In recent years the importance of professionalism and ethics in accountancy has grown due to a series of corporate and accounting scandals. In response, the global accountancy profession has introduced and embedded ethics and professionalism as core areas of accountancy education and training.

As part of the Foundations in Accountancy suite of qualifications, ACCA has introduced a Foundations in Professionalism (FiP) online module. The FiP is aimed at accountants who may be starting out on their careers, or at those who have been working for a while, but who have not yet qualified as professional accountants.

The FiP is an essential component for any student taking any of the following Foundations in Accountancy qualifications:
- Introductory Certificate in Financial and Management Accounting
- Intermediate Certificate in Financial and Management Accounting
- Diploma in Accounting and Business
- Certified Accounting Technician (students registering after 1 January 2011)
- Foundation awards in Taxation, Audit and Financial Management.

**WHAT DOES FIP COVER?**

The FiP module is an interactive learning system which allows students to study and learn about a number of areas concerning professionalism. The module is structured as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Professionalism
3. Law and regulation
4. Professional values
5. Personal effectiveness at work
6. Personal values
7. Case study
8. Objective test.

Each section of the FiP contains a range of interactive exercises and tasks to develop and consolidate learning and understanding.

If, after finishing the test, you are deemed not to have demonstrated sufficient knowledge, you are automatically informed of your weakest areas, so that you can be referred to these sections directly, to review the materials, re-work the end of section exercises and then take the final test again.

There is no limit on the number of times you can re-take the test, or how many times you can access the module, even after you have successfully completed it.

The only restriction on those who have successfully completed the module is that they cannot re-take the test to improve their performance. They will have no further access to the test from the point at which the successful completion of the module is automatically registered on their student record.

**SUMMARY**

Professionalism is at the heart of all of ACCA’s mainstream qualifications. Globally there is an increasing emphasis on the need to integrate ethics and professionalism into accounting qualifications, both for professional qualifications and for technician and foundation level qualifications, because everyone recognises the need for accountants working and studying, at all levels, to behave professionally and ethically.

The ACCA Qualification already includes a requirement to complete a Professional Ethics module and the Foundations in Professionalism module will now be introduced as an integral and mandatory element of the Foundations in Accountancy suite of qualifications. Any student studying for any of the FIA qualifications, including students who registered for the Certified Accounting Technician qualification from 1 January 2011, will be required to successfully complete the FiP in order to obtain their certificates.