



I always wanted to be an accountant as I had a love for the subject all through my school years, however I was unable to continue in college for an accountancy course due to personal life restrictions. I entered the workforce and eventually worked for my family haulage business while raising my family. I never lost my love of accounting and when COVID came in 2020 I decided to return to education and started my journey through ACCA.

I had to start at the beginning and paid for the first 3 subjects and exams myself while on a low income. I found it difficult at the time to afford the courses. However, through PAT Business School class WhatsApp groups, I found out about Springboard+ and applied. Springboard+ made the applied skills more affordable and achievable for me within a reasonable time frame.

My family's haulage company had no possible progression for my career, there was no work/life balance as my family and I worked around the clock without holidays, so as a family we decided to close it due to reasons like no work/life balance, driver shortages, increased insurance and regulatory financial implications. The ACCA Advanced Diploma in Accounting & Business course helped me to manage costs and maintain steady cashflow growth which in turn allowed us to sell the company and assets at a profit which previously would not have been possible.

I have completed 2 Springboard+ courses to date with PAT Business School and am currently undertaking my final course of HCI Pillar 1 which includes a Post Graduate Diploma in Professional Accountancy with PAT Business School.

During the initial part of my Springboard+ funded course with only 1 exam completed I was able to apply for many different jobs as ACCA was very sought after in job criterion. I was offered 3 different positions after interviewing with 3 different companies so I had the added benefit to choose which position I would prefer. I decided to take the position of an Assistant Accountant with a multinational Firm. I had and still have recruitment agents calling and offering me new jobs to interview for.

My new salary was €10k more than my previous position in the family company; the new position came with health care, pension, extra holidays, flexi-time, and remote working with the bonus that it is within 15 minutes drive from where I live. Within the first five months at my new position I had a pay increase for completing the PAT Business School/ACCA exams through Springboard+ and progressing with my studies.

It has honestly changed my life for the better. I have gained confidence in my abilities from the wonderful lecturers who have guided me through the subjects and with exam technique. The lecturers make themselves available at all times to answer any questions we may have on content, etc. PAT Business School lecturers are by far the most entertaining, real life-orientated and helpful lecturers I have come across during my studies. The support from both the lecturers and the administration is truly second to none.

It may sound cliché but I can honestly say that taking the Springboard+ courses has improved my quality of life immensely. The experience has increased my own sense of self worth, giving me the opportunity to apply for positions I would not otherwise have been qualified to apply for all while not putting myself under financial debt or strain. I am now on a career path that I love and can progress with ease as I continue to complete my ACCA final examinations.