

# ACCA Qualification.

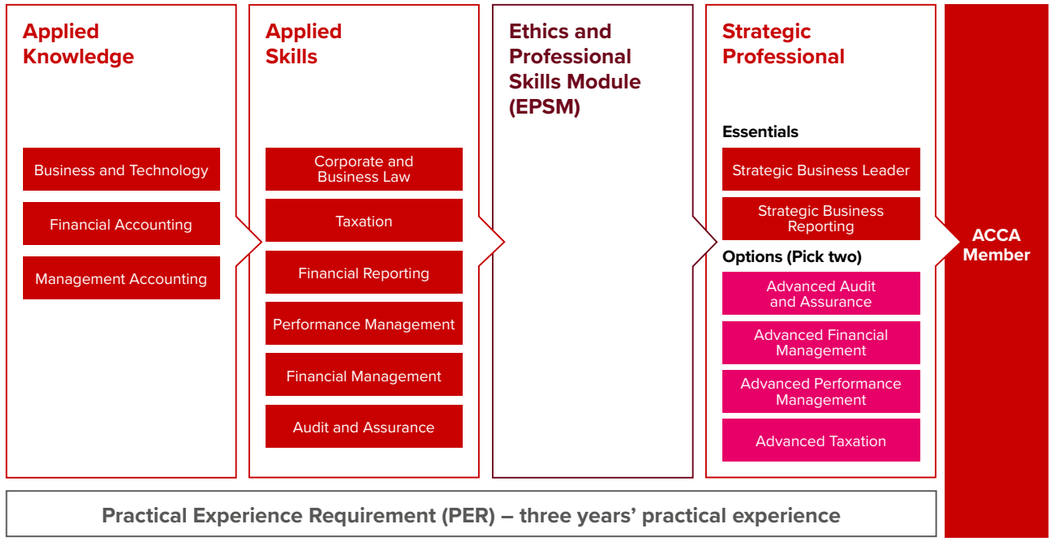
Formal recognition highlights



ACCA is a membership body for professional accountants and the route to membership and the protected title of 'Chartered Certified Accountant' is through the ACCA Qualification. ACCA supports more than **266,100** members and **546,500** students and affiliates in **179** countries. ACCA works to achieve and promote the highest professional, ethical and governance standards and advance the public interest. ACCA is a founding member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and meets all the requirements of the IFAC International Education Standards.

The ACCA Qualification is structured to provide development and progression from entry level to completion of the Strategic Professional examinations at Master's degree level.

## ACCA Qualification structure




## ACCA statutory recognition

ACCA's responsibilities to the UK Privy Council, under the Royal Charter granted by Her Majesty the Queen, and under statute, require it to act in the public interest. ACCA is recognised and regulated by the 'Financial Reporting Council' (FRC) in the UK, due to ACCA's statutory responsibilities, to qualify and supervise 'statutory auditors' in the UK. ACCA's official listing as a 'Recognised Supervisory Body' and 'Recognised Qualifying Body' for UK statutory auditors can be found on the FRC website. Similiarly, ACCA is a 'Recognised Accountancy Body' and 'Prescribed Accountancy Body' in Ireland and regulated by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA). Through the European Union (EU) Statutory Audit directive, ACCA members who are EEA audit license holders can access similar regulated roles across the EU.

## ACCA Qualification standard

ACCA's External Examiner reports quarterly on the standard of the ACCA Strategic Professional examinations and ACCA Applied Skills examinations against the UK Framework for Higher Educational Qualifications (FHEQ) level descriptors, to assure the examinations are set at the appropriate levels outlined in the table below.

| ACCA Qualification | FHEQ | Academic benchmark |
|---|---|---|
| ACCA Strategic Professional | 7 | Master's Degree |
| ACCA Applied Skills | 6 | Bachelor's Degree |
| ACCA Knowledge | 4 | Higher National Diploma |

## UK ENIC

UK ENIC (formerly UK NARIC) is the National Agency, managed on behalf of the UK Government, responsible for providing information, advice and expert opinion on vocational, academic and professional skills and qualifications from over 200 countries worldwide. UK ENIC offers a service to provide UK Qualification Reference Statements. Holders of ACCA qualifications can apply for a UK Qualification Reference Statement for their qualification which provides confirmation of the level of the qualification within the UK qualification frameworks. This can be used to support the recognition of qualifications overseas. Further information is available on the UK ENIC website.

## Qualification framework recognition

ACCA has secured recognition of the ACCA Qualification on a number of national and regional qualification frameworks. Official endorsement by education regulators is widely understood by employers, provides external assurance, and ensures that ACCA is leading on 'best practice' in qualification development and delivery.

| Framework recognition of the ACCA Qualification – Strategic Professional | National Qualification level | European qualifications framework (EQF) level | Academic benchmark |
|---|---|---|---|
| Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) | 11 | 7 | Master's Degree |
| Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) | 9 | 7 | Master's Degree |
| Malta Qualifications Framework (MQF) | 7 | 7 | Master's Degree |

| Education regulator/framework | National Qualification level | Academic benchmark |
|---|---|---|
| Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan | MComm (16 yrs of education) | Master's Degree |
| South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) | 8 | Post-graduate Level |
| The Education and Training Quality Authority, Bahrain | 9 | Master's Degree |
| Zambia Qualifications Authority (ZQA) | 9 | Master's Degree |

## UK framework recognition

Under Scottish Government legislation, Qualifications Scotland Accreditation quality assures qualifications offered in Scotland by approving awarding bodies and accrediting their qualifications. They do this by regulating awarding bodies and their qualifications against published regulatory requirements.

Qualifications Scotland Accreditation has approved ACCA as an 'Awarding Body' and has accredited the ACCA Qualification following an extensive credit rating and external validation exercise. As a result, all levels of the ACCA Qualification have been credit rated on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF), which is one of the national qualification frameworks in the UK. The UK has a number of national qualification frameworks and the alignment of the UK, Irish and EU frameworks is provided by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) here.

The credit rating information of the ACCA Qualification can be viewed on the SCQF database by entering 'ACCA' in the 'Owner of Qualification' field. ACCA's Strategic Professional examinations are credit rated at 180 credits at Level 11 (the same credits as a Master's degree), the Applied Skills examinations are credit rated at 242 credits at Level 10 and the Applied Knowledge examinations are credit rated at 91 credits at Level 8. The Strategic Professional exams also correspond to the EQF at Level 7, Master's degree level, and are credit rated in the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), with 90 ECTS credits for the Strategic Professional exams, 121 ECTS credits for the Applied Skills exams, and 45.5 ECTS credits for the Applied Knowledge exams.

| ACCA Qualification | SCQF qualification title | SCQF credits | EQF level | ECTS credits | Academic benchmark |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Strategic Professional | ACCA Strategic Professional at SCQF Level 11 | 180 | 7 | 90 | Master's Degree |
| Applied Skills | ACCA Applied Skills at SCQF Level 10 | 242 | 6 | 121 | Bachelor's (Hons) Degree |
| Applied Knowledge | ACCA Diploma in Accounting and Business at SCQF Level 8 | 91 | 5 | 45.5 | Higher National Diploma |

## University of London

The University of London recognises ACCA exams as credit towards the MSc in Professional Accountancy. ACCA members and affiliates only need to complete two modules and one capstone project to obtain the MSc in Professional Accountancy. The MSc in Professional Accountancy award is delivered through the University of London International Programmes, with programme direction being provided by University College London's world class faculty in the School of Management. Full details of the course can be found on our website.

Eligible ACCA students, affiliates and members are able to study for the BSc Professional Accountancy programme with the University of London. This provides ACCA students, affiliates and members with the opportunity to achieve a prestigious academic qualification from a world-leading university. Full details of the course can be found on our website.

## Oxford Brookes University

Oxford Brookes University in partnership with ACCA offered a BSc (Hons) in Applied Accounting centred on the needs of employers for practical, professional accounting which closed in May 2026. Holders of the BSc (Hons) in Applied Accounting will continue to enjoy the recognition available for this prestigious qualification.

Find out more about formal recognition of the ACCA Qualification on our website.



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