## **Career path**Stay sharp. Get sharper.



I first learnt of PwC while in my 3rd year at University during their annual recruitment drive.

It is not necessarily focused on your academic credentials, but takes a holistic look at the candidate. What are your strengths and weaknesses? The interview sessions were more of discussions around my personality than the usual grilling sessions elsewhere. By the end of it all, whether one is recruited or not, there is a transformation. I felt more confident having gone through the process. I also learnt a lot about the business and this prepared me well for the subsequent assignments once I was on board.

My experience has certainly been one of a lifetime, humbling yet thrilling at the same time. The greatest advantage working with PwC is the wealth of knowledge available. We work in teams of competent experts, who not only demand high quality work, but mentor and help you develop and realise your optimal potential. In a nutshell, these past six months have been exactly what I expected and what was promised to me during recruitment drive.

The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. Applying is that first step. The key to making it through the recruitment process is to keep focused on the end goal. Each step is an opportunity to showcase your abilities and strengths. Build relationships with your interviewers and fellow applicants. Everyone you meet along the way has some value to add. Most importantly, do your research (being knowledgeable of the business is a great plus) and be forthright about your abilities. That unique strength that you possess is exactly what PwC is looking for.

**Dennis Karaya**, Advisory (University of Nairobi, Bachelor of Law (LLB)



I learnt about it from an advert in the daily newspaper, and from a few friends who had undergone the process in 2011. I thought it would be nice to venture and learn new things because the degree I was doing was already business related.

The recruitment process rigorous, challenging yet exciting. I was anxious, going online every two hours to check my email, to see if they have responded, and when they did, it was joy all around.

My experience since joining has been priceless, full of new diverse experiences. It is great to get to work with different people because at every new assignment, you make new acquaintances and learn how different organizations work. You get exposed to many industries and sectors. It is truly exciting.

You get to develop your interpersonal skills, communication, time management, etc. It's a truly rewarding journey so far.

My advise; Be yourself. Know what you want to achieve, and go for it. Do not give up. You have to be flexible and eager to learn, and to work with other people as a team. Strive to excel at what you do, and take feedback positively for your own improvement and learning. Be teachable!

Valentine Njeri, Assurance (USIU), Bachelor of Science, International Business Administration)



I learnt about PwC while still in college from my colleagues who talked highly about the Firm and its values and ever since then I developed an interest in joining the firm. Reading from the various publications on the PwC Kenya website made me realize that I wanted to join the firm

The recruitment process is one the most challenging and intellectually fulfilling, right from the aptitude tests all the way up to the Partners interview. The interview process made me realize of the various strengths I never knew I possessed, after each stage that I passed my confidence grew. I was battling it out with the best brains in the country which made me put more effort before and during the interviews

Working at PwC so far has helped me develop a lot more because of the interactions with people from diverse backgrounds. It is a journey of never ending experiences as each assignment has been different. It's a place where learning and personal growth never ends. My colleagues are my greatest source of support, you never get stuck there is always someone willing to assist you.

For the interested applicants my advice would be: Be yourself and be confident, it's through being yourself that your attributes will stand out and distinguish you from the rest of the pack. Be curious to learn and always inquire and read journals to keep up to date with what is happening around.

**Ken Mutai,** Assurance (Bachelor of Science, Actuarial Science With IT)



I learnt of the GR process through a friend, whom we studied together at Strathmore University. At first, I was adamant to apply since I had not studied in Kenya, and I was not sure if they would consider me. However, my friend convinced me to attend the road show at KICC in 2011, where I learnt a lot about the Firm and the different services they offer and this enabled me to make a more informed choice. I later applied, and here I am.

The recruitment process was robust, well thought out and very interactive. Both the manager's and partner's interviews were very interactive and what amazed me form both interviews was the relaxing environment. It was just like having a nice friendly chat, and from that time I knew that PwC is the place to be.

Working with PwC is an experience that stays with you. I have learnt so much from the many assignments which though challenging, have proven to be fruitful and have greatly developed me. From the very beginning one is provided with all the necessary resources that will enable you not only to deliver on assignments but flourish and grow both personally and professionally. These include frequent trainings, online e-learns as well as guidance and support from senior and more experienced members of the teams.

More so, working with different teams, also helped me appreciate and respect the different cultures and diversity that is within the firm.

Not to mention, the different mix of assignments in assurance makes everyday worth looking forward to. You just have to be here to believe it!

For you to excell you must be confident and believe in yourself. Always be consistent in what you say and do, and be able to express yourself well.

Lastly, always remember it is our attitude at the beginning of a difficult task which, more than anything else, will affect our successful outcome. All the Best!

**Susan Omache,** Assurance (Adventist University of the Philippines, Bachelor of Science in Management Accounting)



The first time I learnt about PwC was when I was in high school. It was always being mentioned as the place to work for the high achievers. This however did not rouse my curiosity then as I had never thought of pursuing a career in the corporate world.

After completing my undergraduate studies, I saw an advert on the internet and a friend of mine convinced me to go for the road show at Bomas of Kenya. This is one of the decisions I will never regret in my life. I paid attention to what the speakers were saying and realised that my assumptions on what PwC was about were wrong.

The application process was rigorous. It examined all aspects of personality and aptitude. All it took was to be myself when answering the personality questions and do my best when going for the manager and partner interviews. I did my homework always visited the website and acquainted myself with current affairs. This gave me an edge over the other applicants and I got to join this great firm.

My experience since then has been second to none. I was assigned a coach who taught me all I need to know on the job. I have travelled to do assignments, rubbed shoulders with the high and mighty, I have gained confidence, and also learnt to take responsibility for all I do. I learn something every day, and to top it all, we still play hard!! What more could one ask for?

PwC being a great firm means it does not compromise. It hires only the best. Be an all rounded individual, know your stuff, keep abreast with current affairs, answer interview questions with confidence, be honest and relax; the managers and partners are there to listen to you.

Wish you the best of luck and look forward to welcoming you to the firm!

Lizzie Kilelu, Assurance (University of Nairobi, BSc Biomedical Technology)

I learnt about PwC from friends who had spoke highly about PwC but at first I did not believe that so many good things could be said about any one firm. They encouraged me to attend the GR recruitment road show to get to learn more about the firm and I can say listening to each of the speaker's talk extensively of the PwC Experience convinced me that this was the right place for me to be, a place where I could begin my professional career.

What intrigued to me during the road show was how they spoke about the several lines of service that were in the firm and the opportunities that each of the lines of service provided. Working in teams is an added advantage as you get to share experiences, knowledge and also build on relationships both professionally and socially as well as the travelling involved for out of town assignments is an added plus.

The actual recruitment process was quite extensive and each stage was more unique than the former from the online assessments to the face to face interviews. I really appreciated each of the stages as they open up your mind to see things from a wider and fresh perspective but all in all that is what PwC offers.

Since I joined PwC no one day has been the same as the last, every day is unique with its own opportunities. In PwC ,there are so many dynamic minds put together in one firm, where each day comes with great learning points, where people are the most valuable asset and most important where work life balance is encouraged. PwC offers an opportunity for one to explore their mindset and utilize their capabilities to the maximum.







Global Mobility was one of the factors that attracted me to a career at PwC. Barely two years into my career with the firm, and much sooner than I had expected, I was nominated for a secondment opportunity. Competition was tough as there were many other candidates from around the world.

After being successful in a couple of interviews, I was offered an opportunity for secondment in PwC UK, based in the London office.

Over the duration of my secondment, I primarily worked with a specialist tax team on a joint project between PwC and the World Bank/International Finance Corporation, which entailed a study of tax systems for 185 countries from around the world.

The work I was engaged in was both challenging and exciting, and it was a great experience working with an international team on a high profile project with global acclaim.

Socially, living in London was amazing, there was a lot of time to travel and explore Europe and also interact with people from all over the world as well as appreciate new cultures. The opportunity helped me gain a new perspective towards approaching issues, developed new skills and also expanded my networks.

The Global Mobility programme that PwC has is second to none, and it differentiates the firm as an employer of choice for anyone starting out in their career.

The experience and opportunities that PwC has accorded me are simply above and beyond what I had expected when I joined as a graduate, and I would highly encourage anyone seeking a rewarding career with a firm that is truly international to join PwC.

Kenneth Njuguna,

Tax



When I joined PwC, I had a coach whom I learnt so much from. I admired his coaching culture and skills especially the way he took an interest in my career growth and development.

I hold him in high esteem for the way he assisted me in meeting my career objectives. Earning trust and respect from my coach was enormously rewarding. Because of this, I couldn't wait to reciprocate by coaching other people.

Fast track two years, I got the opportunity to become a coach. It was rather interesting and confusing at first. I suddenly got cold feet, not knowing how I would handle my first session as a coach. Interesting enough, my first experience with my coachee was quite relaxing, soothing and fulfilling.

I suddenly realised that I had the opportunity to provide ownership for career development for my coachee, for them to take personal responsibility for their progression and assist in any matters that ensure maximum comfort within the organisation.

My relationship with my coachees was also enhanced which earned me trust and respect. The whole experience is satisfying and pleasing. Today I am content and confident that I am able to advise on career progression and walk through the path with my coachees as they attain their objectives.

As a new manager, I currently have three coachees and am working towards getting more so as to have the opportunity to assist more people in shaping their careers and in making the right decision.

**Maryam Kombo,** Manager, Tax



I was placed at Den Haag office (The Hague). I had never been outside Africa so this was certainly my chance to work and experience life in one of the cities in the world best renown for hosting the International criminal court (ICC) and in one of the countries that I have always wanted to pay a visit if not to stay.

From the time I arrived to the time my secondment period ended, the people at the Den Haag office made me feel right at home and I experienced, first hand, the hospitality from the beautiful people of the beautiful Netherlands.

I met some amazing people along my journey and have made memories that will last a life time.

From a work and professional perspective, the secondment has also helped me develop my professional skills. The opportunity to work on much bigger programmes scattered all over the world and with clients in a different environment has given me a great amount of experience and practical understanding.

Even if it takes a number of years in PwC before you are eligible to go on secondment, I would recommend you wait for this experience. Going on secondment teaches you things you cannot learn anywhere else

You may have to work hard and long hours but that it is more than compensated for by the experience. Everyone's experience will be unique and it's up to you to go and create the experience you want for yourself.

Cosmas Mulumba, Public Sector Advisory



My 2 years secondment to the London office was a highlight of my career at PwC. It gave me the opportunity to interact with professionals from across the globe, both from within PwC and outside, with London being the world's financial services center.

Interacting with professionals from diverse backgrounds has enabled me to appreciate diversity and have a wider world view. It has also significantly improved both my personal and professional networks.

It also provided an with an opportunity to travel around the UK and the world due to the inter connectivity with the other major cities of the world

The 2 years away from home was the best time to bond with my wife as we had all the free time to ourselves. She also enjoyed the shopping experiences in London and elsewhere as we toured around Europe.

In summary, the secondment experience has significantly positively impacted on both my personal and professional life.

Moses Kang'ethe, Assurance