**Fast track to a successful career in business and finance**

Thomas, 23, is an Audit Principal at the National Audit Office in London

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“The percentage of FTSE100 boards that have ACA-qualified chartered accountants was a huge attraction for me when looking into potential professional qualifications. Another attraction of the ACA qualification was that I was able to complete it through the AAT-ACA Fast Track programme. This scheme allowed me to leave school after my A-levels and work towards a prestigious qualification, all while getting practical experience as an accountant with the National Audit Office.I am now an Audit Principal for the National Audit Office, which plays an important part in helping to ensure that the Government is held accountable to Parliament for the way it uses public money.
A typical day doesn’t exist and I can be anywhere from the office in London, to visiting clients in other parts of the country or indeed Europe. The most difficult aspect of training via the AAT-ACA Fast Track has been balancing work commitments and study. However I don’t have any regrets about not going to university and I feel perhaps even at a slight advantage to my peers, as I have already had four years of experience working for the National Audit Office.”

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