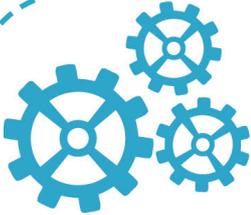


career choice



TAX



What do tax professionals do?

The tax system is large and complicated and it changes all the time: it is the job of tax professionals to understand it in order to help their clients. Tax professionals consider all of the legal and accounting aspects of tax, interpreting complex data and translating it into practical and effective advice.

Tax advisers need to keep up to date with all the laws surrounding tax that are passed in parliament, making it a fast-paced job in which you always have to keep learning.



Tax skills

With so much time spent working with clients, tax professionals need to have diplomacy and good communication skills. Of course, none of that will matter if they can't back it up with the cost-saving advice clients expect. To produce good quality work, they also need to have:

- An aptitude for research
- An analytical mind-set
- Commercial awareness
- Excellent problem-solving capabilities.



Salaries in tax

Tax advisers enjoy a high level of financial reward. Salaries vary according to location, size of firm and whether the employer is based in industry or commerce, but with a clear career progression and enviable salaries in the higher pay grades, it is a profession that offers a good return on the hard work you put in.

Whilst a graduate trainee can expect to earn a starting salary of around £20,000, newly qualified Chartered Tax Advisers can expect to earn between £30,000 and £46,000. At management level, this rises to £50,000-£75,000, while a director of corporate tax in London can earn up to £140,000.



Routes into tax careers

The most popular entry route into careers in tax is through professional services and accountancy firms. These offer three-year training schemes, through which you can gain a professional tax qualification whilst receiving study support and on-the-job training.

Some firms, including the 'Big Four' accountancy firms, offer training schemes for school leavers. These are competitive and require entrants to have good A levels (often ABB) and at least a B in GCSE maths and English, or the equivalent qualifications.

The majority of places on training schemes in tax are for graduates, however. These usually require a 2:1 at degree level, although some accept candidates with a 2:2, so you will need to check entry requirements with each company in our tax employer directory. A law degree might be seen as an advantage going into tax, but companies generally accept applications from graduates of all disciplines.



Tax employers

Tax advisers can work in professional firms of all sizes, in industry and commerce and for the government.

The largest recruiters of tax professionals are accountancy firms, which includes 'The Big Four' – PwC, EY, Deloitte and KPMG – as well as 'Mid Tier' firms such as Grant Thornton and BDO.

Opportunities also exist with the in-house tax departments of UK and multinational companies. Tax compliance is a burden experienced by all companies; efficient tax management is therefore a common business aim. Working in-house will provide a less structured career route than with accountancy firms, but give you more autonomy and the satisfaction of working on projects from start to finish.

If a great salary, dynamic working environment and well-defined career trajectory appeal to you, read our in-depth tax career advice to make your future in tax a certainty.



More online

For more information, employers and jobs visit www.insidecareers.co.uk/tax