

Report Type

Mid Term Award Report

Full Name

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Project Title

The effect of auditor educational characteristics on audit quality

Project Abstract

In this project we plan to examine the effect of auditor educational characteristics on audit quality. In doing so, we exploit an unusual (and possibly unique) characteristic of the audit profession in the U.K., whereby accounting professional bodies do not require entrants to the profession to have an accredited university degree in accounting. We also exploit a second institutional feature of the UK (and Europe) whereby under The European Communities (Statutory Audits) (Directive 2006/43/EC) Regulations 2010 the individual audit partner signing the audit report has to be named.

Activities and Achievement

We have developed a database consisting of educational background information on approximately 700 unique auditors over the 2009-2014 period. We have made substantial progress on data collection of the auditors' educational and other professional backgrounds via published financial reports, linkedin profiles and individual surveys.

In addition, we have done literature review and research design for the project, collected and cleaned relevant financial data from FAME.

Dissemination

We plan to finish cleaning of hand-collected auditor data by end of April and start data analyses and the writing of the paper. Our target journals for the study include The Accounting Review and Management Science.

Outputs

While we are making progress and hitting milestones, we are nevertheless still finishing up data-collection, so do not have a written paper yet.

Major Difficulties and Any Other Issues

There are no major difficulties, hand-collection of data takes time but we are on track.

Web Links

None

Additional Information

Declaration

This award has not yet produced any relevant outputs, but details of any future publications will be submitted to the CERF database as soon as they become available.

Signature - Main Award Holder

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