

“LCCI gave me a solid foundation for accounting.”

Ashot Mardoyan

BDO ranks as the 5th largest international accounting network in the world and is by far the largest of the mid-tier groups. It is present in 107 countries with approximately 625 offices worldwide employing nearly 30,000 professionals.

The BDO network was founded in Europe 40 years ago when forward-thinking accountancy firms from the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, USA and Canada joined to form the Binder Seidman International Group.

Each BDO member firm is an independent legal entity in its own country. The Cyprus entity, BDO Philippides Chartered Accountants, was established in 1985 and is ranked amongst the island's largest providers of professional services. They have a presence in the key business cities - Nicosia (head office) and Limassol - employing 90 people overall.

Like many other young adults Ashot Mardoyan has a very active social life. He is a member of the Anglo Cypriot Theatre (ACT) where he performs in several productions throughout the year. He also practises shodokan, a form of martial arts, on a regular basis and is very active in local charities. However, what really sets Ashot apart from other young people is that he has recently become the youngest ever member of BDO Philippides in Cyprus at just 17.

Ashot attended the Melkonian Educational Institute until 2005 when he transferred to the American Academy Nicosia, where he studied for three years. After achieving a distinction in the LCCI Level 3 Accounting exam in April 2008, BDO Philippides offered him a job with the opportunity to study for the ACCA qualification, which he started in July 2008. Given that BDO Philippides usually recruits university graduates for training posts, Ashot's appointment speaks volumes about his achievement and the value of the LCCI qualification.

Ashot believes that achieving the LCCI Level 3 Accounting qualification has given him a solid foundation for his ACCA studies. He explains:

“Having the LCCI qualification helped me a lot as it created a foundation in accounting on which I can continue to build. From my ACCA classes, I have

realised that students who have taken the LCCI qualification tend to learn much faster than students who have achieved other financial qualifications.” He commented that the professional nature of the LCCI exam also gave him the experience to deal with the demands of the ACCA qualification.

Ashot also has praise for the administration and flexibility of LCCI exams:

“The exam was well organised and that helped me to concentrate better. As I remember, it was a big exam hall with many candidates but it was absolutely silent from beginning to end.”

He explained that the LCCI exam has distinct advantages over A-Levels; one of them is the fact that there are a number of examination sessions which give students the flexibility in taking the exam. This means that there is the opportunity to re-sit fairly quickly, if necessary.

Notwithstanding his success, Ashot does not believe in dedicating all his time to studying but still thinks students should study enough to achieve success. His advice to students is:

“Aim for the highest; work towards it on a daily basis. Remember, you are as good as anyone else, you just need to prove it.” ■