

About Craig Paterson

Craig Paterson is a Business Advisory Manager at Johnston Carmichael who are one of the UK's top 20 accountancy firms.

Craig graduated from Edinburgh University in 2011 with an Honours degree in Accounting and Business Studies, and then started his CA training in the same year, becoming a qualified Chartered Accountant with ICAS in 2014.

Craig began studying to become a Chartered Tax Adviser in late 2016, completing the CTA in July 2018.

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CRAIG PATERSON

CTA



Interview

What made you decide to study for the CTA qualification?

I decided to study for the CTA qualification because I wanted to give the best advice and service to my clients.

Being client centric is so important in today's competitive landscape and listening to them is key.

I also knew that tailoring my advice to better fulfil their needs was vital to their success and mine. Having worked in a mixed accounts and tax role for eight years, dealing with accounts preparation as well as corporate tax, personal tax and VAT compliance, I could see where I could add value.

What did you specialise in?

I specialised in the Taxation of Individuals and the Taxation of Owner Managed Businesses as I felt these were the subjects which could benefit most the needs of my clients.

How did you find life as a CTA student?

Studying for the CTA qualification was definitely challenging, especially as I got married three days after sitting my Taxation of Individuals exam. The two advisory papers required a lot of forward planning to ensure I was still able to maintain a work/life balance, however the long hours paid off and graduating at Drapers' Hall in London made it all feel worthwhile.

It was a great experience to have my family there seeing me graduate in such a grand building, in the heart of London. The day was also a great opportunity for me to meet fellow CTA graduates from around the country.

I hope that now I am CTA qualified my new role at Johnston Carmichael will allow me to gain further exposure to tax planning on behalf of my client portfolio.

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

I would encourage anyone looking to expand their knowledge of tax, or further their career within the area of tax, to consider the CTA qualification. It is hard work, and does require dedication and long hours of study, but I feel as though I have learnt a great deal which will improve the service I can provide to my clients.

I enjoy working in general practice, and am excited to see what my new role will bring in terms of improving my skillset and career progression. As Johnston Carmichael have experienced high levels of growth in recent years, I am excited to be a part of the future growth of the business.