

Focus on Finance -

Clare Frankum



I joined Thames Water in July 2010, I am currently employed as a Senior Management Accountant.

After finishing sixth form I joined a small telecoms software company where I assisted the Finance Director with the day to day basic accounts, doing things such as bank recs, credit card and staff expenses, purchase ledger and invoicing. During this time I decided to start studying AAT (Association of Accounting Technicians), in order to help progress my career in finance.

Due to the small size of the company, there was no opportunity for me to progress within the company, so I joined Vodafone. During my time at Vodafone, I

worked firstly in a financial accounting role looking after VAT, Tax and statutory accounts. I then moved into a management accounting role.

Whilst at Vodafone I completed AAT and moved onto studying CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants). Having done both financial and management accounting roles, I decided that management accounting is what I enjoyed, as it gave me the opportunity to get out and meet people in the business and therefore was the area I would like to work in going forwards.

I joined Thames Water and passed my final CIMA exam at almost the same time. I initially began in a level 7 role looking after the opex side of the business areas I support. After a couple of years of doing this, I was promoted to a level 6 role and have taken on the capex side of the same business areas. This has given me the opportunity to learn a lot about how Thames works and now I'm looking to move roles to support a new business area, which will help to broaden my knowledge of the business and give me a new challenge. As part of my role, I spend a lot of time meeting with and talking to the people who work within the business areas I support, so I feel I have a good balance of time spent working at my PC and getting out and meeting different people and understanding their roles within Thames.

There are plenty of opportunities in Thames to go on training, whether

that is being sponsored for a professional qualification such as CIMA, or smaller, day long courses, which you feel may benefit you in your job. They also encourage staff to go out and do site visits to learn about areas of the business that you're not directly linked to. Due to the large size of the company, there are regularly vacant roles and secondments advertised internally and Thames encourages you to apply for these if they interest you.

Outside of the working day, I have volunteered to become a mentor to teenagers struggling to find work. This is via an external company, but who regularly come in Thames' offices to advertise for volunteers. Thames offer their staff 'time to give' hours (up to 2 days a year) where you can take paid time off, to work with charities or similar companies.

We have a social committee within Finance, and there are many others across the business as a whole. They arrange various events, which enable us to get together on a regular basis to do things outside of work. Recently I went to watch the raft race, where colleagues across the company build and race their rafts down the Thames, there's a BBQ and drinks too, with all money raised going to WaterAid.

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