

CPA Profile

Sunil Appat Sukumaran



Title:
Financial Accountant

Company:
Canyon CTS Shannon

Qualifications:
CPA, MBA

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

My basic qualifications are a Bachelor of Commerce and a Masters in Business Administration specialising in Finance. A career in accountancy gives you an opportunity to use and develop your leadership and analytical skills. I was always interested in learning new skills and traveling, and I felt accountancy was the best career choice to satisfy this.

Why did you choose CPA Ireland as your qualification route?

The CPA qualification is recognized worldwide, and CPA Ireland has many mutual recognition agreements. This definitely gives mobility and one can be proud to have this title.

Please provide a brief history your career.

Before joining CPA most of my previous work experience revolved around the hotel industry in various roles such as HR management, front office management and general manager at the Hydro Hotel, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare. Here I worked closely with the managing director, Marcus White, and the financial controller, Robert Hurley, managing the hotel business and promoting the "Matchmaking Festival". They were aware of my

interest in accounting and motivated me in pursuing an accounting qualification even though they knew it would mean leaving my position at the hotel.

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

In order to attain a CPA qualification, I worked through from Formation 1 to the Professional exams in the past 3 years. This gave me a thorough understanding of all the accounting concepts and standards. The CPA Ireland syllabus covers a wide range of topics which gave me confidence to deal with any work situation.

What has been your biggest achievement?

The biggest achievement for me is being awarded the "Liam Donnelly medal" for achieving the highest combined result in the professional 2 exams in 2018.

What or who inspires you the most in business?

There are many people in business who inspire me, but Warren Buffet and Bill Gates are at the top of my list not just because of their achievements in business but also their philanthropist actions.

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

I would advise anybody starting out on their CPA qualification to enjoy what they are studying and learn the concepts rather than rote learning. Use the CPA Ireland website, the past exam papers and to approach the tuition providers whenever help is required. I studied by attending lectures in Griffith College and also using the study online option.

What do you think are the most pressing issues for accountants?

Accounting is a lifelong learning profession. You need to always be proactive and up to date on the new laws and regulations, both domestically and internationally.

How do you unwind?

Studying towards a professional qualification and working side by side can be quite stressful at times. I normally choose to go for a walk in the Burren which is a 15-minute drive for me. I strongly believe that one should find some time to enjoy the free gifts of the nature, which are plentiful in Ireland, and take small steps to preserve them for our future generation.

What traits do you admire most in others?

Respecting and recognizing each other's ability/disability, and honesty are the traits which I admire the most.

