

## About Claire Galineau

Claire Galineau CTA, Tax Policy  
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# Claire Galineau

## CTA



## Interview

### How did you find out about a career in tax?

After a Bachelor of Business Law at the University of Nancy, France, I completed a Master of Laws with Queen Mary University of London, focusing on European and International taxation. So I guess you could say I had an early interest in the topic. I started working in Luxembourg a few months after the LuxLeaks came out and shortly before the State Aid investigations were opened by the European Commission. In hindsight, that was a lucky time to start a career in tax as it allowed me to work with very senior people, putting my skills in competition and tax law into good use straight away.

### Why is the CIOT qualification important?

When I moved back to the UK after two years working in Luxembourg, I wanted to demonstrate that I could provide advice on UK tax matters, as well as international tax issues. I did this by becoming a Chartered Tax Adviser and also finishing the Advanced Diploma in International Taxation (ADIT), which I had started during my Master's with the CIOT. I fondly remember Bill Dodwell, then President of the CIOT, delivering both certificates at the same admission ceremony back in 2017.

### Why did you pursue a career in tax?

I like the challenging environment: no two days are ever the same in tax! In the last couple of years, I've pivoted to tax policy with a sustainability and climate angle. This is my ikigai: I've always been passionate about climate, so I find working on solutions to use the tax system more efficiently to help achieve net zero goals really rewarding. Last June, I joined the CIOT Climate Change Working Group, which considers the implications of climate change for UK tax policy.

### How would you describe yourself in three words?

Curious, collaborative and unrelentingly challenging the status quo.

### Who has influenced you in your career so far?

For me, having a coach, a mentor and a sponsor (or several!) very early on in my career helped me to seek new opportunities. Now, I'm at a stage where I can nurture new talents, pass on the baton if you will, and I'm really enjoying doing this.

### What advice would you give to someone thinking of doing the CIOT qualification?

It will be hard, but you can do hard things! I think people underestimate the time and dedication needed but it's also only a phase in your career: it's worth pushing yourself.

**What are your predictions for tax advisers and the tax industry in the future?**

Sustainability will become increasingly important for businesses, individuals and the economy at large. It might feel overwhelming at first but you can upskill yourself relatively fast.

**What advice would you give to your future self?**

You're exactly where you need to be.

**Tell me something about yourself that others may not know about you.**

I love pop culture and always try to insert references in blogs and articles. That's anything from Troye Sivan and Heartstopper to movies starring Timothée Chalamet. If I weren't a tax adviser, I would love to work in the music or cinema industry.

