



CONNOR BOYD CA

It was the opportunity to study Higher Accounting at school that helped me realise this was the career path I wanted to follow. Achieving good grades encouraged me to pursue accountancy in higher education. I was determined to achieve a place at a top-performing university. By choosing the University of Strathclyde, it offered exposure to a wide variety of business subjects and course options. Adapting to university was initially a challenge, but something I began to love through meeting new friends and studying a subject I had a genuine interest in.

I was informed of the ICAS Foundation by my school guidance teacher who noticed my interest in accounting. Immediately I saw how it could help me and offer immense value. The mentoring programme was so important – it gave me access to a Chartered Accountant with a wealth of experience. Right from the start, we discussed next steps after university and how I could achieve this. By receiving advice from people who had followed the same path as myself, it helped build my confidence throughout my studies and focus on post-university life.

I knew that attending university would be challenging financially – receiving a bursary from the Foundation helped pay for my travel to university and textbooks which were expensive. Having this support allowed me to reduce my part-time working hours during the week, whilst focusing on studying and overall maintaining a healthy work-life balance. Although it was difficult, having this routine helped when I began ICAS training and worked full-time whilst studying in the evenings for my accountancy exams.

When applying for graduate roles, I undertook a lot of research to ensure I was applying to employers where I would gain the right experience and would be of most benefit to me. I quickly realised Consilium Chartered Accountants was somewhere I would enjoy working and was delighted when they offered me a graduate CA training contract working within the audit department.

Having recently qualified as an ICAS Chartered Accountant after three years of exams, my focus now is on gaining as much experience as possible in accountancy practice. I am thoroughly enjoying my time at Consilium due to the variety of opportunities available, supportive culture and flexible working arrangements.

Without the ICAS Foundation, I would still have gone to university but would have missed out on so much. The Foundation's support meant I had more time to study and enjoy university whilst maintaining my work-life balance. I'm incredibly grateful for its financial support, whilst allowing me to meet accounting professionals who helped shape my career path.

Education:

University of Strathclyde
Accounting and Finance
Graduated 2019 with
First Class Honours

Role:

Consilium CA
Audit Senior

Top Tip:

“Don't be afraid to ask questions of your mentor – they are there to support and advise you, so don't hold back.”