

RECOGNITION OF ACCA AND FOUNDATION-LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS

INTRODUCTION TO RECOGNITION

ACCA receives enquiries from our members and students regarding their options for further or complimentary academic study. ACCA encourages educational institutions to provide information on the level of entry and exemption that is available to ACCA members and students from their undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PROVIDING RECOGNITION INFORMATION?

Details of the recognition information provided will be made available to all ACCA members and students, allowing for the opportunity to attract more students who wish to pursue academic studies.

ACCA QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE

ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) was founded in 1904, with the vision to offer business-relevant qualifications to people of ability around the world who seek a rewarding career in accountancy, finance and management.

As a member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), ACCA commits to the adoption and application of IFAC's global standards to support and bring long-term value to economies in which we develop capacity and support professional accountants. ACCA has consistently held unique core values: opportunity, diversity, innovation, integrity and accountability. We believe that accountants bring value to economies in all stages of development.

- The ACCA Qualifications are structured to provide development and progression from the Foundation-Level qualifications through the Fundamentals and Professional level examinations to the ACCA Qualification. Figures 1 and 2 provide details of structure of the ACCA Qualification and ACCA's Foundation-Level qualifications.

Figure 1: ACCA Qualification Structure

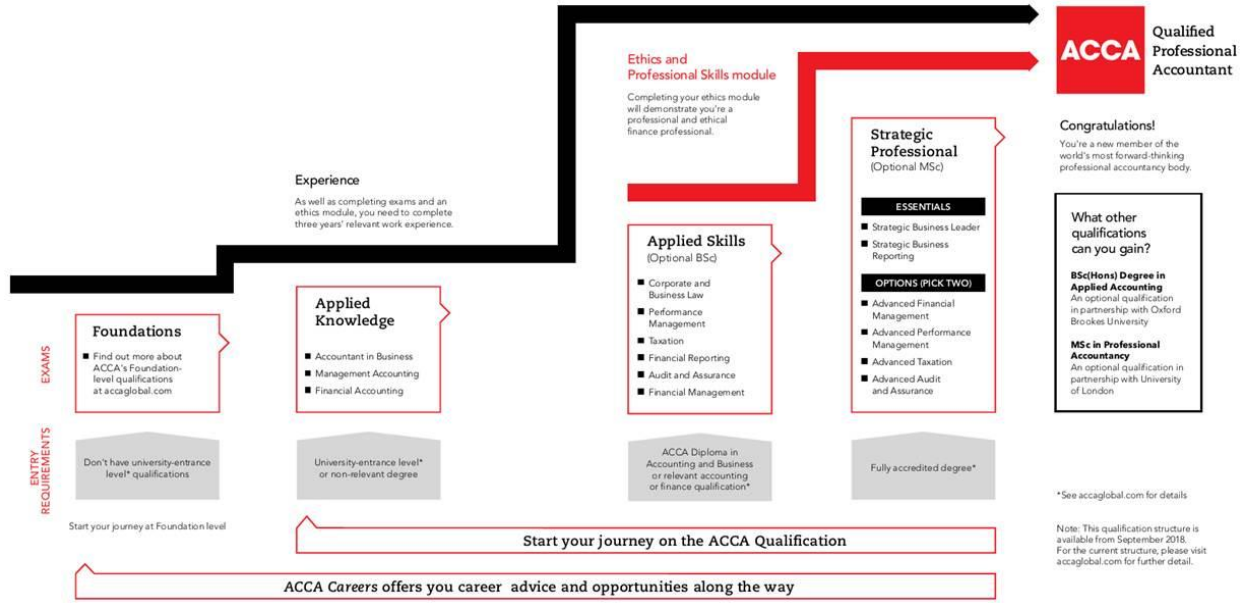
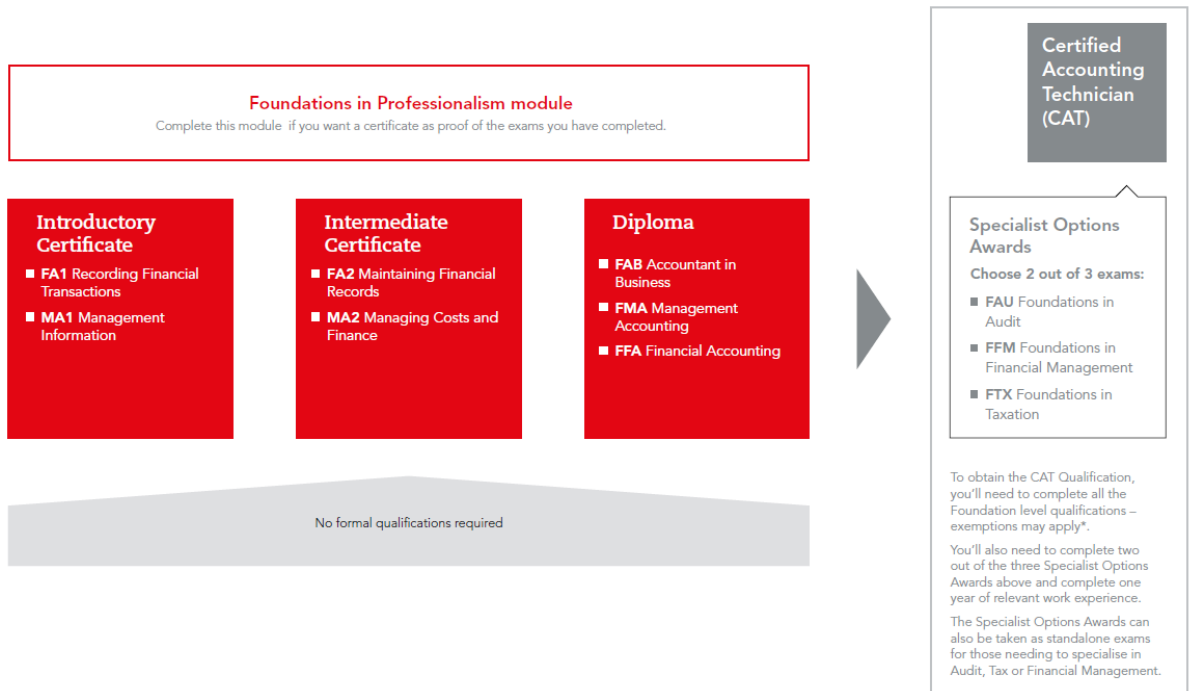


Figure 2: Foundation-Level Qualification Structure



The ACCA Qualification focuses on 3 key value propositions comprising Exams, Ethics and Work Experience. ACCA with its network of offices, approved learning partners and employers worldwide, supports students and members to develop successful careers by providing opportunity for learning and development. In partnership with Oxford Brookes University, a BSc in Applied Accounting and a Global MBA are available. ACCA has also partnered with the University of London to develop the world's first integrated MSc, which is available to ACCA students, affiliates and members.

Ensuring our students receive the highest quality education support is of utmost importance to ACCA. The Approved Learning Partner (ALP) programme was introduced to give formal recognition to learning providers who have demonstrated their success in providing students with quality tuition support. The learning providers are assessed on one set of global accreditation standards.

There are over 6,000 organisations worldwide who partner with ACCA through the ACCA Approved Employer programme. The ACCA Approved Employer programme recognises employers' high standards of staff training, accountancy resources and staff development. ACCA Approved Employers comprise organisations from varying sectors which include the Big-4 accounting firms, Deloitte, PwC, Ernst and Young, and KPMG.

In keeping with ACCA's commitment to lifelong learning, it also has a range of further qualifications and a leading edge continuing professional development (CPD) scheme. These programmes are designed to suit the needs of accountants, finance-professionals and non-finance professionals with financial responsibility, at all stages of their careers.

ACCA QUALIFICATION

In addition to responding to the needs of its stakeholders, ACCA has designed a qualification which embeds the global accounting education standards set by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). The ACCA Qualification is fully IFAC compliant. There is a strong focus on professional values, governance, risk and ethics. These skills are essential as the profession moves towards strengthened codes of conduct, regulation and legislation with an increasing focus on professionalism and ethics in accounting. They are examined at the highest level in the ACCA Qualification, and are a core element of students' practical experience requirements.

The exams for the ACCA qualification are divided into the following levels – Applied Knowledge, Applied Skills and Strategic Professional.

The **Applied Knowledge** level introduces students to the core areas of financial and management accounting. This provides the platform from which the other technical accountancy areas will be studied in greater detail in the Applied Skills level.

The **Applied Skills** level contains six subjects which comprehensively cover the main technical areas that any accountant, regardless of their future career aspirations, are expected to have gained proficiency. These comprise law, performance management, taxation, financial reporting, auditing, and financial management.

The **Strategic Professional** level consists of Essentials and Options modules. The Essentials consists of a case study, Strategic Business Leader, and the Strategic Business Reporting paper. For the Options modules, students are required to choose two from four papers; Advanced Financial Management, Advanced Performance Management, Advanced Taxation or Advanced Audit and Assurance.

Both modules have been set at an intellectual level equivalent to that expected of a student taking a UK taught Masters degree. The focus of the syllabus at this level is to build upon the technical skills already acquired, and explore more advanced professional skills, techniques, and values that are required and used by the expert accountant acting in an advisory or consultancy role at a senior level. All students must complete the two papers in the Essentials module.

The Options module papers are directly underpinned and supported by their equivalents within the Applied Skills module in the Fundamentals level. These exams assess the more advanced and sophisticated techniques that a professional needs in order to specialise in specific areas of work or to follow as a career pathway in an advisory or consultancy role.

Full syllabus details and examination papers are available at www.accaglobal.com/en/student/acca-qual-student-journey/qual-resource/acca-qualification.html

FOUNDATION-LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS

There are 10 Foundation-level exams in total and students can select the exams they wish to take, each of which leads to the award of certain certificates and diplomas. All of the exams – except the foundation specialist awards in Audit, Tax and Financial Management – are available as computer-based exams. This means they can be taken on demand at any time of the year in ACCA licensed exam centres. The flexibility of this structure gives students the widest possible choice about which qualifications to register for, the level of the programme at which to register and also about when, how often and in which order to take exams.

The Foundation level qualifications are also designed as pathways or stepping stones towards the ACCA Qualification for those who aim to achieve ACCA membership, but who do not currently have the minimum academic qualifications to apply directly to the ACCA Qualification.

Depending on the level at which a student registers, they can gain valuable qualifications as they progress, which in turn leads to recognition and reward for the knowledge and skills they have gained. The qualifications also provide good underpinning knowledge to help students better prepare for the ACCA Qualification exams.

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