dates are flexible and RGU's only requirement is the required 48 weeks' work experience.

Placement students undertake a variety of client assignments in the same way as all other members of staff. They also accrue annual leave and other benefits in the same manner as permanent members of our team.

Throughout the placement year, students receive regular feedback on performance and take part in a formal review process with an RGU tutor and one of our partners.

Our vacancy is advertised via the RGU placement office. **Applications should be made in line with their instructions.** 

"We recruit undergraduates from the RGU Accounting and Finance course each year, offering each of them up to 15 months' relevant experience."

WILLIAM ANDERSON | Partner



# Next step...

### ICAS TRAINING CONTRACT

Apply from September through ICAS website or direct at www.mestonreid.com

### ACCA TRAINING CONTRACT

Apply through www.mestonreid.com

#### RGU PLACEMENT STUDENTS

Apply through University Placement Office

#### EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS

Apply through www.mestonreid.com

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