



# Audit Intensive Graduate Trainee - James

## Transcription

I'm James, I studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Glasgow.

I really enjoyed the Intensive programme because it gave me the opportunity to focus on studying and then focus on work. I think that something that comes from the Empowered programme is those intervals of work and then study. But I found having the focus in that first year really suited me.

So for both programmes, it's a 36-month programme with 10 months of study time.

With the Intensive, you take 10 months of study time in the first 10 months, but for the Empowered, you take 10 months of study time across the 36-month course.

I would say, strongly consider your love of studying, think back to when you were at university and think whether you really enjoyed studying or not. Because if you did, then the Intensive 10 months is certainly a good way to continue that liking of studying. But if you don't, then definitely consider the Empowered programme, it's a lot less intense.

The Intensive scheme definitely earns its title, it's very hard work for 10 months. You are supported by KPMG, they provide you the materials, the tutoring and regular guidance and kind of check-ins to make sure that you are keeping up to speed with everything you need to. The most challenging aspect about the Intensive scheme is certainly maintaining a level of focus and concentration for those first 10 months. I felt I really achieved something at the end of that period because I could say I was only one exam away from completing my ACA.

For the first 10 months I was based in Birmingham, so I lived in Birmingham and studied at a Birmingham College, but beyond that, for the final 2 years I lived in Bristol.

Everyone is very personable, very welcoming, and I guess something that comes with all being on the same boat really, you've all been dropped into something pretty much entirely new and going through that with people together obviously brings them together.

I think that I've kind of developed in every sense, my knowledge of accountancy has developed, my softer skills have developed, presenting skills, everything you would expect from a graduate scheme really.