

Work Experience Programme.

Ellis Thompson - VFO

Why did you choose PEM?

I chose PEM for several key reasons. Firstly, the firm is well-respected and has a positive reputation in the local area. I was also attracted by the diverse range of clients, which I thought would offer a technical challenge. It was also clear that PEM heavily invests in its junior staff, which sounded like a great environment to learn in.

How did your role develop and what did you enjoy most about it?

When I first started work experience, I was mostly learning my way around the accounting software and different tasks and processes, such as bank reconciliations and VAT returns. This involved shadowing many of the talented team, who were instrumental in this learning process. I was able to quickly progress into being given more responsibility; this independence was what I enjoyed the most, and it was great to still have advice and insights from the team whenever I needed.

What skills were useful in this profession?

I think that a blend of technical and interpersonal skills are key in this profession. Being analytical with numerical data and having attention to detail is fundamental, as well as a proficiency in the various software and Microsoft Office. In addition, both written and verbal communication are of high importance, in conjunction with time management and organisation.

What experience have you gained with PEM?

During my time at PEM, I gained a wealth of practical experience from the variety of tasks that the team might undertake on any given day.

I gained technical skills and ability through learning how to use the software, especially Xero and Dext. The experience has given me a real-world understanding of concepts I've learnt about during my studies.

What was your favourite aspect about your role?

My favourite aspect was definitely the collaborative team environment. A large part of accounting involves independent work, but it was clear from my time with VFO that they are one big team.

The discussion of challenges and sharing of knowledge was incredibly valuable for my development and the entire team, including senior members, were always approachable and willing to answer any questions.

Describe working at PEM in 3 words.

Supportive, challenging, rewarding.