

CPA Profile

Debbie Fogarty



Title:
Financial Accountant

Company:
Cricket Victoria

Qualifications:
CPA & Bachelor of Business & Management, NUI Maynooth

Why did you decide to start out on a career in accountancy?

I first became interested in accountancy at quite a young age when studying Business Studies in my first year of secondary school. The desire really grew from there, although initially I wanted to pursue a career in teaching Business and Accounting. With this interest in business studies, I completed a Bachelor of Business and Management at NUI Maynooth.

Before taking the next step of completing a higher diploma in education, I headed off travelling and moved to Australia. After two years away the itch to get back to college and get my career started set in. I came back to Ireland very conflicted on whether to pursue a teaching career or become an accountant. Convinced that teaching was my true calling I began my higher diploma in education at DCU. Although it was an amazing experience that I will never forget nor regret, a year later I knew that teaching wasn't my forever career and it was then that I was excited to pursue a career as an accountant and glad to report that I haven't looked back since.

Why did you choose CPA Ireland as your qualification route?

I remember looking at the various options available for a career in accountancy and being very confused about what Institute I should look to complete my studies with. CPA Ireland offered the flexibility of part-time and online learning which was imperative for me at the time. In addition, the mutual recognition agreement with CPA Australia was also a deciding factor knowing that it was likely I might make the move back there.

Please provide a brief history of your career.

When I began my CPA studies back in 2014, I was working as an Accounts Assistant with a corporate taxi firm in Dublin. Two years later and two years into my CPA studies, I headed off travelling around the world for three months and returned to Australia once again. Back in Melbourne I secured a role as a Finance Officer with Cricket Victoria, the governing body of cricket in the state of Victoria.

Nine months into the role I was promoted to Financial Accountant. During this time, I continued my CPA studies remotely with the full support of CPA Ireland and recently qualified in December 2019.

How do you find your CPA qualification has helped you in your role?

It has definitely equipped me with practical skills and knowledge that I have been able to apply in my day to day role and has given me more confidence in my decision-making capabilities. It has also afforded me some great opportunities to take on more responsibility which I hope will continue into the future.

What has been your biggest career achievement?

Obtaining my CPA qualification. Having already spent five years in higher education before pursuing my CPA qualification, I did feel like I was starting off all over again. Like all other students, a lot of sacrifices were made over the five years I spent studying. It was also particularly challenging maintaining momentum while moving overseas to start a new life.

Thankfully CPA Ireland, Griffith College and study online made remote learning as smooth as possible and were extremely supportive. Successfully sitting some exams until 3am in the morning (Australia time) was an achievement I am proud of!

If you were advising someone just starting out with their CPA qualification, what tip would you give them that would make their journey smoother?

You need to understand that it will take a lot of hard work and commitment with many sacrifices along the way, but you will get out what you put in and it will be worth it.

How do you unwind?

Spending time with those closest to me. Enjoying Melbourne restaurants with my partner, drinks with friends, facetime with my family at home in Ireland and doggy walks down the beach with my fur child Dusty.

What traits do you admire most in others?

Humility, honesty, empathy, understanding and a willingness to learn.

