

Cadetships and traineeships

Many professional services firms offer cadetships and traineeships. Both are a bit like an earn-while-you-learn apprenticeship. You will – with various differences – work and attend uni at the same time. It is a great way to begin your career in professional services.

Because you'll probably do the rounds of the company, you'll get a good look around the environment to see what you might want to do in the future.

It also will add a crucial practical element to your studies at uni, helping you to focus your education.

Getting your foot in the door means that by the time you graduate from uni, you will have three to four years of practical experience, as well as a secure job waiting for you. This is a huge advantage over other students who graduate from university in the same year as you, who have no practical experience and who have to fight for a graduate role.

Professional services firms perform specialised services that other corporations can't do for themselves.

These are relatively infrequent, technical or unique functions performed by contractors or consultants for other businesses. Everything from tax to accountancy to business consultancy.

While not limited to people and organisations holding professional licences, the services are considered 'professional' which means they are 'advanced', 'complicated' or 'fancy', depending on where you're coming from.

In Australia, most professional services firms started out as chartered accountant firms. However, world-wide, examples of professional services contracts include:

- accountants
- actuaries
- appraisers
- archaeologists
- architects
- attorneys
- brokerage firms
- business consultants
- business development managers
- engineers
- law firms
- physicians
- performing artists
- public relations
- professionals
- recruiters
- researchers
- real estate brokers.

What on earth are professional services? *Smart Start* reports.

Firms are varied and even have forensic teams – dealing with money trails, computer forensics, data analytics, money- laundering, even police raids!

A big bunch of 4s

The Big 4 is a term given to the four largest international accountancy and professional services firms. The Big 4 handles the vast majority of audits for companies. The Big Four are all amazing similar in size and revenue. In alphabetical order, they are:

- Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
- Ernst & Young
- KPMG
- Pricewaterhouse Coopers.



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