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# GETTING STARTED WITH ACCA

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# What is ACCA?

What does it take to become a chief financial officer? How do you control a £100 billion balance sheet at a bank? If you want to know the answers, then the ACCA qualification is for you.

ACCA is an accountancy qualification ideal for those who would like a rewarding career in finance, or wish to become a Chartered Accountant.

During the ACCA qualification, you will study a broad range of topics that will help your career, including:

- financial management
- corporate reporting
- taxation and audit
- leadership and ethics

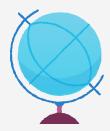
The skills you pick up from these topics will help you progress in your chosen field and open up new career paths in the future.



### Why study ACCA?

ACCA is a globally respected qualification, with 110 years experience as a leading professional accounting body.

The qualification is based on international accounting standards, so employers around the world know that an ACCA qualification indicates professional excellence.



Over 188,000 members and 480,000 students in 178 countries



95% of employers stated that ACCA was a respected brand for professional qualifications\*



Newly qualified members earn up to £40,000 plus benefits in the UK\*\*

### Where can ACCA take you?

From fashion to football, accountancy is essential in all industries, meaning ACCA can lead to a wealth of opportunity in almost any sector. After all, the success of a business is dependent on sound financial management.

The ACCA qualification also opens up many career opportunities in external auditing, banking and corporate finance.

And because of its global reputation, an ACCA qualification is your passport to work around the world.

### Top 3 Career Achievements, according to ACCA Members<sup>•</sup>



Leading a finance team.



Broadening horizons and knowledge by working internationally.



Becoming an expert in a specialist finance role.

\*ACCA Career Survey 2013



### Can I study ACCA?

Whether you've just finished school, want to change career, or already hold a financial qualification, there are lots of ways to start ACCA. The three main entry routes are highlighted below.

### ACCA Foundations

The FIA qualification is designed for those that want to start in financial accounting, but don't have any previous relevant qualifications.

Entry Requirements

### Applied Knowledge/Skills

The first step toward ACCA membership, the Applied Knowledge Level, introduces you to both financial and management accounting techniques. The Applied Skills Level will then build on these skills further.

### **Entry Requirements**

Two A-Levels and three GCSEs (or equivalent), including English and Maths. If you have a relevant Accounting or Finance degree, you may be able to start at Applied Skills Level.

### **Strategic Professional Level**

The final stage of the ACCA Qualification. But if you have previous relevant qualifications, you could skip ahead and start here.

#### **Entry Requirements**

Completed Applied Skills Level, or a relevant degree from an ACCA-accredited university.

### **Myths and Misconceptions**

Many believe that they don't have the right qualifications or skills to start studying accountancy.

But whilst it does help to be comfortable with Maths, English and using a computer, most accountants today use spreadsheets or accounting software to do a lot of the calculations and processes. So you certainly don't need to be a maths or IT genius.

### What will it cost me?

ACCA offers a cost effective route into a high-paying, stable profession – making it an great alternative to other qualifications.



\*Savings based on total monthly cost for the same time period



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### Accessible

No degree or apprenticeship needed, just the motivation to succeed! You can become qualified regardless of your background and get into your dream accounting job.

# ACCA levels explained

To become a fully qualified Chartered Accountant, you need to complete the two ACCA Levels previously mentioned – Applied Knowledge/Skills and Strategic Professional.

### Applied Skills/Knowledge

### Overview

This Level contains nine mandatory exams. The first three papers cover the Applied Knowledge section, with the remaining six covering Applied Skills. You can sit them in any order and once passed, you can move on to Strategic Professional.

### What You Learn

A strong, broad and practical knowledge of the world of finance. Topics include Corporate Law, Taxation, and Financial Reporting.

### **Time to Complete**

12-18 months

### **Career Progression**

Studying at this level gives you a wide range of job opportunities to choose from, such as a finance trainee, trainee business analyst and internal auditor.

### **Strategic Professional Level**

### Overview

Within this Level, there are two mandatory subjects – Strategic Business Leader and Strategic Business Reporting. You must then take an additional two specialist subjects from a choice of four.

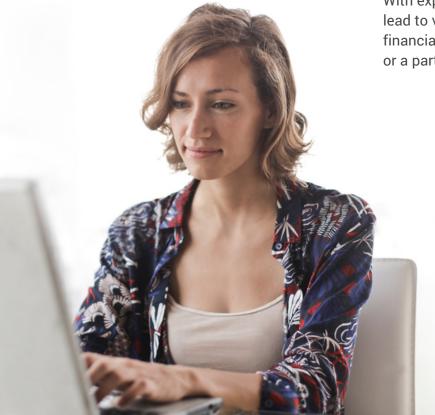
### What you Learn

At this level of the ACCA Qualification, you'll learn the dynamic skills and strategic vision that all great businesses and financial leaders need. It also gives you the opportunity to specialise in areas that best suit your career ambitions via the specialist subjects. When you are choosing your specialisms, think about which exams best reflect your strengths and which exams best reflect the experience you have gained or the career you want to have.

Time to Complete

### **Career Progression**

With experience, your qualification could lead to very senior positions such as a financial manager, chief financial officer or a partner in a professional firm.

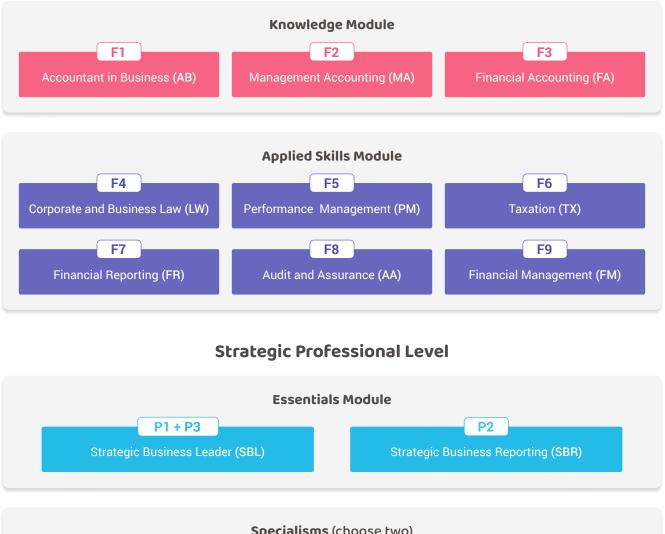


### How do I progress?

On average, it takes most students three years to pass all the exams that make up the ACCA professional qualification.

You can sit ACCA exams at four times during the year – March, June, September and December. How you decide to use these sittings is completely up to you, but it means you need to plan your studies carefully.

### **ACCA qualification structure**



### Applied Skills/Knowledge Level

 Specialisms (choose two)

 P4
 P5

 Advanced Financial Management (AFM)
 Advanced Performance Management (APM)

 P6
 P7

 Advanced Taxation (ATX)
 Advanced Audit and Assurance (AAA)



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### **Your ACCA checklist**

We know that starting ACCA can be overwhelming, so we've put together a handy checklist below to guide you through the process from start to finish. Follow these steps and you'll be qualified in no time!





#### **Choose your course** Make sure ACCA is right for you, and find out which level you should start with.



### Choose your subscription

You can choose to pay for your course monthly, quarterly or yearly – whatever suits your budget.



### **Register with ACCA**

Separate to your training provider, you also need to **register as an ACCA student** with the institute itself. Otherwise you can't take your exams!



### Start Studying

You should now have everything in place to be able to start your training – now hit those books and schedule your first exam when you feel ready!

### Contact us

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If you have any questions about starting your course with Eagle, please feel free to get in touch:



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