

Profile

Rebecca Neville is a Tax Manager at Hart Shaw. Rebecca is a CIOT member and was awarded the DITT qualification in October 2024.

Rebecca Neville



Interview

Tell us about your current role, career so far and how did you first start working in tax?

My career journey began as a placement student at a small firm in Sheffield, where I gained invaluable hands-on experience preparing accounts, filing tax returns, and assisting on audits. This role quickly revealed my passion for tax. Following university, I joined the tax team at a firm in Rotherham, where I spent four great years primarily providing compliance services for both personal and corporate clients. During my time there, I achieved my ACCA qualification and started studying for my CTA exams.

In 2016, I moved to my current firm, Hart Shaw Chartered Accountants in Sheffield. Here, I successfully completed my CTA exams and, more recently, passed the DITT qualification. At present, I am the Tax Manager at Hart Shaw, leading a team of nine. My responsibilities include a diverse range of tasks, including overseeing compliance services, preparing detailed written tax advice for clients, implementing procedures and processes, and managing the HR aspects of a team.

What area of tax do you work in and how did the tax technology qualification help you in your day-to-day job?

My role is predominately general tax work and although I don't specialise in any particular area, I do prefer to look after our private clients. A significant aspect of my role involves optimising departmental efficiency and refining workflows. The qualification has broadened my perspective across various technology domains, inspiring innovative approaches to enhance our operations.

What motivated you to take this qualification?

Technology has always captivated me, and with the rapid evolution of the tax industry, pursuing the diploma was perfectly timed to deepen my knowledge and explore what the future of tax might hold.

What are your observations on the syllabus, learning experience, assessment questions and touchpoint communications?

The syllabus provided an excellent foundation for skill development, offering a diverse array of topics to explore. The learning experience was engaging and well-balanced, combining written materials with videos to ensure comprehensive coverage of each module. The assessment questions were thoughtfully designed to encompass all aspects of the modules, encouraging critical thinking and a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

Qualifications

FCCA

CTA

DITT

What stood out in terms of learning and skills you have developed as a result of studying the DITT?

The program expanded my understanding of the relationship between tax and technology. It gave me the confidence to explore areas of technology that interested me and provided me with the right skills to enhance my career.

How did you manage studying and working at the same time?

The modular structure of the course provided me with the flexibility to tailor my learning approach. Balancing a full-time job and parenting a young child, the section-based format made it easier to juggle studying, working, and motherhood seamlessly.

Do you have any guidance on how best to approach the learning material?

I found it helpful to set aside dedicated time each night or week to learn the material and to ensure I didn't overwhelm myself by studying too much in one revision session. I found it useful to make sure that I read and studied the written material first and then to reinforce my understanding I watched the corresponding video for the module.

Which module did you enjoy the most and what were the most relevant to your current role?

The modules most relevant to my role were also the ones I enjoyed the most. Module 9, "Understanding the Shift to Digital Tax Administration," and Module 10, "HMRC Tax-Year Strategy," explored various topics, including the journey toward Making Tax Digital, the digital initiatives introduced in the UK so far, and the potential future of digital transformation for tax authorities.

How do you think this programme will benefit the profession?

As highlighted earlier, the tax industry is evolving, and equipping professionals with new skills and techniques to enhance their grasp of technology. This will undoubtedly benefit those in the profession.

Would you recommend this programme to others?

Yes, I would recommend the programme to others. It can be studied flexibly, the structure is manageable, and the content is relevant to the future changes in technology.

What kept you motivated throughout the programme?

The longer deadline to complete the diploma provided me with the flexibility to study at my own pace, accommodating my other commitments without feeling overwhelmed.

Any words of wisdom to future candidates thinking of studying the DITT?

Do the course at your own pace, don't try to rush and complete it quickly. Take in all the content that is being given and don't try and sit the exam too early. Most importantly enjoy it.

