



## KPMG's Professor Residency Program Building Partnerships

KPMG LLP

The KPMG's Professor Residency is a key program demonstrating the firm's commitment "to bring the profession to the classroom and the classroom to the profession." This continuing program currently is seeking exceptional faculty members to join KPMG as Professors in Residence in our Audit, Tax, or Advisory practices.



What can a university professor with years of teaching and private-sector experience learn by returning to a Big Four firm like KPMG? Quite a bit, according to the professors who have participated in KPMG's Professor Residency program to date.

KPMG established the Professor Residency program to strengthen ties with the academic community at schools where the firm recruits. Another principal goal of the program is to give professors the opportunity to polish their technical skills, gain up-to-date industry experience, and increase their understanding of workplace and marketplace demands that their students may face after graduation.

### The Opportunity

KPMG's Professor Residency is an exciting opportunity to work with a multidisciplinary team of professionals at a Big Four firm; polish your skills in accounting law, technology, and research; and acquire knowledge of the business world you can share with your students.

This paid residency is available at KPMG offices across the country. It typically lasts from three to six months, depending on your schedule and wishes. Applications are being accepted for residencies in both the current and future academic years.

Professors in Residence will have the opportunity to:

- Gain an understanding of the firm's risk management policies and apply them in daily activities
- Support managers and partners in day-to-day client service
- Assume responsibility for defined portions of various compliance and advisory engagements
- Review workpapers to help ensure that conclusions are supported and firm policies are met
- Identify, research, and analyze technical issues and develop conclusions and recommendations
- Coach professional staff members and provide them with technical and practical guidance
- Supervise staff and effectively prioritize and delegate the workload
- Build awareness of opportunities to provide services to existing clients
- Share with others your industry- and client-specific knowledge and experience

KPMG piloted its Professor Residency program in the spring of 2006, when Shelley Rhoades-Catanach, an associate professor of accountancy at Villanova University, joined the Federal Tax practice in Chicago for a four-month residency. Professor Rhoades-Catanach gave the KPMG program high grades, calling her residency "a great learning experience" and "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

## Training and CPE Credits

As a KPMG Professor in Residence, you may attend the firm's various training programs, including local office training, e-learning, and national programs.

## Who We're Looking For

Prospective KPMG Professor Residency candidates should have relevant audit, tax, or advisory technical and research experience, excellent written and verbal communications skills, and the ability to work well both autonomously and in a team environment.



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—Mark Bradshaw,  
Professor, University of Texas—Austin

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—Shelley Rhoades-Catanach  
Professor, Villanova University

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—Ralph Burnett Tower, Jr.,  
Professor, Wake Forest University

## What Other Professors in Residence Think about the Program...

Since Professor Rhoades-Catanach's "inaugural residency," several other exceptional faculty members from schools across the country have joined KPMG's Professor Residency program. They came to KPMG with a keen desire to learn and apparently have not been disappointed.

Professor Leslie Porter, professor of clinical accounting in the Leventhal School of Accounting at the University of Southern California, who has extensive private-sector experience to accompany his academic credentials, lectures extensively on internal controls at USC. His experience in KPMG's Advisory Services practice "reconfirmed" the appropriateness of the material he's been teaching, he says. At the same time, it gave him some ideas for helping his students grasp the subject matter more easily and understand how it's being applied in the real world.

"The firm provided me some frameworks that may make it easier for my students to understand this subject," he explains. "It has also helped me to understand the broader range of internal control issues more fully, and how practitioners in the field focus on those issues. When I get back to the classroom, my teaching will have even greater relevance for the students," says Professor Porter.

"This has been a tremendous learning experience," says Professor Mark Bradshaw, professor of accounting at the University of Texas at Austin's McCombs School of Business. "The amount of training offered is impressive. I had no idea there were so many training opportunities in the firm." Bradshaw was looking for just this type of "real-world" experience when he heard about the KPMG program. He got plenty of that experience as he worked alongside Audit teams in KPMG's Austin, Houston, Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Dallas offices. "Until you're actually part of it, you don't fully appreciate the level of teamwork that goes into an audit," he says. "I saw firsthand how audit teams successfully interact and deal with their clients. This is a topic that my students ask about and are very interested in," he notes.

Professor Ralph Burnett Tower, Jr., who is the Calloway Professor of taxation at Wake Forest University's Calloway School of Business and Accounting, joined KPMG's Charlotte office. He has also been impressed by training opportunities at the firm, and has taken full advantage of them. Professor Tower attended KPMG's State and Local Tax practice's week-long Bootcamp training, for instance, and has taken Web-based courses on FAS 109, FIN 48, and many other relevant matters. He's also been tapping into the firm's knowledge management resources. "KPMG has a wealth of information I can use in my research, and it's so easy to access here," he says.

For Professor Jean Wells, assistant professor of accounting at Howard University's School of Business, residency with the firm's Washington National Tax practice has enabled her to delve more deeply into various tax policy issues, including the energy bill tax provisions, the constraints of the pay-go conundrum, and various alternative minimum tax proposals floating around the House and Senate. "It's good to be in a national tax office at a Big Four firm and be on the cutting edge of what's happening in tax," she says.

Professor Wells has also had a chance to see the new tax simulation based on the fictional client Project Vlog, Inc. while attending the firm's week-long intensive Tax Fundamentals training for new Tax hires. "I was very impressed with the high-quality, interactive tax training software that simulated the real-world tax preparation process from the preseason planning all the way through the finalization of the tax return," she says.

"Some academicians teaching tax don't have real-world experience, so they often develop curriculum in the abstract," Professor Wells says. "But curriculum should be guided by what's happening in the marketplace." For these and other reasons, she notes, it would be helpful to have professionals working in the field help design curriculum.

Professor Porter makes a related point. "An increasing number of accounting faculty are coming straight from Ph.D. programs into teaching roles," he says. "They earn their master's and Ph.D. degrees and come into the schools of accounting with little understanding of what is going on in practice."

Given this trend, Professor Porter says, the KPMG's Professor Residency program and similar initiatives can play an important role in helping educate tomorrow's accounting professionals. And they can fulfill that role most effectively by helping professors gain real-world experience that they can then bring back to the classroom.

## To find out if a Professor in Residencies with KPMG is right for you...

Please contact Malana Sanders, Practice Director, Campus Recruiting, at [mmsanders@kpmg.com](mailto:mmsanders@kpmg.com) or 312-665-4478. KPMG's professor residencies are available in Audit, Tax, and Advisory.