

#MGTAPPRENTICESHIP

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Janet Paterson

JANET PATERSON HAD WORKED FOR ACIVICO SINCE DAY ONE, BUT WANTED TO UNDERSTAND ITS NEW APPROACH TO OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT. THEN SHE GOT AN EMAIL PROMOTING THE CHARTERED MANAGER DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

Janet Paterson's career before Acivico had spanned budget management, financial processing, legal services and general administration, but, at the age of 52, she decided on a career change. Despite her initial concerns about "whether it was the correct thing to do at my age – my children probably thought I was having a strange mid-life crisis", Paterson saw the degree apprenticeship as "an opportunity to start a discussion on progression".

Paterson has remained at Acivico as a business planning officer, involved in governance for the company through audit planning and risk management, setting up new processes, and reporting accountability strategically and operationally. But now Paterson also studies at Aston University, where she is constantly coming across new ideas to implement in the workplace. "I'm always making notes," she says. Self-discipline and experience ensure she strikes the right balance between work and study.

The hardest part of the degree apprenticeship has been "getting back into learning and the academic side". The biggest benefit has been that "I can actively take part in discussions and can understand from the top down what's being asked and translate that into operations. The course has opened my eyes completely."

As for the future, Paterson hopes to progress at Acivico: "I want to make the most of opportunities that arise, sharing the ideas I learn to motivate others."

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