

Let's Talk Business

For Ted Rogers Students

These reports describe industry sectors and career paths of interest to Ted Rogers students and alumni. Each report leverages BCH employment data and the expertise of our staff. This collaborative effort engages staff, students, alumni and the University Business Librarian.

A Day in the Life of a Senior Tax Associate

We chatted recently with Calistus Alexander, an Alumni who graduated from the Ted Rogers School in 2017, and is currently working as a Senior Tax Associate in PwC.



In this report, he shares his daily routine, the technology and platform he uses, and some excellent advice for entering the Tax industry.

Q: What do you do on a 'day-to-day' basis in your role as a Senior Associate, Tax at PwC?

- A:**
- Every day is different, as a Senior Associate, which is ideal in order to learn and grow. This results in an environment where new tax projects encourage active thinking and working within teams. I have had a great experience in accelerating my learning and have been exposed to various projects and clients.
 - Generally, the role of most accountants is to service clients for all tax matters – this includes personal tax, corporate tax, and trust tax issues amongst other tax-related work.
 - Versatility is also part of my role. I am exposed to many tax concepts which are then applied to real life. It is one thing to learn a technical concept in a textbook, and another to apply your learning to a detailed application of a client's file.
 - There is a strong support system at PwC from professionals who have experience in a wide range of tax. My role includes working with intelligent individuals who have been practicing in the tax industry for a long time.
 - Every day includes team work and acting as a liaison between individuals, companies, families, and the firm.
 - Certain times of the year require me to focus on specific types of projects. For instance, during the months of March, April and June, the work is primarily compliance-based.
 - Every day is different, so it is important to adapt to the work that comes in. Adapting and being challenged, while learning, makes the job interesting.



Q: What technology platforms do you use in your role?

- A:**
- Working at PwC, there are always new technology platforms being used for various reasons. Currently, I am using: Taxprep, iFirm, MS Office and G-Suite. Having access to multiple Google applications is helpful, in work that requires collaboration. Google Meet and Google Chat allow us to collaborate and adapt to our hybrid way of working.



Q: What advice would you provide a Ted Rogers student who aspires to work in tax upon graduation?

- A:**
- If you are not sure what you're truly interested in, there are many different tax streams you can learn more about, some of which include: Corporate Tax, US Tax, and Indirect Tax.
 - Since tax is something that affects us all and connects us together, and because individuals are interested in how certain tax concepts will affect them, you might be asked a lot of questions at social gatherings. Recently, a friend of mine contacted me to discuss the principal residency exemption and how it might impact him when selling one of his two homes. It is rewarding when I am able to share my knowledge and assist others in matters that impact them. The knowledge you learn at work can be applied to your day-to-day life.
 - Tax will always be around = always have an availability of jobs
 - Take advantage of opportunities to volunteer and prepare T1 returns for individuals, pro bono. This will give you exposure to tax returns while helping the community. A PwC value is Care – by helping others in the community, we can support others to grow and work in the ways that bring out their best.

Q: Are there any online resources/organizations that students can learn more from?

- A:**
- The advantage of the modern age is that there are numerous articles, blogs, and tax acts that are available online. A quick Google search will provide you with more information on a tax concept, and related articles. Outside of the internet, you can learn more from your Professors and CPA Ontario.



Q: Any other info you want to share about your role to assist our students?

- A:**
- Enjoy the journey, including the highs and lows. You will grow as an individual and professional through both your university life and career. All the best.



Q: What technology platforms do you use in your role?

- A:**
- Working at PwC, there are always new technology platforms being used for various reasons. Currently, I am using: Taxprep, iFirm, MS Office and G-Suite. Having access to multiple Google applications is helpful, in work that requires collaboration. Google Meet and Google Chat allow us to collaborate and adapt to our hybrid way of working.



Q: What advice would you provide a Ted Rogers student who aspires to work in tax upon graduation?

- A:**
- If you are not sure what you're truly interested in, there are many different tax streams you can learn more about, some of which include: Corporate Tax, US Tax, and Indirect Tax.
 - Since tax is something that affects us all and connects us together, and because individuals are interested in how certain tax concepts will affect them, you might be asked a lot of questions at social gatherings. Recently, a friend of mine contacted me to discuss the principal residency exemption and how it might impact him when selling one of his two homes. It is rewarding when I am able to share my knowledge and assist others in matters that impact them. The knowledge you learn at work can be applied to your day-to-day life.
 - Tax will always be around = always have an availability of jobs
 - Take advantage of opportunities to volunteer and prepare T1 returns for individuals, pro bono. This will give you exposure to tax returns while helping the community. A PwC value is Care – by helping others in the community, we can support others to grow and work in the ways that bring out their best.

Q: Are there any online resources/organizations that students can learn more from?

- A:**
- The advantage of the modern age is that there are numerous articles, blogs, and tax acts that are available online. A quick Google search will provide you with more information on a tax concept, and related articles. Outside of the internet, you can learn more from your Professors and CPA Ontario.



Q: Any other info you want to share about your role to assist our students?

- A:**
- Enjoy the journey, including the highs and lows. You will grow as an individual and professional through both your university life and career. All the best.



Want to Learn More for Free?



CPA Academy

Want to hear more from professionals? You will find all you need [here](#).



CPA Canada

CPA is the professional body for accounting professionals in Canada. [Here](#) you can find news on industry reports, trends, and seminars on hot topics.



Econ Paper

Access a massive number of papers, journal articles, books and other publish works [here](#).



Visit the Business Career Hub

Employer Events

The BCH hosts several employer events to prepare you prepare for a professional career. Refer to your weekly BCH Careers Newsletter for a list of upcoming events.



[TedRogersBCH](#)



[Business Career Hub Website](#)



[TedRogersBCH](#)

Coaching & Mock Interview

For career coaching, interview prep and more, [schedule a 1:1 appointment](#) with a Career Consultant or a Co-op Coordinator.



Career Consultant Contributor Olivia Baratta

Olivia is a Career Consultant and TRSM Alumni, with 9+ years of experience in the hospitality, real estate and academic sectors. She brings her passion for building meaningful experiences for her clients to develop and showcase their unique brand.



Student Contributor Yike Cheng

Yike is a fourth-year Hospitality and Tourism Management Co-op student and is a Project Coordinator supporting the Business Career Hub. She is passionate about sharing her experiences and developing a career in project management.