

The Truth about CA Training Offices

The CA profession has long offered the best training in public accounting practices. Large or small, CA students working at a CA Firm are involved with external audit engagements. Most of the work you do counts as chargeable hours in assurance and taxation, which are required to get your public accounting license. During your three years, you'll audit a wide variety of companies, and learn about each of them along the way. So working on external audits is also a great way to figure out what type of industry appeals to you.

Until recently, CAs could only meet the requirements of their practical experience at these accounting firms. When you consider over 60% of CAs are employed in industry, government and education, we wanted to provide an avenue for these future business leaders to have a place to learn today. As a result, the profession now offers CA students the option of getting their hands-on practical experience by articling in leading business and government organizations and the non-audit practice areas of CA firms.

These "expanded experience opportunities" have been growing in popularity, both from the organizations seeking approval to train CA students and students interested in training outside of external audit. In fact, within five years, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario expects the number CA Training Offices in industry and government to more than triple, so that more than 400 CA students will be in these jobs by the year 2015.

CA Training Offices in the corporate and public sectors are guaranteed to provide you with exposure to various areas of the organization. That means, by the time you're a CA, you'll understand the company's operations and you'll know which department you'd like to end up working for full-time. The organizations have a vested interest to get a personally trained CA who's ready to help run things, while being groomed for leadership. As a result, the Institute works closely with these organizations to customize a pre-approved career path(s) for CA students that align with the company's vision while also meeting the professions strict criteria.

To help students understand their options when looking for a job in a CA Training Office, we have prepared three short videos:

- Exploring the different types of CA Training Offices
- Do CA Training Offices within Industry & Government properly prepare me for the UFE?
- Is there a CA Training Office in Industry/Government that is right for me?

These videos can be viewed at www.guidetorulingtheworld.ca/WorkExperience and also address the FAQs we get from students, including:

- Do I need a public accounting license?
- Where do I go to get more information?
- How to find out who's approved as a CA Training Office?
- How do I apply for these jobs?

Whether you get your CA by articling in a CA firm, industry or government, it's exactly the same designation and will afford you all the same benefits, so chose your CA Training Office based on your own interests and career aspirations.

For more information, please contact guidetorulingtheworld@icao.on.ca