

# Accounts Manager Ernst Young

(<https://www.ey.com/uk/en/home>)

## Heather Leybourne

*BSc Sports and Exercise Science, Loughborough University*

I chose my degree based on what I enjoyed and wanted to know more about, however I was unsure about how to turn that into a career in which I could be satisfied. I used the career service while at university which told me more about traditional, directly related careers linked to my field of study. I decided, however, that none of those opportunities felt like the right one for me.

When I first graduated, I explored several career paths including teaching, physiotherapy and coaching but none of them felt like they would really challenge me. At that point I realised that I wanted something offering a hierarchy, that would teach me new things and offer intellectual growth while providing a network large enough to travel and cross train at different stages. I started to look at various graduate schemes offered by companies that weren't looking for the material content of a degree but people with a willingness and capacity to learn; this allowed me to cast my net much further than only considering the careers traditionally associated with my field of study.

One thing I believe helped me to stand out in my application was my people skills. Within the interview they were looking for key soft skills that would be transferable to the audit environment and the ability to be comfortable and make others feel comfortable is essential for good communication.

My role is best suited for someone with a constant thirst for learning, as financial regulations and legal requirements are constantly changing. An analytical & logical mind set is essential and being able to spot trends and understand the relationships in financial numbers is absolutely key to quickly understanding business risks. The ability to write concise and sound reports, combing the numbers with our understanding of the business into meaningful analysis is also important. As is the ability to pick salient points from general conversations, knowing when and how to pursue a lead and understand how that item impacts the bigger picture and being able to challenge and be sceptical of information provided in a constructive manner.

In Aberdeen I love the beaches and countryside the most. The city has everything you need, Edinburgh is not too far away, there's the airport with lots of international routes... what's not to enjoy?!

At present, Aberdeen is going through an evolution at a time where technology across all sectors is evolving - which is a fantastic alignment. The world is changing, and so are we. Aberdeen city is very fortunate as those who have enjoyed success are committed to creating new opportunities and to help young professional succeed in a new era. The level of support to maintain a strong economy and provide opportunities for our young professionals is truly unique.