

Meriglenn Bawalan

MAAT · CPA

Financial Controller · Audit · Compliance · Financial Planning & Analysis · Financial Reporting ·
AASB · IAS · IFRS · PFRS · UK GAAP · UK SORP · US GAAP · London, Bangkok & Manila

meriglenn@bawalan.com · [linkedin.com/in/meriglenn-bawalan](https://www.linkedin.com/in/meriglenn-bawalan)

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Qualified finance professional (MAAT and CPA) with over 12 years of experience in full-cycle financial management, budgeting and forecasting, financial reporting, payroll, compliance, and audit. London-based for two years, working directly with UK fund clients, auditors, trustees and depositaries. Proven track record of delivering accurate, compliant financial statements across multi-currency environments spanning UK, Australian and Philippine operations, and leading teams of up to 30.

Deep expertise in UK GAAP, UK SORP, IFRS, IAS, AASB, US GAAP, and PFRS; proficient in QuickBooks, FreeAgent, and Xero. Experienced in building and improving finance operations for remote, distributed teams across time zones, bringing rigour, accountability, and consistent KPI delivery.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Skills: AASB · Budgeting, Forecasting & FP&A · Compliance & Risk Management · Financial Reporting & Analysis · Full-Cycle Financial Management · IAS · IFRS · Internal & External Audit · Leadership & People Management · Payroll · PFRS · Process Improvement & Efficiency · Stakeholder Management · UK GAAP · UK SORP · US GAAP

Tools & Systems: Confluence · eAudIT · FreeAgent · Google Workspace · intelliHR · InvestOne · KPMG Audit Tools · Microsoft Office Suite · QuickBooks · Xero

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Voyager Tennis Academy · Sydney, Australia (Remote) · Contractor · 2026 – Present

Financial Controller

- Heads the finance function for a multi-site racquet-sports group spanning 27 venues across Australia and Singapore, reporting directly to the Managing Director.
- Delivers monthly consolidated management accounts and board-level financial reporting packs across all entities, including entity-level P&Ls, variance commentary, and venue-level profitability analysis.
- Leads the annual budgeting and forecasting cycle across all venues, incorporating lease and council obligations, capex planning, and revenue drivers spanning court hire, memberships, coaching, and pro shop.

- Leads the group payroll function across all entities, overseeing the fortnightly multi-currency (AUD/PHP) cycle and the controls governing overtime, public holiday treatment, and cost-centre allocation.
- Oversees cost control and procurement across the group, ensuring compliance with approval and delegation frameworks, supplier agreements, and budgeted spend limits.
- Manages year-end processes and statutory reporting obligations across all entities, coordinating with tax advisers.

Dynacom Solutions Limited · London, United Kingdom & Bangkok, Thailand · Full-time | Contractor · 2024 – 2026

Lead Financial Consultant

- Oversaw internal financial operations, ensuring accuracy, compliance, and alignment with regulatory requirements.
- Managed and developed the finance department, driving performance and quality of service delivery.
- Monitored, reviewed, and improved internal procedures and compliance frameworks in line with regulatory standards.

Northern Trust · London, United Kingdom & Taguig, Philippines · Full-time · 2017 – 2024

Financial Reporting Consultant · 2022 – 2024

- Managed key clients with assets exceeding £400 billion across multiple currencies in the UK fund industry, overseeing financial reporting processes and consistently meeting all client KPIs.
- Led a team of approximately 30 across the Philippines, including process managers, team leads, supervisors, and staff, while coordinating deliverables with auditors and stakeholders in the UK.
- Recognised as a Subject Matter Expert for high-quality services and strict adherence to UK GAAP, IFRS, IAS, UK SORP, and all relevant accounting standards.
- Facilitated effective communications among trustees, depositaries, custodians, auditors, and clients, ensuring timely and accurate information exchanges.
- Assessed, supported, and documented oversight team processes to improve efficiency, reduce risk and cost, and streamline departmental procedures.

Team Lead · 2020 – 2022

- Selected as the first employee to transfer permanently from the Philippines office to the London branch, working on-site with UK clients and auditors.
- Led, mentored, and supported a team of 11, conducting performance management, career development, and training programmes, consistently achieving ‘Exceptional’ annual performance reviews throughout tenure.
- Maintained a 91% employee retention rate, fostering a culture of accountability, trust, and professional growth.
- Enhanced operational efficiency by over 50%, reducing process times and saving 500 team hours annually through tailored production checklists.
- Standardised team lead administrative tasks and onboarding processes, pioneering streamlined and scalable operations.

Technical Coordinator · 2017 – 2020

- Stepped into a vacant team lead role and effectively managed team deliverables, earning a permanent managerial promotion within four months.
- Initiated solutions for complex accounting issues and drove process improvements through root cause analysis.
- Delivered precise review notes on financial reports and statements, enhancing task efficiency and output quality.

KPMG · Makati, Philippines · Full-time · 2013 – 2017**Audit Supervisor · 2015 – 2017**

- Led audits of financial services clients, primarily insurance brokerage firms, insurance companies, health maintenance organisations, banks, and shared service centres, providing actionable recommendations on internal controls.
- Mentored 15 audit associates, overseeing adherence to audit methodologies from planning to completion.
- Developed and delivered training programmes on insurance industry audits, improving process efficiency and client satisfaction.
- Played a key role in transitioning an insurance client's audit during a change of regulator, navigating requirements and mitigating impacts on the client's operations.

Audit Associate · 2013 – 2015

- Earned fast-track promotion to Audit Supervisor based on exceptional performance and demonstrated leadership.
- Conducted efficient audit procedures for international and local clients, including control testing and substantive testing.
- Served as an integral member of the internal risk and compliance team, ensuring adherence to KPMG's international guidelines.

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

AAT Full Membership (MAAT) · Association of Accounting Technicians, United Kingdom

Certified Public Accountant (CPA) · Professional Regulations Commission, Philippines

Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, Magna Cum Laude · UPHSL, Philippines

LANGUAGES

English · Fluent

Filipino · Fluent

Spanish · Elementary (A2)