

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for practising members

All members, whether an individual or a firm*, must ensure that they:

- complete CPD in areas relevant to their work
- maintain competence in professional ethics; and
- keep their business and finance knowledge up to date.

Practising members must maintain competence in their areas of technical specialism, and obtain CPD in those areas.

Members who are responsible individuals** must maintain their competence in audit even if no audit work is currently being undertaken. They must also be able to justify why the amount of audit related CPD they have undertaken is sufficient to maintain their audit competence. This will be checked during an ACCA CPD review.

Members who are statutory auditors (responsible individuals) in Ireland must keep up to date in the Irish audit framework; financial reporting standards in use in Ireland; and Irish and EU legislation relevant to the preparation of financial statements and to statutory audit and auditors. Irish statutory auditors must retain their CPD records for six years. Members holding sustainability assurance service provider status in the Republic of Ireland must keep up to date in relevant sustainability matters.

Members in South Africa who are registered auditors and registered candidate auditors must comply with the IRBA's continuing professional development requirements. Members in South Africa undertaking tax work, and those who intend to do so in future, should register on the South African Revenue Service (SARS) e-filing system. Registered members must ensure that they comply with SARS' CPD requirements. SARS states that registered tax practitioners must undertake at least 18 hours of CPD each year, which must include at least ten hours of tax CPD, six hours of CPD relating to services provided, and two hours of ethics CPD. Registered tax practitioners in South Africa must retain their CPD records for five years.

Members in spare-time practice who have other occupations outside of public practice must ensure that, in addition to maintaining their competence in the areas of their practice, they also undertake an appropriate proportion of CPD in relation to their other role or roles.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION STANDARD (IES) 8 (REVISED)

IFAC's International Education Standard (IES) 8, Professional Competence for Engagement Partners Responsible for Audits of Financial Statements (Revised), prescribes the professional competence that professional accountants are required to develop and maintain when performing the role of an Engagement Partner responsible for audits of financial statements.

If you are a responsible individual in the UK and/or Ireland and/or you are an Engagement Partner you will need to demonstrate developing and maintaining your professional competence by the achievement of the learning outcomes specified in Table A of IES 8. This is a requirement even if you are currently not acting as an Engagement Partner. ACCA has produced a guidance note and [checklist](#) which you must use to plan and record meeting this requirement. The checklist is available to download from the [CPD section](#) of the website along with example CPD evidence records to show how you can demonstrate meeting the learning outcomes through undertaking relevant learning activities. You will be required to submit a completed checklist if you are selected for a CPD review. It will also be reviewed during a regulatory or Approved Employer monitoring visit to a firm. The checklist must be used as a live planning tool throughout the year rather than completed retrospectively.

RELEVANT CPD

Your CPD activities should be relevant to your area(s) of work and your firm's client base. Think about your learning needs and what you want to achieve during the year, and plan your CPD around those goals. CPD supports your career by providing you with the knowledge and skills that you need to excel in your role and succeed in the future.

PLAN	What are the areas you could develop to help you support your clients more effectively, or make a positive impact on your business? What are the technical and business skills you will need? What knowledge and skills will you need to maintain or develop in the next 6–12 months? Are there any changes to legislation or regulations you need to familiarise yourself with? Are there any specific CPD requirements attached to the work you do (see above)? What IES 8 learning outcomes do you need to focus on (applicable to responsible individuals and/or engagement partners)?
DO	Will the activities you've identified meet your and your clients' needs? Have you thought about a range of different learning activities (e-learning, coaching, networking?) Can you make an impact by developing skills to support others? (your employer or business, junior staff or ACCA trainees, the community?)
REVIEW	Did your activity meet your needs? Can you apply your learning in the workplace, for example by satisfying your clients' needs? Has there been a positive impact on your business? Do you need to undertake additional activity or was the CPD you undertook sufficient and effective? Would you do anything differently next time? Are there additional needs you've identified which you should act upon?

* Firms holding a UK or Irish ACCA auditing certificate and/or firms which are regulated by ACCA to carry on exempt regulated activities in the UK must require the individuals who are partners or directors or agents of the firm, who are not members but who are responsible for the firm's audit work or carry on exempt regulated activities in the UK to comply with ACCA's CPD policy.

** This includes all ACCA members who hold a UK or Irish practising certificate and audit qualification

With four CPD routes to choose from, our flexible CPD requirement is easy to fit around your personal circumstances.

Any learning activity can count as verifiable CPD when you can answer YES to these three questions:

- 1 Is the learning activity relevant to your current role or future career ambitions?
- 2 Can you explain how you'll apply the learning at work?
- 3 Can you provide evidence that the learning took place?

KEEPING YOUR CPD RECORD

Please keep a record of your CPD activities for three years***, just in case it's needed for a CPD review.

- If you follow the unit route, you should keep records of your verifiable CPD as well as a record of your non-verifiable CPD. Your records should show: why you chose the activity, how you will apply the learning and evidence of the learning outcome. We've developed an online recording tool, within myACCA, which we recommend using. Alternatively, you may prefer to keep records in your own or your employer's format.
- If you are following the unit route – part-time/semi-retired, you should keep a record of the non-verifiable CPD and verifiable CPD you've undertaken with an explanation of why you believe the CPD you've undertaken is relevant, appropriate and adequate for your role. Please also provide evidence of the number of hours worked, and confirmation that you're working in a role that meets our part-time/semi-retired route conditions. To help with this, we've developed a [CPD checklist](#) which must be completed and submitted to ACCA alongside your CPD records if you are selected for a CPD review. Practising members may only take this route if they are not responsible for audit or other regulated report work,

and can show that they have technical support in carrying out their duties. In addition, any member taking this route cannot be involved in the preparation or presentation of accounts investors may rely on; it is also closed to non-executive directors of listed companies.

- If you follow the ACCA Approved Employer – professional development route, you should keep a record of your employment and that you have participated in your employer's development and appraisal processes. We may also confirm your CPD activity with your employer.
- If you follow the other IFAC body route, you should keep records of your membership of the other accountancy body and your participation in their CPD programme. If the other accountancy body has reviewed your CPD records, please keep a copy of the outcome letter as we may ask you for a copy of this letter or the records you've kept for the other professional body. We may also confirm your CPD activity with your other accountancy body.

HOW WE REVIEW YOUR CPD

We're committed to ensuring that the highest professional and ethical standards are continually adhered to, safeguarding both our reputation and yours. One of the ways we do this is by conducting annual reviews of a sample of members' CPD to ensure they're developing their knowledge and skills. If you're selected for review, we'll provide constructive feedback on your CPD activities, along with any help needed to meet the requirement.

Members who don't cooperate with the review process – for example by not responding to communications or failing to submit their CPD records – may be removed from the register of members.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS	
I don't really need to plan my CPD	Planning your CPD will help you identify relevant learning that focuses on maintaining the knowledge and skills you need in your current role. Thinking about your CPD has the added advantage of avoiding the trap of leaving all your CPD activity to the end of the year. Planning will also help you think of different learning activities eg e-learning or learning at work, which may be more effective for your needs. It is mandatory for responsible individuals and/or engagements partners to use the IES 8 checklist to plan their CPD activities. The checklist should be used as a live planning tool throughout the year.
If ACCA hosts a CPD event, it will definitely count as CPD	ACCA hosts a wide range of CPD events, and it is up to you to decide if the event is relevant and meets your learning needs. If the event is not relevant to your role, you shouldn't count it towards your CPD. And you should only include relevant sessions at a conference as verifiable CPD.
It doesn't matter too much if the event didn't meet my personal needs – I have got the units now	If an event is not relevant to you, it will not count as CPD. If an event is relevant, but did not meet your learning needs, you should consider further learning activities.
If I have a certificate, I don't need to do anything else in terms of evidence	Any learning activity can count as CPD if it is relevant to your career and you gained new learning. Things to think about: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 How was the learning activity relevant to your role?2 Can you explain how you will apply the learning in the workplace?3 Can you verify that the learning took place? Even if you have a certificate from an event, you will be required to detail what you personally learned from this as well as how it was relevant to your role or future career aspirations.
I have to attend face-to-face events in order to gain verifiable CPD units	Any learning activity can count as CPD, if it is relevant to your career and you gained new learning. And you can take advantage of a wide range of different activities. Example: Lindsay has recently taken on a new client who requires support in an area Lindsay needs to research. Lindsay undertakes four hours of research and then prepares and delivers the work to the client. The four hours of research would count as four units of verifiable CPD. The work undertaken for the client is evidence of her learning activity. Lindsay could ask a partner or colleagues to confirm the learning activity; or notes from the client meeting or an invoice would verify her learning.

For more information, including full information on verifiable CPD, evidence examples, and a wide range of learning opportunities, go to www.accaglobal.com/cpd

*** Members who are responsible individuals or sustainability assurance service providers in Ireland and individuals who are partners or directors or agents of a firm holding an ACCA Irish auditing certificate must keep a record of their CPD activities for six years. Registered tax practitioners in South Africa must keep a record of their CPD activities for five years.