**Summer 2021 CPA UK Work Experience**

**Podcast Interview Transcript**

00:10:22.020 --> 00:10:47.820
AFOLABI, Seyi
So welcome to a very new segment at CPA UK and this comes out of our brand new work experience program which began this year. We have two intakes per year, spring, summer, autumn, winter and it's my absolute predator be joined by Cicadidae who is one of our first spring summer 2021 interns.

00:10:48.240 --> 00:11:01.470
AFOLABI, Seyi
Uh, so Kike has been with us for two weeks now, and the purpose of this podcast is really to find out from Kike how she's found her time with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK.

00:11:02.740 --> 00:11:09.240
AFOLABI, Seyi
And just leave a bit of a memory of her time time with us as as CPA UK.

00:11:10.630 --> 00:11:22.630
AFOLABI, Seyi
So that's a bit of an introduction, so Kike over to you now and I will start with asking you maybe to briefly introduce yourself for listeners.

00:11:22.980 --> 00:11:30.740
AFOLABI, Seyi
Uh, and also to start with, why you applied for their spring summer work experience at CPA UK.

00:11:31.560 --> 00:11:42.940
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Yeah hi everyone listening, my name is keycap. I I'm currently studying law and social a G at the University of Warwick and Buttons my 4th year.

00:11:43.710 --> 00:11:50.500
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
A bit about me, I'm gonna try and give an interesting fact. I've been to over 17 countries.

00:11:51.460 --> 00:11:58.330
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Uh, I love travel and my favorite thing about culture is food big food.

00:11:57.550 --> 00:11:57.980
AFOLABI, Seyi
Wow.

00:11:59.900 --> 00:12:11.940
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Yeah, so why did I choose to join CPA? I funny it's funny 'cause I actually saw the post on LinkedIn and it was just one of those things. I was like. What is this?

00:12:13.230 --> 00:12:42.070
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
And I was I. I was confused at first 'cause I was like is is this with Parliament? Is it with the Commonwealth? 'cause to be honest I didn't really know much about CPA going into it, but I read the job description. It sounded like everything I potentially wanted to do this summer. So why applied is because I've always known that I wanted to do something that was cross jurisdictional. So something that span.

00:12:42.120 --> 00:12:52.160
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
There were lots of countries I'm I would state I just like knowing. I'm very curious as a person so I just wanted I just wanted to know, right? And then I applied.

00:12:53.340 --> 00:13:06.450
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
The process was kind of smooth. It was great. I interviewed with you Shay and that was great. To be honest, I wouldn't say I had much hope that I would get it, but luckily

00:13:05.660 --> 00:13:06.630
AFOLABI, Seyi
Really.

00:13:08.020 --> 00:13:08.810
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
luckily.

00:13:09.680 --> 00:13:10.630
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
It worked out well.

00:13:11.840 --> 00:13:23.540
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
I think going into it, I didn't want to have any expectations 'cause mostly because I didn't exactly know what it was before I applied. Obviously when I applied I did a ton of research as you do.

00:13:24.290 --> 00:13:24.740
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Uh.

00:13:25.490 --> 00:13:48.090
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
And I would say I had a good grasp of knowledge going into it, but I think one thing is that you only actually do have a grasp of knowledge you don't actually know what to expect. Going into these sort of things, which was great because I guess as I said, not many expectations going into it, but yeah.

00:13:48.720 --> 00:14:04.530
AFOLABI, Seyi
Wonderful, wonderful thank you for letting us kind of know your your motivations and and kind of confirming that our our social media is working because it attracting, you know, young bright, brilliant young women like yourself.

00:14:05.640 --> 00:14:08.940
AFOLABI, Seyi
And just a side note, you did awesomely at interview.

00:14:10.450 --> 00:14:18.250
AFOLABI, Seyi
So the next question I kind of wanted to ask you is you know for the future or perspective work experience, students who might be listening to this.

00:14:19.590 --> 00:14:25.430
AFOLABI, Seyi
Can you kind of delve into what you worked on and how you found it?

00:14:26.720 --> 00:14:50.630
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
OK, so the first week we met a lot of people and when it's a lot it was great because you get a variety of perspectives on a wide range of things. I draw you kind of know that you have a personal project so your personal personal project means something very similar to a passion project.

00:14:50.950 --> 00:15:21.660
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
We had free range so I you could do you could you could pick anything and I think a first that was. I wouldn't say difficult but it was definitely a challenge for me trying to know that my interest in one thing I actually wanted to do and write 1000 words about like present about that type of thing and eventually came down to climate change 'cause I'm very. I've always been interested in newable energy.

00:15:11.560 --> 00:15:11.960
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yeah.

00:15:21.710 --> 00:15:32.590
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
And climate change was a big was something that I found really important and I think living both in the UK and Nigeria. I always wanted to know how.

00:15:33.750 --> 00:16:02.690
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Other countries I guess. Third work, third world countries or less developed countries would fare in in the wake of climate change, so that was something I want to personally so you get that when you're first I go down my. I got told us during the post it on my first day and kind of was thinking about it. In the mean time we met all the teams, empty IPT, overseas territories, and.

00:16:02.730 --> 00:16:14.910
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
I think the the funniest thing or well, the most I would say confusing, but there are lots of acronyms like you don't realize when he come in, but then it takes one person to say.

00:16:09.680 --> 00:16:10.220
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yes.

00:16:12.080 --> 00:16:12.420
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yes.

00:16:14.960 --> 00:16:21.780
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
A CRM or like just refer to something you're like. What? What is.

00:16:21.160 --> 00:16:21.610
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yeah.

00:16:22.420 --> 00:16:22.890
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yeah.

00:16:23.590 --> 00:16:32.710
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
I think it's it's. It's funny now 'cause I was talking to when I was talking to John. I can hear myself saying stuff like Oh yeah I did this in the CRM and then I went to IP TV thing.

00:16:34.390 --> 00:16:46.100
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Very much possible experience. Just learning what these acronyms are or like. I think there was one BIWBIWRI think that was probably the longest Britain.

00:16:45.270 --> 00:16:46.760
AFOLABI, Seyi
BIBMA

00:16:47.180 --> 00:16:49.770
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Yeah, I still don't get it till today, but.

00:16:51.930 --> 00:16:58.160
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
But I'm yeah so you mean, yeah, so we met with we got captions to meet with MPs.

00:16:59.130 --> 00:17:17.730
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
I honestly forget their names now, but they were great people. I think that's what's important and they have very different perspectives or just so many different things and they got tell us about what they do their work, so we don't only need two people. In CPA, we met with people that.

00:17:17.760 --> 00:17:18.030
AFOLABI, Seyi
yeah.

00:17:17.780 --> 00:17:18.390
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Uhm?

00:17:19.050 --> 00:17:21.820
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Met with parliamentarians we met with.

00:17:23.990 --> 00:17:28.280
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
I'm yeah we we met with uh Lord.

00:17:29.230 --> 00:17:41.390
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
We met with the Lord, right? Yeah, yeah. Him and he, he was great and everyone is just so as I said welcoming and I don't want to repeat the word welcoming, but that's just literally how it is.

00:17:30.490 --> 00:17:31.450
AFOLABI, Seyi
Load files.

00:17:42.060 --> 00:17:42.560
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Uh.

00:17:43.850 --> 00:17:47.270
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Yeah, then along. I guess until week too.

00:17:48.050 --> 00:17:53.000
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Optimae, or like a bit into week one, I said doing act will not act on task but like.

00:17:53.880 --> 00:17:55.740
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Some men stuff here and there.

00:17:55.870 --> 00:17:56.210
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yeah.

00:17:57.440 --> 00:18:26.790
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
And then I I worked with a British Overseas Territories team to create profiles for different countries. Just put a few interesting facts. China to just update update their profile on the website. I think that's what it was for I I think I spent like 3 hours trying to like trying to put things into the CRM and it was fun though because and the reason I spend so long was because I was interested in like knowing the people. So instead of just like.

00:18:12.820 --> 00:18:13.260
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yeah.

00:18:26.840 --> 00:18:29.400
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Copying and pasting your permission I was reading.

00:18:27.100 --> 00:18:27.470
AFOLABI, Seyi
Right?

00:18:28.840 --> 00:18:29.170
AFOLABI, Seyi
Right?

00:18:29.990 --> 00:18:38.980
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
The information, so was it wasn't bad. It wasn't told this great. Yeah, just generally meeting people trying to getting everyone's perspectives.

00:18:39.880 --> 00:18:57.960
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
That's pretty much what it's about, and I think also finding your own like perspective, 'cause I think above all meeting people with great, but it also helps you build your own perspective. Also kind of helps you like know more of what you're talking about, so even meeting with.

00:18:59.470 --> 00:19:06.250
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Lord for right? Yeah yeah. So he he was talking about.

00:19:01.280 --> 00:19:02.160
AFOLABI, Seyi
Note files.

00:19:09.000 --> 00:19:37.440
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
He spoke about quite a lot of things, but he was talking about how it is to go from House of Commons to House of Lords and just generally the process. And then we met with an MP and she spoke about what the government is like now and talk about. She even went into how scrutinize their lives are and how sometimes it could be dangerous. And sometimes there's so many effects of.

00:19:16.910 --> 00:19:17.410
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yeah.

00:19:37.690 --> 00:19:39.310
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Waking in parliament.

00:19:40.180 --> 00:19:54.290
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Yeah, I think overall what this whole experience has been for me is kind of building my own knowledge and learning from experts. I guess I would say and yeah.

00:19:54.830 --> 00:19:57.410
AFOLABI, Seyi
Awesome awesome, awesome KK.

00:19:58.460 --> 00:20:21.180
AFOLABI, Seyi
And just my kind of penultimate question to you. Is that? And I, I suppose you've kind of touched on this already, but you know, you said that you you came into the the work experience, having seen on LinkedIn, not really having expectations really open to learning, but is there something particular that surprised you about your experience with with us?

00:20:23.160 --> 00:20:27.190
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
A couple of things, so I don't think I knew.

00:20:27.950 --> 00:20:29.060
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
How?

00:20:30.030 --> 00:20:43.130
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Uh, collaboration worked in the CPA and it's I went to my first meeting with John and he was we were talking about collaboration and how it's so important and then we.

00:20:44.240 --> 00:21:04.720
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Did we attended the say shells per selection seminar and we even took note, but just seeing how each country kind of learns from each other? It's not. It's not. I don't think anyones place to kind of teach someone, but it's it's more of a learning from each other and seeing what?

00:20:54.700 --> 00:20:55.090
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yeah.

00:21:00.160 --> 00:21:00.530
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yeah.

00:21:05.280 --> 00:21:35.250
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Each country has to bring to the table because I think everyone well every country is so different and even the even parliamentary structure is different as well. And how the different outlooks on certain things and you also see a lot of similarities. So even in the stations person, election, seminar and all the other things we did, you see how a lot of these countries are just very similar. The post processing which they they come to.

00:21:20.910 --> 00:21:21.280
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yeah.

00:21:35.600 --> 00:21:52.160
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Pulling a bill or reading a bill is very, very similar, if not the exact same thing, so you can kind of like the flaws in the system or where works well and what doesn't, and if it doesn't work, how do you learn from other countries? I think that collaborative effect was something that.

00:21:53.990 --> 00:22:24.330
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Reached the prize me 'cause it's not 'cause I think I expected it to be. More. Teaching them collaboration and I will pleasantly surprised that it was. I think the final thing that surprised me was just generally how passionate and how welcoming everyone is at CPA. Everyone is so incredibly passionate about what they do, which is great. 'cause CBA does cover a wide range of activities. So we met with.

00:21:59.940 --> 00:22:00.220
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yeah.

00:22:24.830 --> 00:22:36.680
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
And people that work in modern slavery. People that working with women in Parliament. And I think it's the passion and you can just kind of see it through what they say and how they talk about what they do.

00:22:36.730 --> 00:22:57.100
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
You can add a lane I think was one of the first people we met met this week. Yeah she was great. She just told us how she had been so like how this is what she's she's been wanting. She's been working up to for a really long time and then I think we met Jane.

00:22:54.310 --> 00:22:54.750
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yeah.

00:22:57.470 --> 00:22:57.960
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yeah.

00:22:58.420 --> 00:23:04.450
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
And she was great too. 'cause she works in she wants for she works in women in parliament and.

00:23:03.750 --> 00:23:06.520
AFOLABI, Seyi
Oh Josephine Jo.

00:23:06.140 --> 00:23:13.100
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
No, I just mean yeah yeah and she was born in Parliament and she.

00:23:14.250 --> 00:23:23.420
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Her passion honestly like it was it probably the most notable thing about that conversation, and I think musically and I both being.

00:23:24.140 --> 00:23:49.450
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
You know the young black women. It was no inspiring to see another black woman in that position. Talk about something very passionate to both of us, but it was just a kind of thing where we felt like this is something that we can do. This is something that's achievable. It's within reach, and yeah, it was just very great to see. And it's also CPA so diverse like.

00:23:49.020 --> 00:23:49.580
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yeah.

00:23:51.920 --> 00:24:06.650
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
It's so I think on my first day I was like wow, I was. So I mean pleasantly surprised if I do say so. Well, it's such a diverse group of people from all different backgrounds. And yeah, that was yeah.

00:23:58.350 --> 00:23:58.890
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yeah.

00:24:07.300 --> 00:24:08.370
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Message for me.

00:24:08.950 --> 00:24:16.380
AFOLABI, Seyi
I mean it, it's incredible to hear your reflections. I mean just just on your last point about the the diversity of the team.

00:24:17.500 --> 00:24:27.800
AFOLABI, Seyi
It would kind of be counter intuitive if you know we were claiming to be a Commonwealth organization and the team itself was not diverse.

00:24:21.930 --> 00:24:22.340
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Yeah.

00:24:27.980 --> 00:24:28.480
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Yeah, yeah.

00:24:29.190 --> 00:24:44.050
AFOLABI, Seyi
So I think that that's a really awesome thing. And then just your your first point about the you were struck by the collaboration between the teams and the Commonwealth nations themselves. And I suppose that's.

00:24:44.890 --> 00:25:13.050
AFOLABI, Seyi
One of the one of the I mean amazing things about this organization is that it is now capitulating this legacy of collaboration between Commonwealth nations and kind of trying its best to veer away from the historical connotations of, you know, we all know the colonialism and an all the rest of it. So I'm glad that you were kind of able to pick out those girls highlights.

00:25:03.140 --> 00:25:03.550
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Yeah.

00:25:14.020 --> 00:25:16.010
AFOLABI, Seyi
And just just finally Kike.

00:25:17.070 --> 00:25:23.640
AFOLABI, Seyi
Really quickly, before we wrap up what would be one thing that you will take away from this experience.

00:25:26.680 --> 00:25:27.350
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Uh.

00:25:28.970 --> 00:25:35.060
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
That's a good question. I think one thing I would take away from this experience was probably.

00:25:36.340 --> 00:25:38.100
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
I actually said to me.

00:25:39.260 --> 00:25:43.440
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
By I will going to find hanging 'cause I feel like this is an honorable mention.

00:25:46.470 --> 00:25:48.940
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Judy Elliott BBMP

00:25:48.790 --> 00:25:50.980
AFOLABI, Seyi
The MPA yeah Labour Party MP.

00:25:55.090 --> 00:25:55.600
AFOLABI, Seyi
Wow.

00:26:17.200 --> 00:26:17.720
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yeah.

00:26:17.760 --> 00:26:18.430
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Ann

00:26:19.710 --> 00:26:29.970
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
it's just that since she said that I was like, yeah, you know, like that makes so much sense like it's it's it's so simple but yet so like it has such an impact and.

00:26:30.660 --> 00:26:57.510
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Even then, I think she was talking about how working in Parliament she's done so many things. He's 'cause she she works with the CPA she worked with. She works, she did work with energy and she said one thing she's never done is limit herself and which is why we need to do so much. And I think obviously Parliament is a male dominated area. So seeing a woman do so much.

00:26:37.940 --> 00:26:38.240
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yes.

00:26:56.850 --> 00:26:58.630
AFOLABI, Seyi
Oh yeah.

00:26:59.380 --> 00:27:18.080
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Really resonates with me and you know, you just don't want to yourself in that box where you can't really get out. So that is one thing I will take away. I know that's not really CPA, but that is definitely one thing I will take away. But I guess most CPA based.

00:27:22.310 --> 00:27:23.240
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
It's a hard question.

00:27:23.290 --> 00:27:23.890
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
And then.

00:27:23.500 --> 00:27:24.560
AFOLABI, Seyi
I mean, even.

00:27:25.190 --> 00:27:55.500
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Things like I feel like I've learned a lot in this process, like I can't. I don't think I can pinpoint. One thing I, I mean like working for the CPI during the campaign .1 lesson. That would be like, you know, valuable 'cause everything I have learned so far has been available. I mean, I think the experience was great because it helped with presentation skills, interpersonal skills, just even working, generally kind of having free range to do what I want, but still meeting at.

00:27:55.550 --> 00:27:57.820
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Deadline I think generally like.

00:27:58.430 --> 00:28:02.720
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
I know there's a very substantial lessons, but I think that's helped with that.

00:28:03.030 --> 00:28:03.530
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Uh.

00:28:04.560 --> 00:28:25.560
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
But I can't really think of one thing specific because I just I just feel like going through this has just been left in after lesson after lesson and it's just been, you know, I. I would say an eye opening experience. I mean, like, I definitely do. I definitely would say that this is work that I found to be very interesting and.

00:28:26.110 --> 00:28:50.930
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
I don't think that you get that a lot weather looking like just working regular type of. I mean I didn't work a regular type of job but just interning here. You don't find a lot of places where the work is genuinely interested in the work that we actually. We have kind of excited to do the work so I will say it's been a lot of lessons and if you're trying, if you're going to apply guarantee to learn because.

00:28:28.030 --> 00:28:28.670
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yeah.

00:28:40.400 --> 00:28:40.790
AFOLABI, Seyi
Yeah.

00:28:52.040 --> 00:28:53.530
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
That is what you do.

00:28:54.590 --> 00:29:01.220
AFOLABI, Seyi
I mean, I mean kicad, that those are those are plenty of lessons in themselves, you know.

00:29:01.270 --> 00:29:09.570
AFOLABI, Seyi
Uh, and just incredible to hear, you know, but it it's been, I know it's been, it's gone very quickly.

00:29:09.760 --> 00:29:33.360
AFOLABI, Seyi
Uhm, but it's been awesome having you with us and you know hearing from your team members about how the two of you you know got stuck into your work and you know the benefits that you brought to the teams. It's just really, really, really touching and an inspiring you know to see young people with such zeal and such passion.

00:29:33.410 --> 00:29:48.890
AFOLABI, Seyi
Anne and commitment an intelligence so kekkei from myself and all of us. At CPA UK. We genuinely wish you all the best in your educational and your professional endeavors and.

00:29:50.120 --> 00:29:53.760
AFOLABI, Seyi
I'm like maybe other experiences. We would definitely like to stay in touch.

00:29:54.960 --> 00:29:57.420
AFOLABI, Seyi
And see how how your journey unfolds.

00:29:59.180 --> 00:30:12.120
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Yeah, that would be great and I just want to say a big thank you to all of you guys have been phenomenal. Licheli lights often overlook. I've had the best time working here and would do it again in a heartbeat if I would if I could.

00:30:06.910 --> 00:30:07.340
AFOLABI, Seyi
Thanks.

00:30:14.500 --> 00:30:20.760
AFOLABI, Seyi
OK, thank you so much Anne. At that I will end the recording.

00:30:21.450 --> 00:30:25.870
AFOLABI, Seyi
A Kike thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you.

00:30:27.040 --> 00:30:32.980
AFOLABI, Seyi
It didn't seem like mercy was able to join us, but it's OK. I'll catch up with her. Maybe she had connection issues or something.

00:30:33.550 --> 00:30:33.940
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
OK.

00:30:34.190 --> 00:30:38.410
AFOLABI, Seyi
But I have to quickly log off now so this is child from me.

00:30:37.080 --> 00:30:38.390
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
No problem.

00:30:38.740 --> 00:30:44.600
AFOLABI, Seyi
Uh, and just well done. I'll be in touch with you both again by email on Monday.

00:30:46.080 --> 00:30:59.920
AFOLABI, Seyi
Just very briefly, because I think I want to send over your certificates as well. So yeah, so I'll email you know on Monday, but until then, have a lovely weekend Kiki.

00:30:54.010 --> 00:30:54.410
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
No.

00:31:00.060 --> 00:31:01.350
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
The new tool.

00:31:02.270 --> 00:31:03.330
AFOLABI, Seyi
Well done, take care.

00:31:02.860 --> 00:31:05.480
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
Thank you bye.

00:31:05.530 --> 00:31:05.910
ABAYOMI, KIKE (UG)
OK.