

Think Ahead

**ACCA**

# ACCA Certificate in International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)

Qualifications  
for the public  
sector

# About ACCA

**ACCA is the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and we're the world's most forward thinking professional accountancy body.**

We believe that accountancy is vital for economies to grow and prosper – which is why we work all over the world to build the profession and make society fairer and more transparent.

Founded in 1904, we now have more than 188,000 fully qualified members and 480,000 students worldwide. They're amongst the world's best-qualified and most highly sought-after accountants – and they work in every sector you can imagine.

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## ACCA in the public sector

For public finance leaders of the future, ACCA is your partner of choice. Our qualifications directly answer the needs of the public sector for today - and tomorrow.

We understand that public service excellence and value for money matter in developed and developing economies around the world. That's why our resources support finance professionals throughout their careers, making them invaluable business partners with strong professional skills.

Because we're global, we can tailor our support at a local level to share the unique expertise that we've acquired by working with major partners – from governments to donor agencies and beyond. And our market-leading research signposts future developments, helping you to anticipate how finance is changing in the public sector.

We equip you to deliver excellent public financial management and develop the strategic, forward thinking public sector accountants that the world needs. Together with our 64,000 members and students working in the public sector worldwide, we ethically support the business of government and build stronger societies worldwide.

Our partnerships have been integral in founding a national self-sustaining accountancy profession in numerous countries globally including: Botswana, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Swaziland, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia. We currently have over 640 approved employers in the public sector from around the world.

# 64,000

members and students working in the public sector worldwide

# 640

approved employers in the public sector from around the world



## What is the ACCA Certificate in International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)?

IPSAS® have been developed to enhance the quality, consistency and transparency of public sector financial reporting worldwide. Issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB), they are cash-based standards and accruals standards used for the preparation of general purpose financial statements by governments and other public sector entities around the world.

The ACCA Certificate in International Public Sector Accounting Standards – known as Cert IPSAS - has been specifically developed to help you meet the challenges of implementing IPSAS® by:

- examining the fundamental requirements of accrual-based IPSAS® on a standard-by-standard basis, for the benefit of preparers, auditors and users of financial statements
- providing guidance on how to use IPSAS® in practice, with the aid of cases, interactive exercises and formative questions
- explaining the difference between the cash basis IPSAS® and accrual-based IPSAS®
- providing an overview of how IPSAS® are used around the world
- explaining the workings of the IPSASB and how these are developing.

# Benefits of the ACCA Cert IPSAS

Our qualification will equip finance professionals working in the sector, or wanting to work in the sector, with stronger and more relevant financial reporting skills.

- **Comprehensive syllabus:** The fundamental requirements of accruals-based IPSAS® are taught on a standard-by-standard basis, for the benefit of preparers, auditors and users of financial statements. It also gives guidance on how to use IPSAS® in practice, with the aid of questions, cases and interactive exercises and explaining the difference between the cash basis IPSAS® and accruals-based IPSAS®
- **Essential public sector finance knowledge:** It's a great source of the essential IPSAS® knowledge and principles that prepare finance professionals for the increasingly global market place. It keeps them ahead of international developments and shows them how they can apply them to their organisation.
- **Continual evolution:** The course is updated to reflect changes in regulation legislation. Any changes made on or before 1 September annually will be assessed within the Cert IPSAS and included in the accompanying course from early in January until 31 December of the following year. The updated Cert IPSAS materials are published on the ACCA website on 1 April each year.
- **Flexible learning:** It's a fully-flexible online qualification that can be accessed anytime, anywhere – or delivered as part of a blended learning programme and provides an efficient, convenient solution to meet your organisation's training needs.

## Who is it for?

Cert IPSAS will be relevant to your finance professionals if your organisation is using or about to implement IPSAS®, or if your employees are working with clients who are using or about to use IPSAS®.

It's perfect for helping employees with a background in financial reporting to meet the challenges of implementing IPSAS®, providing a practical and introductory knowledge of these standards and how they are interpreted and applied.

It's been prepared for:

- public sector employers and employees globally
- accountants working or wishing to work in the public sector
- learning providers
- national and local governments
- policy makers specialising in the public sector
- international donors.

If your employees already have a professional accountancy qualification, this qualification can be a valuable source of CPD – offering an opportunity to top up existing competencies with specific technical knowledge and skills around IPSAS®.

If your employees do not hold a professional accountancy qualification, it offers them the opportunity to gain formal recognition of their IPSAS® knowledge and skills. It is recommended that an educational or vocational background in financial reporting is gained before starting on Cert IPSAS.

## How does it work?

The Cert IPSAS includes both an online course and a test.

The online course includes all the study materials your employees will need, although candidates will benefit from having a copy of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) 2016 Handbook of International Public Sector Accounting Pronouncements. You can find the handbook at [www.ifac.org](http://www.ifac.org)

If your employees already using IPSAS® at work and want formal recognition of their skills, they can apply to only take the online Cert IPSAS assessment. If they don't need certification, but want extra knowledge in the field, they can choose the course only.

You can apply online at any time. When you pay by credit card, you'll get access to the online course and assessment for twelve months. Typically, a candidate should take 20 hours to work through the course. Studying for another qualification as an ACCA member can count towards their continuing professional development (CPD).

The certificate is assessed by a one hour exam with multiple-choice questions. There are 25 multiple-choice questions based on the syllabus. The candidate is required to answer 13 questions correctly.

The fee covers three attempts to take the assessment. But they must be taken within three months of accessing the online course. If candidates don't pass after three attempts, another registration fee needs to be paid to attempt the assessment again, which gives a further three attempts to pass.

# Cert IPSAS course contents

The syllabus contains the following topics:

## IPSASB

An overview of the work of the Board (IPSASB), including its organisation, the characteristics of public sector entities, the relationship between IPSAS® and the corresponding International Accounting Standards (IAS) / International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), the purpose of financial statements and any ongoing projects.

## Financial statement presentation and accounting policy

Develops an overview of:

- financial statements (IPSAS® 1)
- cash flow statements (IPSAS® 2)
- accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates, and errors (IPSAS® 3).

## Financial performance

Provides an understanding of:

- non-exchange revenue (IPSAS® 23)
- exchange revenue (IPSAS® 9)
- construction contracts (IPSAS® 11).

## Accounting for assets and liabilities

Delivers teaching around a wide range of topics including:

- property plant and equipment (IPSAS® 17)
- intangible assets (IPSAS® 31)

- investment property (IPSAS® 16)
- impairment of cash generating assets (IPSAS® 26)
- impairment of non-cash generating assets (IPSAS® 21)
- borrowing costs (IPSAS® 5)
- inventories (IPSAS® 12)
- leases (IPSAS® 13)
- financial instruments (IPSAS® 28, 29, 30)
- provisions
- contingent liabilities and contingent assets (IPSAS® 19)
- events after the reporting date (IPSAS® 14)
- employee benefits (IPSAS® 25)
- agriculture (IPSAS® 27).

## Consolidation

Delivers training around:

- consolidated and separate financial statements (IPSAS® 6)
- interests in joint ventures (IPSAS® 8)
- investments in associates (IPSAS® 7)
- translation of financial statements of foreign operations (IPSAS® 4)
- financial reporting in hyperinflationary economies (IPSAS® 10)
- disclosure standards and other topics, presentation of budget information (IPSAS® 24)
- segment reporting (IPSAS® 18)
- related party disclosures (IPSAS® 20)
- disclosure of financial information about the general government sector (IPSAS® 22)
- service concessions (IPSAS® 32).

## Cash basis IPSAS®

Teaches students about Part 1 of the cash basis IPSAS®, covering required information in:

- the statement of cash receipts and payments
- disclosures
- consolidation under the cash basis
- presentation of budget information in the financial statements
- the additional (non-mandatory) disclosures encouraged in Part 2 of the cash basis IPSAS®.

## First-time adoption of accrual-based IPSAS®

Delivers training cover the following areas:

- migrating from cash to accrual basis
- first time adoption of IPSAS® (IPSAS® 33)
- change management and the adoption of IPSAS®.

## Forthcoming proposals for change

Teaches students about Public sector financial crisis and IPSAS®, IPSASB's strategic direction and forthcoming proposals from the IPSASB.

## Pricing

For pricing and study options, contact your local ACCA office or visit [www.accaglobal.com/certipsas](http://www.accaglobal.com/certipsas)

Users can purchase the certificate individually, but there are also pricing options available for organisations that want to register batches of candidates. This means that the more candidates you register with us, the better value the qualification is. Cert IPSAS can also be delivered as part of a blended learning programme.

**ACCA members receive a discount for the certificate if they supply their membership number when signing up to the qualifications. Discounts are also provided to ACCA Approved Employers.**

Employers or tuition providers who want to offer Cert IPSAS to multiple users may qualify for contract pricing - which makes Cert IPSAS particularly cost effective. The best rates are reserved for Approved Employers, Approved Learning Partners and ACCA members.

## Additional support for the public sector

We help you deliver excellence in public financial management and value for money for both service users and citizens.

Our range of qualifications, research, recruitment and consultancy services is designed to help you build the finance capabilities your organisation needs to deliver effective financial management and the stewardship of public funds.

Below are some of the other ways we can help your organisation:

ACCA  
Qualification

Advanced  
Diploma in  
Public Financial  
Management

**ACCA**

ACCA Careers  
and Job Board

ACCA-X

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To make an order or enquire about discount pricing please speak with an ACCA business development manager or email [ppqadmin@accaglobal.com](mailto:ppqadmin@accaglobal.com)

# Want to know more?

Find out more about  
ACCA's public sector  
qualifications by emailing  
[ppqadmin@accaglobal.com](mailto:ppqadmin@accaglobal.com)

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 [www.linkedin.com/company/acca](https://www.linkedin.com/company/acca)