



# SCHOOL LEAVER OPPORTUNITIES

We'll Get You There



Become an ICAEW Chartered  
Accountant at [icaew.com/careers](https://www.icaew.com/careers)





New industries. Different causes. Global possibilities. An ICAEW qualification can encourage you to go further - preparing you for anything that comes your way.

In this guide, we'll introduce you to the world of chartered accountancy - showing you how to begin your journey, what it involves, and the infinite routes it can take you on.

Look beyond the numbers. It's time to create change and shape economies, communities, and the world around you.

**With ICAEW, wherever you want to go, we'll get you there.**

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# WHO ARE WE?

We are ICAEW, a world-leading professional membership body for chartered accountants. We provide qualifications and professional development to people around the world, sharing knowledge, insight and technical expertise, so talented students just like you can start their own businesses and develop rewarding careers in a range of organisations.

## Get to know us better

- ICAEW stands for the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.
- We were incorporated by a Royal Charter in 1880.
- We support 166,000 members in 146 countries.
- 95% of ICAEW's membership is located in 10 countries: the UK, Australia, Canada, Mainland China (including Hong Kong SAR), Cyprus, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, UAE and the US.
- 36,084 students are currently taking our qualifications.
- 7,000 authorised employers around the world offer our qualification to their employees.



## THE ULTIMATE ACCOLADE

The title 'ICAEW Chartered Accountant' and the letters 'ACA' after your name means that you have completed a minimum of three years in-depth training, passed a series of examinations and you're committed to continuing professional development to keep your skills up to date. As a result, you will enjoy unrivalled career opportunities in a range of industries.

**“I’ve been given the tools to be successful. It feels very empowering to be an accountant.”**

Claris Jekwa ACA,  
Contribution Margin Controller, BMW

# WHAT DO ACCOUNTANTS DO?

You’ll find chartered accountants working in all types of businesses and organisations, providing advice and financial expertise. They’re trusted to:

## **ASSESS**

From a Premier League football club to huge multinational companies, chartered accountants look at how money flows in and out, measure the value of assets, and analyse how organisations are performing.

## **AUDIT**

From charities to banks, fashion houses to NHS Trusts, auditors work across every sector to independently confirm the trustworthiness of financial figures. It’s work that can take you all around the world.

## **ADVISE**

Companies turn to chartered accountants when they want to launch a new product, buy another company or improve the way they operate. That’s why many move into chief executive officer (CEO) roles and other senior leadership positions.

## **ANALYSE**

Calculating the worth of a company’s physical goods might seem relatively straightforward, but how do you measure the value of a brand, or measure the impact of climate change on the valuation of assets? That’s where you come in.



# WHY TAKE AN ICAEW QUALIFICATION?

## GET AHEAD

Professional qualifications make you stand out in a competitive job market and demonstrate your willingness to learn and develop.

## BE VALUED

Employers and businesses value the high level of knowledge, skills and expertise that ICAEW Chartered Accountants bring to their organisations.

## GO FAR

Go further in your career as the globally recognised ACA prepares you for leadership roles around the globe.

## A VAST ARRAY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Start your journey to becoming chartered by completing the **ICAEW Certificate in Finance, Accounting and Business (ICAEW CFAB)** - a standalone qualification that covers the first six modules of the ACA.



# WHY TAKE AN ICAEW QUALIFICATION?

You can also gain professional status along the way with the **ICAEW Business and Finance Professional (BFP)** Designation. Completing these qualifications will show that you're on track to become an ICAEW Chartered Accountant.

To complete your journey, you'll need to complete the ACA (Associate Chartered Accountant) qualification. The training and exam schedule for this comes later on.



## Community

You'll be supported by our global network members of 166,000 members\* and 36,084 students.\*



## Support

ACA students have a high first-time exam pass rate of 84%, driven by quality learning, teaching and support.\*\*\*



## Leadership potential

The ACA prepares you for leadership right up to board level. That's why 79 of the FTSE 100 companies have an ICAEW Chartered Accountant on their board.\*\*



## Opportunity

All of the world's 100 global leading brands employ ICAEW Chartered Accountants.\*\*\*\*

Find out more about our qualifications at [icaew.com/careers](https://www.icaew.com/careers)



# HOW TO BECOME CHARTERED

1. Finish school.
2. Enter into a training agreement with an authorised employer.
3. Complete a combination of study, exams, practical work experience and ethics.
4. When you complete your ACA training, you can apply to become a member of ICAEW.
5. Once you're accepted, you'll become an ICAEW Chartered Accountant, and you can use the letters ACA after your name.

Apply for training agreements at [train.icaew.com](https://train.icaew.com)

# WHAT'S THE SCHEDULE FOR TRAINING?

There are four integrated elements to ACA training.



## Practical work experience

You need to record 450 days of relevant 'on-the-job' work experience.



## Ethics and professional scepticism

You'll identify ethical dilemmas, understand the implications and behave appropriately.



## Accountancy, Finance and Business modules

These modules introduce you to core concepts and grow technical knowledge and experience.



## Professional development

Demonstrate your competence in communication, teamwork and decision-making.

## THE EXAMS

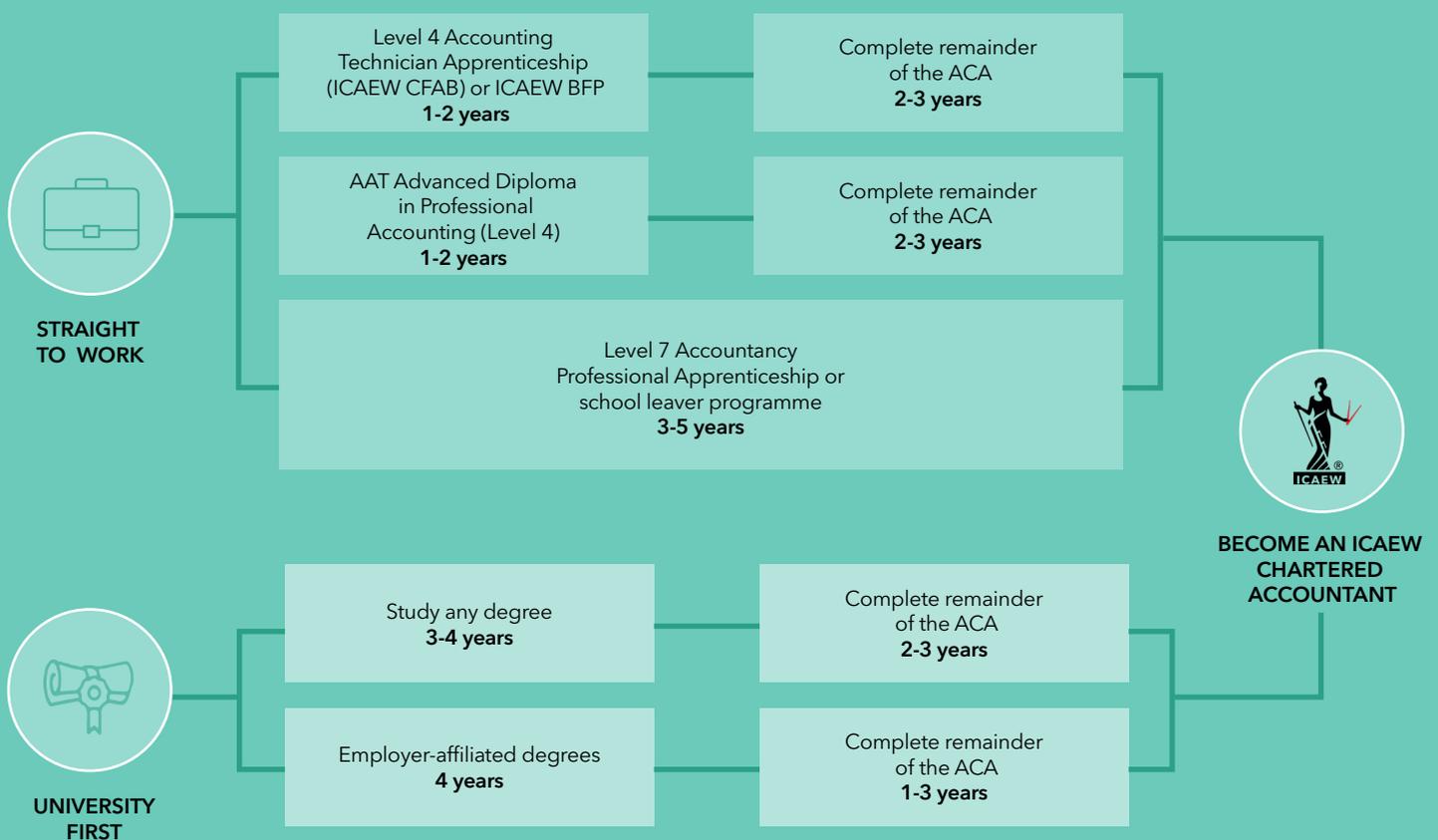
The ACA equips you with in-depth knowledge across a range of topics in accountancy, finance and business. The 15 computer-based exams can be taken at an exam centre or remotely and split across three levels:

- **Certificate Level:** Accounting, Assurance, Management Information, Business, Technology and Finance, Principles of Taxation, Law.
- **Professional Level:** Financial Accounting and Reporting, Audit and Assurance, Business Planning, Tax Compliance, Business Strategy and Technology, Financial Management.
- **Advanced Level:** Case Study, Corporate Reporting, Strategic Business Management.

Click [here](#) for more information about the exam schedule.

# DEGREE OR NO DEGREE?

It's not an easy choice, but whichever path you choose, you'll end up with the same ACA qualification. And employers won't prefer one route over another, so the choice is yours on what you want to discover.



# STRAIGHT TO WORK - THINGS TO CONSIDER



## CAREER GOALS

If you don't want to wait around, this is the best option to kick-start your career.



## MONEY

Avoid the expense of university - your employer will pay your ACA fees for you.



## SOCIAL LIFE

With ICAEW society events and employers' sports teams, there's always something fun.

## OPTION 1

### APPRENTICESHIP IN ACCOUNTANCY AND SCHOOL LEAVER PROGRAMMES

- Combine ACA training with on-the-job learning.
- You'll be based with an employer and paid a salary.
- You can start these options after completing your A-levels.

## OPTION 2

### AAT-ACA FAST TRACK

- Start this option after completing your GCSEs.
- Study full time at college or with an employer.
- Study for the AAT (Association of Accounting Technicians) qualifications.
- Complete the Level 4 Diploma in Accounting, and you can then progress onto the ACA.

Still need more options? Click [here](#) for more routes.

# UNIVERSITY FIRST - THINGS TO CONSIDER



## PERSONAL LOOK

Pursue any subject you feel passionate about, then find an ACA training agreement. For more training vacancies click [here](#).



## CAREER GOALS

Experience life as a chartered accountant through insight days, internships and placements.



## SOCIAL LIFE

Improve your employability by building new skills through societies or sports teams.

### OPTION 1 STUDY ANY DEGREE - THEN DO THE ACA

Combine ACA training with on-the-job learning. You'll be based with an employer and paid a salary. You can start these options after completing your A-levels.

### OPTION 2 EMPLOYER-AFFILIATED DEGREES

Established by employers with certain universities, study for an accounting and finance degree while experiencing real work at the same time. Over a period of five to six years, you'll gain both a degree and the ACA qualification.

**"You get to see everything  
an organisation is doing  
reflected day-to-day."**

Alina Cummins ACA, Head of Finance,  
Battersea Dogs and Cats Home

# YOUR IMPACT AS A CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Your ability to solve problems is needed in every part of the economy. So, you really can work in any industry that fascinates you. Here are just a few of the things you can do with the qualification.

## **FOLLOW YOUR CURIOSITY**

From helping to launch a groundbreaking piece of new technology, to deciding whether to invest in a new start-up, your vision can delve into a vast range of exciting challenges.

## **CHANGE LIVES**

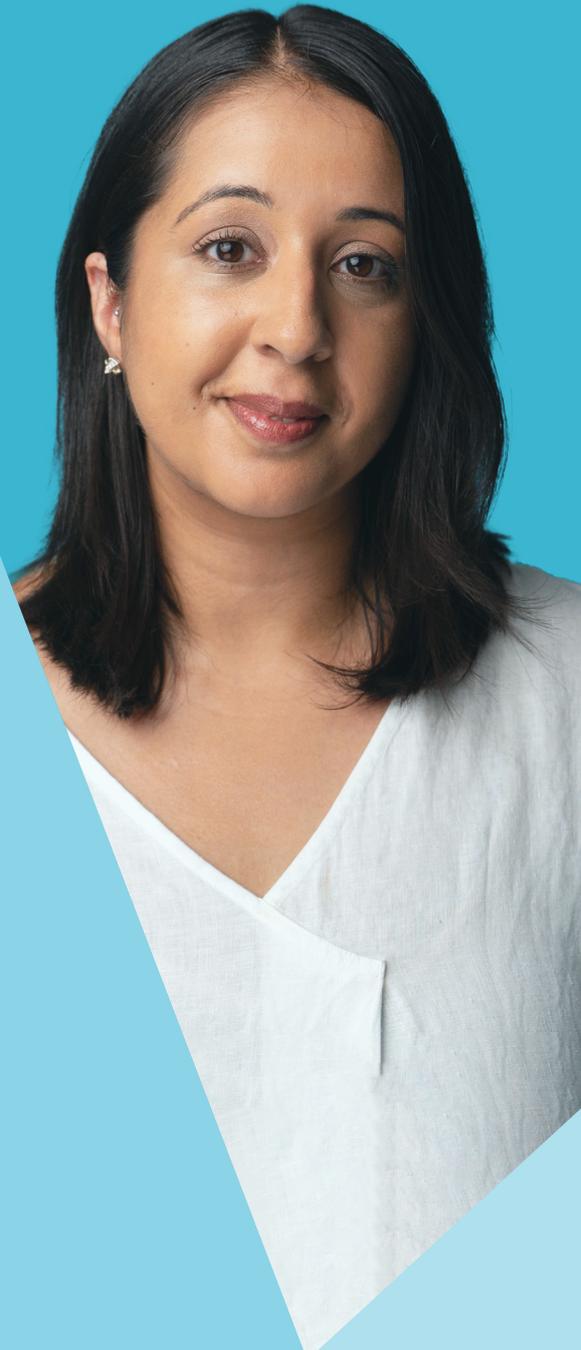
Play a key part in helping charities raise and spend funds that can save lives and change the world - use your talent to support a cause you're passionate about.

## **REACH THE TOP**

Pushing boundaries sets chartered accountants apart from the rest. It's no surprise that you'll find ICAEW Chartered Accountants as CEOs of multinational companies.

## **EXPLORE THE WORLD**

Recognised as a premier business qualification in 146 countries, the ACA is your passport to take your career wherever you want to go.



# HOW MUCH CAN YOU EARN?

**Trainee and qualified chartered accountants can expect extremely competitive salaries.**

These are average figures that include qualified chartered accountants with substantial experience. However, even at the start of your career, you can expect to receive an attractive salary.

Apply for a training agreement at [train.icaew.com](https://train.icaew.com)

**£35k\***

is the average graduate starting salary for Accounting and Professional Services in the UK.

**£57k\***

is the global average salary for a newly qualified ICAEW Chartered Accountant with up to two years of experience.

**£107k\***

is the average global member salary across all sectors.

**£131k\*\***

is the average global member salary for those working in business, but it's not the limit.

\* High Fliers: The Graduate Market in 2023.

\*\* Indicative based on mean averages of specified salary bands - Member profile response 2023.



# NEXT STEPS

Now that you've explored the world of chartered accountancy and all the opportunities it has to offer, you're ready to take the next steps:



## 1. RESEARCH

Visit our **website** to find out more about our qualifications. Sign up to our newsletter to receive employability tips, job updates and information about careers in accountancy. You can also join Careers+, a free resource that helps you build your CV and job-hunting skills. Click **here** to find out more.

You can also hear from our students and members and learn about the different routes open to you.



## 2. APPLY

Now you're ready to start looking for a career. Start your search early and get to know the employer and their values.

Create a profile and apply for ACA training jobs at **[train.icaew.com](https://train.icaew.com)**



## 3. KEEP IN TOUCH

Facebook: **ICAEW Careers**  
Twitter: **@ICAEW\_Careers**  
YouTube: **ICAEW Careers**

LinkedIn: **Become an ICAEW Chartered Accountant**

Web: **[train.icaew.com](https://train.icaew.com)**  
Instagram: **@icaew**

Chartered accountants are talented, ethical and committed professionals. ICAEW represents more than 202,450 members and students around the world. All of the top 100 global brands employ ICAEW Chartered Accountants.\*

Founded in 1880, ICAEW has a long history of serving the public interest and we continue to work with governments, regulators and business leaders globally. And, as a world-leading improvement regulator, we supervise and monitor around 12,000 firms, holding them, and all ICAEW members and students, to the highest standards of professional competency and conduct.

We promote inclusivity, diversity and fairness and we give talented professionals the skills and values they need to build resilient businesses, economies and societies, while ensuring our planet's resources are managed sustainably.

ICAEW is the first major professional body to be carbon neutral, demonstrating our commitment to tackling climate change and supporting UN Sustainable Development Goal 13.

ICAEW is a founding member of Chartered Accountants Worldwide (CAW), a global family that connects over 1.8m chartered accountants and students in more than 190 countries. Together, we support, develop and promote the role of chartered accountants as trusted business leaders, difference-makers and advisers.

We believe that chartered accountancy can be a force for positive change. By sharing our insight, expertise and understanding we can help to create sustainable economies and a better future for all.

\*Includes parent companies. Source: ICAEW member data March 2023, Interbrand, Best Global Brands 2022

[www.charteredaccountantsworldwide.com](http://www.charteredaccountantsworldwide.com)  
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