

Jon Chay: My name is Jon Chay and I'm an audit associate at the KPMG Denver office.

Denver's a great city, there's always something interesting to do. If you are an active person, you don't have to live outside the city to get a taste of the outdoors. There are bike paths that run right through the city and some of the best hiking places in the world are less than half an hour away.

I've been in Denver for less than a year, but it already feels like home. KPMG has gone out of its way to make me feel welcome here, but they do that for all of us.

Stephanie Hernandez: KPMG has several programs designed to help out new hires adjust to a professional work environment, so they can become contributing, productive team members very quickly.

Jon Chay: What really helped me a lot was the buddy program.

Jody Gay: I'm Jody Gay. I'm a senior associate in the Denver office. I'm Jon's buddy. A buddy is someone who shows you the ropes and helps you get acclimated and answers any questions you might have.

It's really a great program because when you start at a new place, you're going to have questions, whether it be about administrative processes or corporate culture.

Jon Chay: Well, I had so many questions for Jody when I first started and she was really patient with me. It's great to have someone you can really speak openly with when you start at a new place.

Stephanie Hernandez: A buddy can help you get acquainted to a new city. Helping you build your network and get comfortable with a new set of friends.

In addition to assigning buddies, KPMG also assigns a people management leader, or PML -- someone senior to you, who can help evaluate your performance and offer professional guidance.

Jon Chay: As an associate, I was surprised with the opportunities you get to work directly with senior management. And that includes both my PML and senior partners. It's so important to have the expertise from your senior to draw from, especially when you're starting your career.

Experience is a great teacher and that's why it's so important to have direct access to senior management. The more you can learn and the earlier you can learn it, the more opportunities you'll have to advance through your career.

Stephanie Hernandez: So many of our employees come to us through our internships, so by the time they are an associate they understand so much about our culture and about KPMG. They come here ready to contribute.

KPMG offers so many internships based on the kind of career that a student would want to build. KPMG's Global Internship program allows them to do a rotation abroad during the internship and KPMG's Build Your Own Internship program allows them go to into a secondary practice. Both of these provide opportunities to attain extra experience during the internship.

Jon Chay: I realized I wanted to work for KPMG during my experience as an intern. During that internship I had an opportunity to experience real life work as well as understand the firm's values. I liked the firm's people culture, the way they treated the employees and I especially I like the way we treated our clients.

Stephanie Hernandez: Our entire business is based on the relationships we make with our clients, so it makes sense for us to invest in recruiting and training great people. And when we recruit them, to treat them well, so that they want to stay with KPMG.

Jody Gay: You look at someone like Jon, who was born on Australia, grew up in England and then interned in Hong Kong. We like employees like Jon, because they have broad experiences, which helps us think creatively to solve the problems that our clients face on a daily basis.

Jon Chay: I feel like students always consider tangible benefits when considering which company to work for, such as, what are the health benefits? How much time will I get off? But I encourage students to look at the intangible benefits as well.

What's the work environment like? What does the firm do to develop your talent? KPMG has a great compensations and benefits package, but it's the intangibles and the culture that really sold me on the firm.

I work with bright people and enjoy spending time with them. I work on challenging projects with great clients. And I interact directly with partners, who are generous with their knowledge and eager to help me develop. That's why I'm delighted that I started my career here. KPMG is consistently ranked as one of the best companies to work for. After seven months, I can see why.

My name is Jon Chay and this is my life at KPMG.

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