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# NEXT STEP

## Just Quit It Gracefully

Living in a world with unaccountable, thrilling opportunities, it is likely for one to want to leave his job and explore other options. However, most get stuck in dreaming of switching jobs, but cannot really pass the transition simply because they are confused about how to quit. Is it the state you are in? Are you currently doing a job that you have absolutely no intention of continuing? Are you dying to quit, but stumbling on your way because you don't know how to do it? Then this article is all you need to read!

MINASHSHA ZAREEL LAMISA



### To quit or not to quit

It's completely okay to hate your arrogant boss, pine for something different or want to study further, but these are actually not reasons enough to quit your job. Quitting a job not only frees one from a routine and lets one experience something new, but also involves uncalled for risks, financial security and ability to adapt to a new environment. So it's best to evaluate the pros and cons of quitting the job, and compare the conditions of the new job with the old one. Talking to experts about dealing with different working conditions and ensuring enough savings for the next 4 to 6 months are just a few things to begin with.

### Tell your boss first

Sharing the excitement of getting a new job with your favorite work mate, or talking to your friend about it in front of your office desk-neighbors are complete no-no's before quitting your job. It is wise to make sure that you tell your boss (or manager or supervisor) before anyone else, because he would rather be insulted to hear it from someone else. You need to set yourself for a good reference for your future jobs, remember?



### Be honest

No matter how you resign, you must write a short and concise resignation letter stating the exact reason behind quitting and saying that you had a good time, even if you didn't. It is decent to give a notice of two weeks, or whichever is stated in your employment contract. Before leaving, remember to look over the details. Check the employee benefits, unused vacation and sick pays that you are entitled to and return company properties from, be it car keys or file holders. Lastly, and most importantly, ask for a recommendation letter from your boss as you'll need an official documentation of your work for the future.



### Close the door but keep it unlocked

It is fine to reach a point where you absolutely despise everything about your job, but it could be the monotony or fatigue talking. Remember – a coin always has two sides. So when you finalize your decision of quitting, do recall the good things about your job, and the good in brought in you.

Reflect it, and only it, in your resignation letter, exit interview or final working days. Leaving a positive impression is always better than being ignorant and callous, because who knows? Maybe someday you might want to come back, given your situation or that of the company's changes. Unless you leave in good terms with your boss or colleagues, it'll be very difficult to sum up the courage to turn back. While it is easy to give out tips on quitting, I know it is rather difficult to walk the talk. Quitting a job requires a long and sensible thought process followed by a lot of strength and determination to do it. So when you do, leave a graceful and assertive mark. After all, all's well that ends well.



So, I have to quit saying the right thing? Why can't I just email my story?

### Saying it right

"The best way to resign gracefully is to talk to your manager one on one, explain your situation and end the conversation in a way that there is no hard feelings and it's just life," Sayeemin Rahman, Simon Fraser University, Canada puts it perfectly. Once you have decided that you want to quit, organize your story and tell your boss through a brief conversation, e-mail or phone call. Highlight the positive and avoid the negative, because you're leaving and there's no point in leaving a black mark. Apart from that, a lot of people feel the necessity to lie about the reason, but remember that saying the truth is ALWAYS better.

## ACCA Tales

Having a career as an Association of Chartered Certified Accountant (ACCA) can be very rewarding if the person knows what they are doing. The big pay checks, staying at luxury suites during holidays, the nice cars and what not? However, contrary to popular belief, that's not all: the workload can also come in equal measures. The high stress level that comes with the job, dealing with financial management and everything in between, can be very taxing. So why should students pursue ACCA? Read on to find out.

For those who are not familiar with this, ACCA is a professional accounting degree completed over 36 months that may lead to a career in chartered accountancy or professional auditing, among other ends.

Recently Alexandra Chin, Vice President and Alan Hatfield, Director of Learning from ACCA Global, and Pauline Hobson, Council Member, ACCA's primary governance body, were in town to assess and work with their local affiliates. Regarding the visit, Ms. Chin explains, "[Our] objective was to gain an understanding of the issues faced in Bangladesh, and the surrounding countries and markets. Our aim was to achieve our objectives as effectively as possible in the course of our short visit during which time we also hosted a conference on 'corporate reporting' and a celebratory ACCA night themed the

Complete Finance Professional."

Talking about why they think youngsters should consider having an ACCA qualification for their careers, they noted something quite interesting: they have a very unique partnership with Oxford Brooks University through which a student can gain a BSc Honors degree in Applied Accounting either during or after gaining the ACCA qualification. Students can pursue ACCA immediately after their A Levels (or equivalent) or immediately after their O Levels, in which case they have to do a separate foundation



course prior to the ACCA qualification. Hatfield added, "The courses offered to the potential students are intense; they instill certain values and allow them to branch out to different fields and sectors, something which can be very desirable these days." However, the representatives acknowledged that any kind of profession would have its pros and cons and managing the level of stress that comes with it can be a major issue. As an advice to those who do have a problem with this, Hobson says "One of the most important traits to have is organizing skills which 'work wonders' in managing stress levels. I always relate to my younger years when I was a young mother trying to balance things between my studies, work, and caring for my child."

Having established itself in 173 countries, and still growing since its inception in 1904, Hatfield says that ACCA Global aims in providing the best accountants and financial professionals that the world needs. He adds that while there has been a shift in the practices and ideas in the financial sector since the financial crisis, such personnel's are still of great importance. The presence of women is also important. When asked how the women are performing in this field, at a time when people are still working on creating bigger and better chances for women, they had very positive responses: 46% of present ACCA Global current members and 50% of students preparing to be ACCA qualified are female.

Talking about their perception of ACCA as a brand globally, both Chin and Hobson agreed with Hatfield when he assured, "ACCA is a very authentic brand. The core values harbored by us, which has remained true ever

since the inception of ACCA, acts as a driving force for the organization, its objectives, and the brand itself". According to them, ACCA has 'opportunity, accountability, integrity, innovation, and diversity'. This means preparing individuals to be different and to stand up and say "This might not be right so it needs to be changed". Ms Chin adds, "I personally think ACCA and the qualification that comes with it is very highly regarded and respected outside the UK, especially in my home country Malaysia where even high profile leaders are ACCA qualified".

From their years of experience, the representatives also emphasized on how important it is to have hobbies and interests outside ones work life since they add to the overall personality of a person. They also shared some of their mottos that they follow in their professional lives: Alexander Chin's motto is what she learnt at school, What we do, carry through; Pauline Hobson's (not one but two mottos that she holds dear) are, Love what you do and do what you love and secondly, Always expect the unexpected; lastly Alan Hatfield's motto was Grabbing every opportunity or simply put in a Latin phrase, Carpe Diem meaning 'seize the day'.

ACCA Global provides its qualifications here in Bangladesh through its affiliate Chartered University College. For more information, visit the ACCA Centre, Mohakhali (opposite BRAC Inn Centre) or their website <http://www.accaglobal.com/gb/en.html>

RAISA ASHRAF

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