

# Andrew Wheeler



## 2009

Graduated with a 2.1 in BA (Hons) Finance, Accounting and Management from University of Nottingham

## 2009

Joined SRLV as an Audit Junior in December

## 2011

Promoted to Audit Semi-Senior in September and part-qualified in October

## 2012

Qualified in December and promoted to Audit Senior

## 2015

Promoted to Audit Assistant Manager in October

## 2017

Promoted to Audit Manager in July

### Career at SRLV

There are advantages to working at firms of different sizes, but SRLV is the ideal size firm for me. It is big enough that I have the opportunity to work on large groups, but small enough that it has allowed me to gain a more rounded experience from being involved in auditing clients from a wide range of industries.

Training and development is tailored to an individual's needs and I have been encouraged to progress my career by a supportive and nurturing team of senior managers and partners. After more than 7 years at the firm, I can honestly say that I continue to take on fresh challenges and learn new things every day.

As my career has progressed, my role has evolved to become a mentor to our most recent intake of graduates and I am responsible for coaching our juniors and overseeing their training as they undertake the ACA qualification.

### The Future and Progression

Experience in audit coupled with the ACA qualification opens up many doors and exciting career opportunities. I personally enjoy the variety, challenges and technical aspects of audit. Whilst my career continues within practice in an audit capacity, some of my ACA peers have gone on to other interesting and varied careers in industry. The options once qualified are vast.

# Natasha Patel



**2010**

Graduated with a 2.1 in BSc (Hons) Geography with Economics from Queen Mary University of London

**2010**

Worked in the insurance industry

**2012**

Joined SRLV as an Audit Junior in July

**2014**

Promoted to Audit Semi-Senior in September and part-qualified in December

**2015**

Promoted to Audit Senior in July

**2016**

Qualified in August

**2018**

Promoted to Audit Assistant Manager in July

## Life at SRLV

Having completed my training contract with SRLV, it is clear how valuable the ethos of the firm is. Whether it's a technical issue, stress over exams or a chat about The Great British Bake-Off, the managers and partners are always approachable and willing to give you their time. It's definitely something I appreciated when completing my training contract, as working and studying simultaneously whilst my responsibilities increased, was at times overwhelming and demanding, but I always had support and never felt I couldn't ask for help.

The size of the firm allows you to develop quickly as you are given a lot of responsibility early on. Within the three years you will have the opportunity to lead audits from planning through to completion and manage a small team of juniors. Since qualifying there have been plenty of opportunities to evolve my role and I am still learning and being challenged each day.

## The Application Process

With a degree primarily in Geography, the technical aspects of the ACA training scheme was initially quite daunting. However, the qualification does not assume any knowledge so it is ideal for anyone looking to pursue a career within finance. Don't be put off if you haven't studied Accountancy and Finance!

# Zoe Scullin



## 2015

Graduated with a 2.1 in BSc (Hons) Accounting and Financial Management from Loughborough University

## 2015

Joined SRLV as an Audit Junior in September

## 2016

Promoted to Audit Semi-Senior in September

## 2017

Promoted to Audit Senior in September

### A Day in the Life of a Trainee

The trainee role at SRLV is very diversified. You have the opportunity to work on a wide range of different clients, within different sectors; from fashion brands and record companies to restaurants and charities. SRLV give you lots of opportunities to work on different areas of each job and no two jobs are the same, which means you're constantly learning new skills and working with new people.

You will get the opportunity to work in house as well as out at clients around mainly London and sometimes further afield.

You will be surprised how much you learn in such a short space of time. The size of our firm and the clients we work for also allows you to develop quickly and over time SRLV will give you the opportunity to start to manage your own jobs from start to finish. This is invaluable in your professional development and something larger or much smaller firms simply can't offer.

### The Application Process

SRLV's application process was one of the most straight forward I came across. The first step was submission of your CV and a covering letter. This was followed by an informal telephone interview. Upon passing the telephone interview stage I was then invited to the assessment day. This gave me the chance to meet fellow candidates and the entire audit team. The assessment day was a great opportunity not just for SRLV to assess the candidates but also for candidates to confirm SRLV was the place for them - for me it definitely was! From junior to partner level everyone was extremely friendly and welcoming. Any nerves I had before arriving vanished and I felt at ease almost immediately, allowing me to show them why I was a good choice for the role. Throughout the day various individual and team tasks and activities took place as well as lunch with the whole team.

Partner interviews were the final stage - however not as daunting as it may sound. The partners are extremely personable and wanted to give me every chance to impress, as well as telling me about themselves and the firm.

SRLV's assessment differs from others as they're not just looking for technical and academic ability but place focus on who you are as person and how you will fit in - something I loved, and continue to see on a daily basis 2 years later!

### **SRLV Social**

Life at SRLV is not all bean counting and studying. The social scene at SRLV is great with events happening at least once a quarter. I joined the social committee as a great means to meet people outside of the audit team and get involved in organising some of the many social events throughout the year.

The firm hosts an annual summer party, Christmas party as well as quiz nights. Charity bake offs, Christmas Jumper Day, and strawberries and champagne for Wimbledon on the balcony in the summer, to name a few. These events are a great opportunity so socialise with not just your team, but other teams across the firm.

The social aspect plays a great part in your enjoyment at work and that's reflected in how not just as an audit team, but as a firm, we all work together so well.

# Scott Kerr



## 2016

Graduated with a 2.1 in BA (Econ) Accounting and Finance from the University of Manchester

## 2017

Joined SRLV as an Audit Junior in September

## 2018

Promoted to Audit Semi-Senior in September

### A Day in the Life of a Trainee

The positive atmosphere at SRLV at all levels was noticeable straight away and together with the welcoming upbeat staff made me feel like part of the team from day one.

Even as a junior you are given a lot of responsibility early on and are required to perform important tasks for a range of different clients in a number of different industries, such as music and fashion. Understandably, you are going to have a lot of questions but rest assured everyone is more than happy to help and sit with you as long as you need until you understand what is expected of you. The variety of work you perform and the person you are working for can vary on a day to day basis which is very enjoyable and enables interaction with different colleagues and ensures that no one day is the same.

Whilst working at SRLV, you will get the chance to interact with not only senior members of the team but also managers and partners on a regular basis. They are all very welcoming and it doesn't matter what level you are - they are happy to speak to you, help and encourage you.

Even if your degree is not in accountancy, it doesn't matter as you will receive all the training you need and someone is always on hand to answer any questions you may have.

### The Application Process

The application process is certainly one of the simpler ones I went through. It begins by submitting a cover letter and CV which, if successful, is followed by a telephone interview.

An assessment day follows which consists of a small icebreaker to begin with followed by a team exercise. Lunch is provided which gives you a chance to mingle with all members of the audit team, from semi seniors to partners, before giving a short presentation on something you are passionate about. If, like me, you are someone who gets nervous about giving presentations and being out of your comfort zone then there is nothing to be worried about. Everyone present is keen to make sure you are put at ease whilst performing the presentation. Talk about something that is personal to you and it will be easy for you to talk about and present.

Following the assessment day an interview with a partner and a manager is next where they want to find out a little bit more about you as a person not just about your accounting knowledge.

### **SRLV Social Life**

There is plenty going on at SRLV with events happening all throughout the year with summer and Christmas parties, quiz nights, audit meals, anniversary events and plenty more.

These social events enable you to interact with not only the audit team but with colleagues throughout the firm and this facilitates interaction with everyone at SRLV which leads to a good working atmosphere.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year at SRLV and couldn't recommend the firm high enough for anyone looking for a career in accountancy.