

**Name:** Louise Cannon

**Age:** 24

### **Background:**

Louise studied Chemistry, Physics and Maths at A Level, and Biology and Music AS Levels. She then went on to study Chemistry with Management at Imperial College, London. The course combines two years of chemistry with a final year in the Management School.



### **What sort of work do you do?**

I am a trainee management accountant. This involves preparing company accounts, forecasts, budgets and month end reports. I also look after the cash that comes into, and flows out of, the company.

I decided to go into accounting after my management year when I discovered I had an aptitude for analysing data, spotting trends and solving problems – all skills I developed through studying chemistry.

I chose to study chemistry because it is a very broad-ranging subject, which prepares you for any profession.

Chemistry helps you to develop numerical and analytical skills. You are constantly probing for clues and trying out different scenarios. The same skills apply to accounting.

Chemistry also teaches you patience and determination, which are essential skills in any career.

### **What do you like about your job?**

My job challenges me. There are always new problems to solve and new skills to be learnt. It is very satisfying when you find the answer to a problem or develop a more efficient way of doing something.

### **What's the worst bit?**

Sometimes simple problems seem to take forever to solve, and this can be very frustrating. However, it makes it all the more rewarding when you do complete the task. There are busy periods such as half-year and year-end when you have to produce statutory account reports and may have to work long hours.

### **What do you want to do in the future?**

As I approach the final level of my accountancy exams I should be given more responsibility. There will be more to learn, and new challenges. Also accountancy is a useful background if you want to move into other areas, or even start your own business!