

Meet our 20,000th CIOT member

Rachael Brown

CTA, ATT

About Rachael Brown

Rachael is Tax Manager (Private Client) at Claritas Tax, UK.

Rachael has completed ATT and was awarded CTA in February 2024. We welcome Rachael as our 20,000th CIOT member.



Interview

Congratulations on completing your CTA qualification, becoming our 20,000th CIOT member and joining the CIOT community.

Thank you, I am delighted to become a chartered tax adviser and honoured to be the 20,000th CIOT member!

What made you decide to study for the CTA?

Working in tax, you always hear about the work and activities of the CIOT and there was no question that CTA was the qualification I needed to pursue. I also wanted the intellectual challenge and to increase and consolidate my tax technical knowledge.

What attracted you to want to become a CIOT member?

I wanted to become a member as it is the gold standard for tax advisers. Completing the qualification proves you have mastered taxation to employers, clients and intermediaries and shows that you can undergo a rigorous testing process in order to earn those letters after your name.

How has achieving the CTA membership designation and becoming a CIOT member helped your career development?

It has certainly increased my confidence and awareness of areas of tax outside of my specialism. As I progress in my career it is key that I hold the CTA badge of honour as evidence of my technical tax expertise.

What benefits do you think your CTA qualification and CIOT membership bring to your employer?

My firm prides itself on offering high technical excellence and in competing with much bigger firms in terms of quality. Having highly qualified and well-trained staff is part of that offering and my employer really values the additional kudos having CTA qualified staff confers.

Additionally, being a CTA member offers wider benefits to staff, including branch membership and local and online webinars which can be invaluable resources, especially for newly qualified staff, in building up their professional networks and in maintaining their CPD.

What has been the highlight of your career so far?

I chose to take the ATT/CTA route early on in my career and this meant that I was studying for ATT while juggling a three-year-old and a full-time job. I managed to pass with a distinction in personal tax and gained a promotion at work, which was definitely a highlight! However, I decided to wait until my son was older before tackling CTA.

Being good at my job is very important to me so it has been nice to gain the recognition for that, and finally completing my CTA feels like the culmination of a journey of hard work advising clients, writing technical articles and, of course, passing exams!

What was your perception of taxation before your CTA training began and how has this changed?

CTA hasn't changed my perception because I have always loved the changing nature of tax and the technical challenge this represents. I do think that CTA often opens people's eyes to just how much there is to know about tax.

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

Go for it. Ignore the noise about it being difficult and the pass rates being low, especially if you already have practical experience. The qualification should take you from having tax knowledge to being able to give a client succinct, valuable advice and it is the gold standard employers are looking for.

Tell us something about yourself that others may not know about you?

Outside of my day job I write practical tax articles and news updates for a newsletter aimed at tax professionals, and I'm an author for Bloomsbury Professional. I'm also about to have a baby girl!

Welcoming our 20,000th CIOT Member

