



# Finance Department



# Finance – department specific

So, you would like to join the finance department at Wings Travel Management. Why finance? Its reputation is hardly one of glamour and excitement: Accountants are sometimes seen as boring bookworms.

Not at Wings. We know our finance people love a difficult problem – tweaking and fiddling until they crack it. Maybe they like numbers. Most often, they get to think laterally, finding an answer and solution for our clients in spite of apparent problems and issues that can arise. They make sense out of chaos. They are solution providers and aim to get Wings – and our clients – where we need to be.

We know it might seem strange, but in many ways, finance is the heart of a business. The sales department brings in business and the operations staff provides the service itself... but the finance team then ensures that the reward of that service is properly channelled and utilised. They're almost the final landing point of the business – they make sure that our profits are controlled effectively.

If you enjoy being a part of what makes a business tick, being part of everything that goes on in the day-to-day running of our company, then finance may be the place for you.

(We really want to add an accounting joke here. So here's one: An accountant was having difficulty trying to sleep and went to the doctor. "Have you tried counting sheep?" asked the doctor. "That's the problem," replied the accountant. "I make a mistake and then spend six hours trying to find it".)

*So what does it take to work in finance? **Time management** is critical. We have a **high transaction environment**, so **speed** and **accuracy** are vital. It really helps to be able to **multitask**, balancing and **prioritizing** a variety of different documents and tasks. While we do have **important processes** in place – and you will need to rely on those processes to get the work done – the environment is also **dynamic and fluid**.*

*Wings Travel Management has a **centralised** finance department, which means that the majority of our finance staff works from the same office. This means that people who work in the finance department deal with a **variety of people** – different levels of staff, clients and suppliers **from all over the world**. **Telephone etiquette** is quite important – you could be dealing with really important people!*

The finance department is divided into different teams, each with a specific focus. When coming to Wings for your interview, you will be advised which team you're being considered for – whether accounts payable, accounts receivable, banking or BSP. Our management account team works with each of these other teams.

# How to prepare for a finance interview

Finance interviews tend to be relatively straightforward. Because the job will often have clear requirements regarding qualifications or experience, questions about your work history should be easy to answer.

This is what we are looking for, be prepared for questions about these issues:

## **Know your book values and transaction count.**

We want to know what kind of work you were doing before. Saying "I did a lot" means a lot less than "I could process 300 invoices in a day, full function."

## **Be ready to give examples of hitting difficult deadlines and of how you deal with stress.**

Finance is a highly pressurised environment, and deadlines are really important. It is difficult to prove this with a basic answer, so tell us about times in which you needed to really go all out to achieve a target.

## **We're interested in professionalism, but also the ability to fit into a team. Don't fit a stereotype or be afraid to be yourself.**

Here's a secret: We very rarely look for a dweeb who fits the accountant stereotype. In fact, we really don't look for an "image" at all. If you're a little offbeat, that's probably fine ... some of us are pretty odd ourselves.

## **Accountability**

You made a mistake. Bravo. You've joined ... well, everyone else. Just about everyone fluffs up eventually. How you deal with it is what we want to see.

## **Adaptability and teamwork**

The finance department is a team. This means that sometimes it becomes important to drop your own work to help someone else. They'll do the same for you. This means that you might need to do a bit of shuffling every now and again.

## **Passion for finance**

We don't mean we expect you to take your scientific calculator for romantic dinners. We would like to know you like working with finance. (OK, maybe love it. Just don't move too fast.)

