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I started out at the Tasmanian Audit Office through a 12-week internship during my university holidays in 2006-07.

I came back to the Audit Office as a Performance Audit Graduate in 2009 and, in 2013, moved to Canberra to work for the Australian National Audit Office. When I returned to Hobart in 2016, I worked for the Department of Treasury and Finance for just for over a year. I am now back working for the Tasmanian Audit Office in Financial Audit Services.

Both financial and performance audit require you to use what you've learnt at university and actually apply it in a real-world setting. I find the work really interesting and engaging.

There is no typical day in audit. In performance audit for example, you are reviewing whether the public service is protecting its resources or using them efficiently and effectively. Topics that the Audit Office has covered include health services, social housing and child protection. It's a really interesting role.

While you generally need a degree related to accounting or finance for financial audit, there is no specific degree required to become a performance auditor. I've met auditors who were musicians, scientists, ambulance officers and even a person who used to jump out of a rescue

helicopter to save people at their time of need. Critical thinking is the most essential skill for an auditor. You need to look at a situation and be able to create and methodically apply tests to the operating environment.

Audit work is also about communication and working in a team. It is fieldwork based, so we're generally out at a client's premises – in an office, in a hospital or at a school – talking to people. It's very much about engaging with other public servants and the community.

For a career in the public service, I would advise people to be open to new opportunities, find work that you find interesting and pursue that. If you are interested in auditing, hone your creative problem solving and critical-thinking skills and learn how to talk to people.

I love solving problems, that's what keeps me going. Every day a new problem crops up and you've got to work through the process of solving it and implementing or providing advice on the best solution.

I also like the fact that you make a difference in the lives of the people you associate with on a daily basis. You may improve their ability to access health care when they are most at need or quality education services.



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