

Great Heights Academy Trust

Job Description

Post	Trust Finance Assistant
Pay range	Scale 5/6 – depending on experience
Hours of work:	30 – 37 hours per week; full year – to be negotiated
Responsible to	MAT Core Team, in particular Finance Officer

Prime objectives of the post:

To support the CFO with all aspects of the development and effective operation of the Trust finance function.

To assist the Finance Manager and CFO with the operation and monitoring of the Trust's constituent academies and designations' accounts and budgets.

To assist the Finance Manager and CFO in the production of accurate information for a wide range of reporting purposes.

To provide oversight of the financial management of the constituent entities of the Trust to ensure sound and appropriate financial governance arrangements are in place.

To support wider business functions of the Trust and academies and to work effectively within the Trust team.

Main duties and responsibilities:

Operational:

- Responsible for ensuring accurate reporting of budgetary expenditure throughout the year.
- Undertake the efficient and accurate preparation, input and maintenance of information and data into the financial systems, responsible for and carrying out any required journals to ensure the integrity of cost centre, ledger and fund accounting.
- Support the CFO in the production of financial information for a range of purposes, including year-end, auditors, the ESFA and DfE.
- Responsible for the production of budget monitors contributing to the Monthly Management Accounts, including any accrual adjustments
- Supporting the maintenance of the academies budgeting software, including monitoring and evaluating actuals to forecasts and updating, as required
- Providing the MAT Core Team with a range of financial and budgetary information, as required
- Operating the Trust's financial procedures in accordance with Trust and ESFA guidelines
- Complete bank reconciliations for bank accounts, monitoring cash flow, as appropriate.
- Support the processing of central orders, invoices and preparation of central BACS payments ensuring all transactions have the appropriate authorisation.
- Process Trust journals as required e.g. direct debits / credits; receipt remittances.
- Responsible for the reconciliation of the central Business Card statement ensuring transactions are appropriately evidenced, authorised and entered onto the finance system accurately; reconcile academy credit card processing
- In liaison with the Finance Manager undertake monthly post payroll checks and subsequent journal postings.
- Support the inter-company journals process, ensuring appropriate authorisations, and integrity of consolidated accounting across the entities.
- Supporting accurate updates to the Trust Asset register including depreciation calculations, in liaison with the Finance Manager and CFO.
- Support the submission of accurate staff absence insurance claim returns across the Trust.
- Support the financial process for the Trust designations to include budget monitoring updates
- Contributing to the monitoring of the accuracy of administrative staff financial processes across the Trust – providing support, challenge and guidance as appropriate to ensure Trust financial integrity.

- Monitor the control accounts across the Trust, independently identifying any issues and liaising, as appropriate, to correct
- Work and communicate effectively within the finance team; wider business support team of the central Trust; and with academy staff in order to ensure team working and support to achieve whole Trust priorities
- Liaise with suppliers, contractors, other schools and organisations, budget holders and attend to queries as required; at all times ensuring a professional approach, as an outward facing representation of the Trust.

Administrative:

- Ensure accurate maintenance of filing, archiving and data storage, complying with GDPR requirements.
- Maintain both manual and computerised record systems in line with audit requirements such as the Financial Scheme of Delegation; Academies Financial Handbook; Trust Financial Procedures Manual.
- Deal with correspondence and enquiries promptly from both internal and external stakeholders.
- Answer incoming and external telephone calls, dealing with requests and enquiries and taking messages, as required.

General:

- At all times act as a champion for the MAT
- The role may require working in situ across the offices of the Trust, providing administrative cover, as required.
- Assist in school emergencies, as required.
- Attend relevant meetings and training sessions.
- Keep abreast of developments and changes in fields relevant to the role and communicate to staff / line managers as appropriate.
- To undertake any such duties commensurate with the post as directed by the Core Team.
- To act at all times as an Ambassador for the MAT actively promoting its values and vision with all stakeholders.