



Your journey to success



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Foreword

ACCA's global reputation is founded on the quality of our qualifications and members who have attained them. By demonstrating their skills and knowledge, ACCA members have earned a strong reputation in whichever industry and business they have chosen. The success that brings them this reputation is clearly evident in the members who are featured in this brochure. Diversity and opportunity are core values of ACCA and again it is clear through these profiles, that our members from India, like members from every continent, represent ACCA's values and missions through their professional and personal experiences.



ACCA firmly believes that the success of our members is what makes the ACCA Qualification globally coveted. Many of our members have been working with leading Indian and multinational organisations in and outside India and have excelled in their respected fields and continue to strive with notable achievements in their fields of expertise.

ACCA is delighted to share and learn from the experiences of our members, and we are heartened that they too were so keen to share their experiences for future generations of accounting professionals. It is clear, that they have seized the opportunity of attaining a leading global professional qualification. Equally, these members have benefitted from a thorough working knowledge of core areas expected of a professional accountant. These include assurance, financial reporting, management accounting and taxation, but also the wider and in-depth coverage of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), which help to develop complete finance professionals for the 21st century, who are valued wherever they work and in all fields of finance and accounting.

Finally, a thank you to all the members who have dedicated their time to share their inspiring experiences.

Aziz Tayyebi FCCA
Head of International Development
ACCA

Member profile

Dinesh Jangid, an ACCA member since 2007, has been in the Accounting Advisory Services (AAS) group of KPMG for over 4 years and has vast experience in accounting and finance related matters, including five years of work experience in the UK. He has performed statutory US GAAP and IFRS audits including review/audit of controls and processes spanning areas such as treasury, budgeting, Capex, IT, tax and financial reporting.

He has also assisted his clients in the Initial Public Offering (IPO) process in the area of financial reporting for inclusion in the prospectus or offer document for listing on Indian or overseas stock exchanges. He has assisted many clients in inbound or outbound Mergers and Acquisitions transactions, especially in the areas of understanding the accounting practices of a target, assisting the acquirer in drawing-up the opening balance sheet and post deal reporting under IFRS. He has worked on a number of IFRS and US GAAP conversion projects for large Indian corporates including, Larsen & Tourbo, Hindustan Construction Company, Mumbai International Airport, Blue Dart, Binani group, Jet Airways, Allcargo Logistics, MSC Agencies, Accenture and Wipro.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A CAREER IN ACCOUNTANCY?

When I was at school I was good with numbers and as I progressed to higher education accountancy became my favourite subject. After that it wasn't a difficult decision to opt for a career in accountancy.

WHAT BENEFITS DO YOU SEE IN BEING AN ACCA MEMBER?

One thing I like the most about ACCA is the wealth of knowledge available on its website, www.accaglobal.com. The website as well as the monthly magazine *Accounting and Business*, which is of a high quality, allows you to keep up to date with aspects of your continuing professional development (CPD). ACCA membership has also given me an opportunity to become a member of their Corporate Reporting Global Forum where all emerging accounting issues and developments are discussed.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO STUDENTS THINKING ABOUT A CAREER IN ACCOUNTANCY?

As Indian businesses are becoming more global and business transactions are becoming more and more complex, the accounting profession has become much more challenging and relevant.

The ACCA Qualification will not only give you an international qualification in accountancy but will also enhance your global mobility.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY A WAY IN WHICH BEING AN ACCA MEMBER IS AN ASSET TO YOU IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE?

Studying for the ACCA Qualification meant that I learnt about International Standards of Auditing (ISA) as well as International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) way before they were implemented in India. To that end, I think I was very well placed to serve large corporates in India on implementation of IFRS.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD SAY TO STUDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT WHETHER THE TIME AND MONEY THEY INVEST IN STUDYING WITH ACCA WILL BE WORTH IT IN THE LONG TERM?

Based on my experience, I think the ACCA Qualification is well worth every penny invested. I am seeing a lot more demand by large corporates for candidates possessing international qualifications and ACCA members are well placed to cater to this growing demand.

IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE, DESCRIBE SOME OF YOUR OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES.

I am an associate director in KPMG's Accounting Advisory Services. My role involves advising my clients on implementation of accounting standards and changes under Indian GAAP, IFRS or US GAAP. I also routinely assist clients to prepare for IPOs in Indian and overseas markets. I also conduct training courses under multiple accounting frameworks for my clients.

WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE WHILST STUDYING, AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THEM?

The biggest challenge that I faced was to strike a balance between self studying, classroom based coaching and practical training (articleship). What I found useful was to spare some time everyday for self studying so that you are not leaving exam oriented studies for last minute.



PERSONAL DETAILS

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|-----------|---------------------------|
| Name | DINESH JANGID |
| Job title | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR |
| Employer | KPMG |
| Studies | ACCA member since 2007 |

Member profile

Sumathi Mohnani FCCA, has over 25 years professional experience, handling various roles in accounting, auditing and internal controls, and managing transformational projects related to growth initiatives both in India and abroad. Sumathi started her professional career in Jamaica where she was living prior to moving to India. She joined PricewaterhouseCoopers as an audit trainee and had been promoted to an assistant manager by the time she qualified as an ACCA member in 1984.

Sumathi has held diverse roles in multiple companies, the latest one being in the IT industry working for IBM India Private Limited for the last 15 years. Within IBM itself, Sumathi has handled leadership roles in compliance and controls of the various business segments, managing projects related to strategy and transformation including setting up and running centres of excellence, and driving business focused imperatives for pre-sales support.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A CAREER IN ACCOUNTANCY?

It was the most appropriate choice given my preference for analysing information, defining processes and setting up controls. I strongly feel that in today's world of financial uncertainty and complexity, accounting professionals play a key role in shaping and driving the right focus for business profitability and growth.

WHAT BENEFITS DO YOU SEE IN BEING AN ACCA MEMBER?

The ACCA Qualification gives me, or anyone for that matter, the ability to work in global organisations and operate from multiple countries as the qualification is recognised worldwide. Additionally, I can link to a global network of professionals which allows me to share my views and professional updates. Lastly, I take pride in being a member of a world class organisation with continuous skills upgraded through the CPD program.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO STUDENTS THINKING ABOUT A CAREER IN ACCOUNTANCY?

First, establish that you have an interest and an aptitude for this field, and that you will stay committed to this line of work.

A career in accountancy is not limited to number crunching or reactive solutioning. Your horizon should be to partner with the business leaders to drive results based on financial management acumen and analytical skills.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY A WAY IN WHICH BEING AN ACCA MEMBER IS AN ASSET TO YOU IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE?

The approach used by the ACCA coaching methodology and the subjects has helped me handle various roles inside and out of finance. It has enabled me to understand the business support framework of organisations. ACCA's support for their members has convinced me for life that I belong to a truly world class professional body that I am very proud to be associated with.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD SAY TO STUDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT WHETHER THE TIME AND MONEY THEY INVEST IN DOING ACCA WILL BE WORTH IT IN THE LONG TERM?

Any worthwhile education today will require a heavy investment in terms of time and money. The other part to a successful career (apart from the academic qualification) is the efforts put in by an individual to perform in the job. The returns from investing in an ACCA qualification can be greatly accelerated if you focus on selecting the roles where you have your core strengths, giving it your best efforts and making sure that you keep upgrading your skills so that you remain a valuable resource for the organisation with marketable skills.

WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE WHILST STUDYING, AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THEM?

I opted to work while studying, so time was always a short commodity. So a group of us adopted the 'divide and conquer' approach. We would meet in the evenings after work and each of us would master one topic and teach the rest of the group so that we were able to cover the syllabus within the timeframe.



PERSONAL DETAILS

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|-----------|---|
| Name | SUMATHI MOHNANI |
| Job title | BUSINESS CONTROLS MANAGER – GLOBAL BUSINESS SERVICES GROWTH MARKET UNITS |
| Employer | IBM INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED |
| Studies | ACCA member since 1984 |

Member profile

Murali Narayanan, an ACCA member since 2009, is currently VP finance and accounting of BPO operations at Steria. With more than 25 years experience in areas of finance and accounts, he has worked as a head of finance and accounting for multinational corporations (MNCs) and consultant for various large projects in the finance and accountancy domain. Prior to working with Steria, Murali worked in senior finance roles with multinationals in India and Middle East.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A CAREER IN ACCOUNTANCY?

In the 1980s, accountancy was the profession in demand in the Middle East, where I was heading, and I could see the potential it would gain in the next few decades.

WHAT BENEFITS DO YOU SEE IN BEING AN ACCA MEMBER?

The ACCA Qualification is an international qualification hence its recognition is never an issue, no matter where you are. ACCA also invests every effort to keep abreast of changes and new trends in the accounting and finance professions.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO STUDENTS THINKING ABOUT A CAREER IN ACCOUNTANCY?

Choose a career in accountancy that will benefit you in the long run with international exposure – you don't have to work only in accountancy but can choose from different functions such as audit, risk management, taxation and now IFRS.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY A WAY IN WHICH BEING AN ACCA MEMBER IS AN ASSET TO YOU IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE?

In my current role as the VP finance and accounting BPO operations, ACCA empowers me to impart and mentor aspiring professionals to seek and achieve higher career goals. It has also enlightened me with current changes as they happen and continuing

professional development requirement (CPD) is an excellent way that ACCA ensures we keep adding to our skills and knowledge.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD SAY TO STUDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT WHETHER THE TIME AND MONEY THEY INVEST IN DOING ACCA WILL BE WORTH IT IN THE LONG TERM?

Investing in your career is always worthwhile, especially if you compare the cost of an international post-graduate qualification or an MBA which can quite expensive. ACCA provides an edge over many of these qualifications as it prepares you to face challenges within the workplace, but also helps to shape the way our economy is heading.

IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE, DESCRIBE SOME OF YOUR OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES.

As head of finance and accounting BPO operations, I am in charge of service delivery to major customers to meet and exceed their expectations. Additionally, I am also in charge of grooming and mentoring team managers to become future leaders.

WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE WHILST STUDYING, AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THEM?

Time management was my biggest concern as well as the best lesson. I used to travel a lot to the UK during my projects so had to dedicate all my weekends and holidays to complete my studies.



PERSONAL DETAILS

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| Name | MURALI NARAVANAN |
| Job title | VP FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING, BPO OPERATIONS |
| Employer | STERIA INDIA LTD |
| Studies | ACCA member since 2009 |

Where to start

At ACCA we strongly believe it's the end result that counts. That's why it isn't important to us what qualifications, if any, you have when you join us. We will start you on your journey at the most relevant level. Through our comprehensive and rigorous exams and training, along with a range of resources and support to help you on your way to achieving the ACCA Qualification, we will help you reach your career destination of choice.

Foundation level

We offer a range of Foundation-level certificates and diplomas which provide the ideal starting point for anyone new to accounting and finance and who doesn't have any formal academic qualifications. You can start your ACCA journey at the Introductory Certificate, the Intermediate Certificate or the Diploma in Accounting and Business. It's up to you. However, we strongly recommend you start with the introductory exams if you have no prior qualifications – you'll do better at the higher level exams if you complete the basics first. Then progress through the rest of the exams and achieve the Intermediate Certificate in Financial and Management Accounting and Diploma in Accounting and Business. You can then transfer to the ACCA Qualification and start at F4 of the Fundamentals level – missing out the first three exams at this level.

Fundamentals level

The ACCA Qualification is divided into two levels – Fundamentals and Professional level. If you meet our minimum entry requirement which is three GCSEs and two A Levels (or their equivalent) in five separate subjects, including maths and English – you can start at the Fundamentals level. There are lots of qualifications you can achieve along the way as you work towards ACCA membership, including a Diploma in Accounting and Business, Advanced Diploma in Accounting and Business and even a BSc degree in Applied Accounting, awarded by Oxford Brookes University.

Professional level

For graduates with relevant accredited degrees from recognised institutions, you can start your journey to ACCA membership at the Professional level. Your previous qualifications mean you have already made significant progress towards the exam component of the ACCA Qualification and could allow you to claim a maximum of nine exemptions. You can check out what exemptions you may be eligible to claim at www.accaglobal.com/exemptions

Experience

Becoming a professional accountant isn't just about sitting exams. That's only part of it. Equally important is getting relevant, supervised practical experience. It demonstrates to employers that you have proven experience and practical skills relevant to the role and can be relied on to get the job done. You can complete your work experience before, at the same time, or after completing the exams. But at the same time is best. It means a quicker journey time to ACCA membership and can really benefit your studies if you can start to apply what you're learning to the workplace.

Ethics

Ethics and professionalism are at the heart of everything we do and stand for at ACCA. It doesn't matter where you start your journey, it's important you know what it means to act professionally and ethically. It builds confidence in those who employ your services that you carry out your duties with trust and integrity. It demonstrates you are professional. That's why all our students have to take the Foundations in Professionalism online interactive module to achieve any of the Foundation-level awards and the Diploma in Accounting and Business as part of the ACCA Qualification; and the Professional Ethics module to achieve the Advanced Diploma and the ACCA Qualification.

Read full profiles of these members on www2.accaglobal.com/india



Ankit Jain
Executive Director – KDG Group

Ankit looks after business development at KDG Group and has more than five years working experience in Singapore and India. Ankit's main industry focus is diversified multinational corporations. His earlier stint in a reputed audit firm involved assurance engagements on subsidiaries of foreign listed companies especially of French origin. His working experience, in Singapore and India, includes advisory services to businesses and trainings on risk management. Ankit is an ACCA member since 2010. Prior to moving to India, Ankit has worked in audit and inventory roles with reputed organisations in Singapore.

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Being in a position of such high repute and responsibility one needs to back that by a valuable qualification and what better than ACCA. The ACCA Qualification opens up more diverse roles in business, finance and accounting as well as the opportunity to work anywhere in the world due to its international recognition.

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The passion for creating sustainable values in the world economies helped me choose the ACCA Qualification. It has equipped me with the necessary skills which I feel have added value both to my personal development as well as to the organisation.

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Arun Adhia
Audit Executive, KPMG, Bengaluru

Arjun Adhia, one of our youngest ACCA members currently works with KPMG as an audit executive. Arjun has just gained his ACCA membership in 2011 since completing his graduation in 2010. In such a short span of time, he has already undertaken roles in both audit and advisory for corporate and non-corporate entities.



Chetan Hans
Manager, Accounting Advisory Services, KPMG

Chetan Hans, a fellow, currently works with KPMG as a manager for its Accounting Advisory Services division recruiting, training and managing a team of accountants as well maintaining existing stakeholder relationships across a range of different industries. Chetan presently works with KPMG in New Delhi and has also worked with London, Dallas and San Francisco offices of KPMG. Prior to joining KPMG, Chetan has also worked with Grant Thornton in various locations such as UK and Dubai.

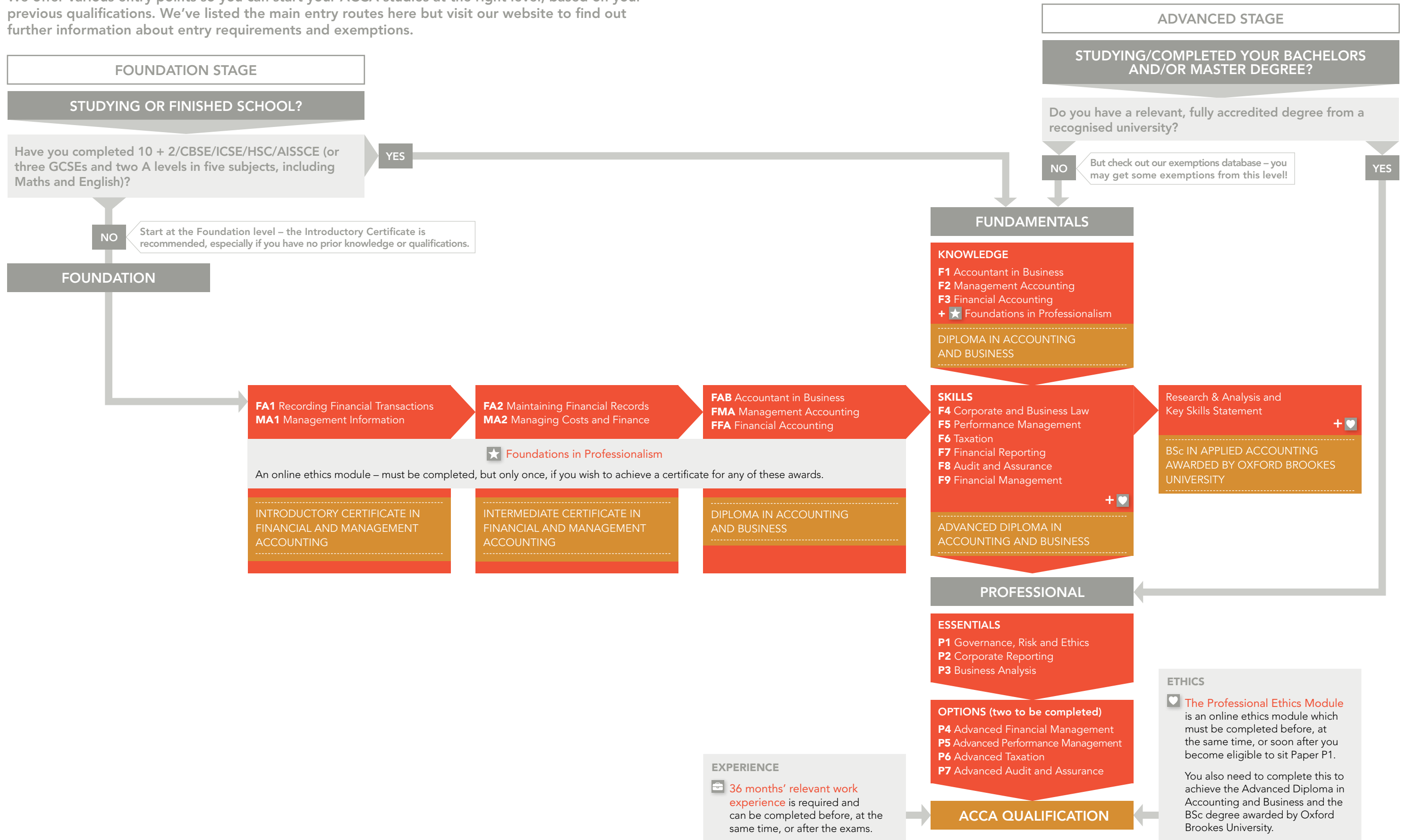
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Being an ACCA member helped me contribute to various roles in finance and accounting and additionally undertake several secondments internationally. Since nothing comes easy, I would say hard work and commitment are a must for students pursuing a career in professional accounting. I would also emphasise on the importance of the practical training requirements and where possible work and study as it enables the individual to apply the theory to practice simultaneously.

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Entry routes

We offer various entry points so you can start your ACCA studies at the right level, based on your previous qualifications. We've listed the main entry routes here but visit our website to find out further information about entry requirements and exemptions.



Read full profiles of these members on www2.accaglobal.com/india



Hiren Kapasia
CEO, Inddus Textiles, India

Hiren, a fellow of ACCA since 1998, has worked on various national and international assignments with multinational companies such as PricewaterhouseCoopers, AXA insurance, Xerox, Affirmative Insurance Holdings Inc and Commercial Metals Company prior to moving to India. Hiren has most recently pursued his dream of setting up his entrepreneurial venture Inddus Textiles – which is a home textile company in India.

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ACCA has been my foundation to understanding finance and how this function plays a critical role in making any business successful.

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Most people think of accountants as people that do your taxes or work in audit for firms. In reality, finance professionals work in every industry and business sector. A business always need team members with a strong understanding of operations and how the numbers impact the whole organisation.

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Neha Jain
Business Analyst to the CFO
Indus Towers, India

Neha currently works as business analyst to the CFO. She primarily leads on matters relating to financial operations management, mainly focusing on financial controls and process improvements. She also works closely with other finance channels and other functions on interrelated processes. Prior to working with Indus Towers, Neha has gained experience in finance, accounting and audit working with Disney Interactive Media group (India) as assistant finance manager, Disney Consumer Products (USA) as financial analyst and Grant Thornton (Singapore) as audit assistant.



Vijay KR
Senior Manager,
PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd

Vijay, an FCCA, is a senior manager with PricewaterhouseCoopers, risk advisory services in Gurgaon, India. Vijay supports the leadership team in business development and practice management. Vijay started with the company in 2002 as junior officer, and has worked with the organisation for more than eight years. He has conducted internal audits, due diligence reviews, preparation of accounting and controls manuals, reviewed design of internal controls as per the The Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (COSO) of the Treadway Commission Framework, conduct risk assessments and quality assessment reviews.

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The ACCA Qualification helped me get my first job within the Big Four in India. The global nature of the qualification has meant that I have been able to work in 15 different countries with the confidence that I can handle any complex situation. I can now confidently say that I have the edge in the globalised job market which will help me progress faster in the highly competitive industry.

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Getting started

After registering with us as a student, you need to think about how you want to prepare for the exams. There are lots of different ways to study so you need to decide which study method is right for you.

You can choose to study with a tuition provider either via distance learning or face-to-face, or you could self-study. And you can choose full-time or part-time, depending on how much time you have available.

ACCA recommends that you always choose to study with an ACCA quality-assured tuition provider, known as an Approved Learning Partner – student tuition. We have over 265 Approved Learning Partners – student tuition around the world. You can find a list of these on our website www.accaglobal.com/tuition

The right study materials

It's important to use the most up to date study materials. We recommend you use materials produced by one of our Approved Learning Partners - content. BPP Learning Media is ACCA's sole Platinum Approved Learning Partner - content, which means they are quality assured by ACCA and benefit from an exclusive examiner review of content.



Telephone: **00 44 (0) 20 8740 2211**

Telephone (UK only): **0845 075 1100**

Website: www.bpp.com/learning-materials.aspx

We also have a number of Gold Approved Learning Partners – content which are quality assured by ACCA.

You can find details of BPP and all of our Gold Approved Learning Partners – content on our website:

BPP

www2.accaglobal.com/bpp

Becker Professional Education – ATC International

www2.accaglobal.com/becker

Get Through Guides

www2.accaglobal.com/getthroughguides

Kaplan

www2.accaglobal.com/kaplan

A bright future

Having the ACCA letters after your name will give you the recognition you deserve and set you apart as a qualified accountant. ACCA membership will show your commitment to high ethical and professional values and to lifelong learning – keeping you at the top of the profession. It will give you the opportunity to choose where you work – in any sector, anywhere in the world. It will help increase your employability – employers recognise the value that the ACCA Qualification can bring to their business.

ACCA membership is your passport to success – it's up to you to decide where it will take you.

Member profile

Ravindran Balakrishnan FCCA, currently looks after all the India financial operations at International SOS Pte Ltd which is the world's leading medical logistics and evacuation organisation with worldwide operations. Prior to moving to India, Ravindran worked with International SOS Pte Ltd in Singapore and Nigeria as financial controller and country accounting and finance manager respectively. Ravindran has also worked in organisations like Royal Bank of Canada and Uganda Pharmaceuticals in roles undertaking business strategic planning, process engineering, forex management, statutory compliance and field and air transportation.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A CAREER IN ACCOUNTANCY?

I chose a career in accountancy for two reasons – I strongly believed that I was good at maths in my early school days and after high school I preferred accounting to other subjects such as arts or science. I knew then that this was the profession I wanted to be in.

WHAT BENEFITS DO YOU SEE IN BEING AN ACCA MEMBER?

ACCA is a globally recognised accountancy body. I have worked in different countries and ACCA has provided me with the perfect platform for an international accountancy career, by providing me with the skills and knowledge I need. With ACCA I also get ample opportunity to network with my fellow members.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO STUDENTS THINKING ABOUT A CAREER IN ACCOUNTANCY?

Students who wish to work in the accounting profession should not choose this career and expect instant results. It takes hard work and dedication. It's important to remember that today's accountants are more than mere record keepers, you can work in any job sector such as auditing, consultancy and law.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY A WAY IN WHICH BEING AN ACCA MEMBER IS AN ASSET TO YOU IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE?

The ACCA Qualification recognises and distinguishes me from the rest of the finance team in terms of

achievement and recognition. I am now part of the talent pool for the finance community within the organisation by virtue of working across few countries and also possess internationally recognised qualification.

Having the ACCA Qualification has provided me with the knowledge and skills to work in different financial areas in different countries, because of the global nature of the qualification.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD SAY TO STUDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT WHETHER THE TIME AND MONEY THEY INVEST IN DOING ACCA WILL BE WORTH IT IN THE LONG TERM?

Students should not be worried about the length of time it takes or how much money it costs to pursue the ACCA Qualification. I strongly urge them to complete the qualification once they have decided to undertake it. It will give them a competitive advantage in their professional career in the future. They need to be patient and work towards the achievement of this internationally acclaimed and recognised qualification.

IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE, DESCRIBE SOME OF YOUR OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES.

In my current role, I look after various elements such as a business partner – partnering sales and marketing function into sales development activities, designing products and plans for optimising revenue generation, strategic financial planning and budgetary control – leading the finance functions involving determining

financial objectives, designing and implementing systems, policies and procedures to facilitate internal financial control. Fund sourcing and management – liaise with banks for positioning funds to meet working capital and project requirements. Accounts and auditing – design and implement accounting systems and procedures; supervise the timely preparation of statutory books of accounts and finalisation and consolidation of group accounts and coordinating internal, statutory and tax audits.

WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE WHILST STUDYING, AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THEM?

Mainly it was time constraints and deciding what to focus on. I managed to overcome these challenges by having an effective time and study routine that helped me focus on completing the modules well before the examinations. First I went to the basics and ensured that the skill sets acquired while doing a basic accounting study was intact. Once I was convinced about that then clearly and distinctly I set aside time for each paper and topic. I did not leave any lesson or topic untouched and that is the key to performing well in exams.

My wife Latha has been a huge support for me. She will often sit beside me reading or doing something for hours and also cheer me up with late evening coffees/teas. Her constant push was another strong factor that I cleared the examinations in all the levels in first attempt itself.



PERSONAL DETAILS

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| Name | RAVINDRAN BALAKRISHNAN |
| Job title | CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, INDIA |
| Employer | INTERNATIONAL SOS – INDIA, SSEA REGION |
| Studies | ACCA member since 2004 |

Member profile

Pramit Brahmhatt FCCA, leads the Indian operations of Alpari Group as CEO of Alpari Financial Services (India) Pvt. Ltd. He joined Alpari as a financial consultant in 2006 and set up the financial structure and risk management system for the company which included various risks – market, credit and operational. Prमित has eight years of extensive experience in operations, business development with profit accountability, and possesses a unique combination of skills having expertise in designing overall business strategies and implementing operations for the business units in line with defined goals and objectives. Prमित was solely responsible for the risk management and took on additional responsibility for back office and operations in 2007. Prior to joining Alpari, Prमित worked with Sherwoods (UK) as senior account and tax analyst and AP Smith & Co as senior accountant.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A CAREER IN ACCOUNTANCY?

I graduated from university with a degree in business management and wanted to pursue a career in finance. While I was doing my MBA, I realised that having a strong knowledge of accountancy was a requirement if I wanted to achieve success in the finance field, and move to a higher management level role.

WHAT BENEFITS DO YOU SEE IN BEING AN ACCA MEMBER?

ACCA is a globally recognised body with a qualification that provides students and members with the opportunity to work and specialise in any area of accountancy in any country in the world.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO STUDENTS THINKING ABOUT A CAREER IN ACCOUNTANCY?

Accountancy is seen as a well respected and financially rewarding profession. My advice to students would be put in the time and effort as this is a very rewarding qualification that will guarantee a successful career.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY A WAY IN WHICH BEING AN ACCA MEMBER IS AN ASSET TO YOU IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE?

Being CEO of the company I have to look at the all aspects of business. Accountancy, tax risk management, regulatory aspects and legal aspects are very important part of any business. I like to have knowledge of activities in these departments and with my knowledge of accountancy I have manage to contribute significantly in my current role and earlier roles.

I feel that with my ACCA Qualification I have managed to add value in my role.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD SAY TO STUDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT WHETHER THE TIME AND MONEY THEY INVEST IN DOING ACCA WILL BE WORTH IT IN THE LONG TERM?

The ACCA Qualification offers so much more than others due to the mobility of the qualification. It is worth investing time and money into gaining this qualification as it will increase your chances of progressing in your career.

IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE, DESCRIBE SOME OF YOUR OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES.

I am the CEO of my current organisation and my role is to grow the organisation.

- Exploring opportunity for growth of company.
- Strategy to sustain the growth.
- Overview of online and below the line marketing activities.
- Overseeing sales activities.
- Overview of operation.

WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE WHILST STUDYING, AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THEM?

Being a student expat, it is always challenging to manage work and studies. Working during the day and attending class in the evening or weekend requires a lot of juggling. Also the limited number of days for study always makes things tough. To overcome such challenges one needs good time management, setting up small targets and achieving them. Having a vision and seeing what you will achieve at the end of the qualification helps keeps you motivated.



PERSONAL DETAILS

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|-----------|---|
| Name | PRAMIT BRAHMBHATT |
| Job title | CEO |
| Employer | ALPARI FINANCIAL SERVICES (INDIA) PVT. LTD |
| Studies | ACCA member since 2006 |

Member profile

Mehul Palan FCCA, is a senior ACCA member with over 16 years of experience in various finance and business roles. He has worked in various industries including manufacturing, IT, construction supplies, retail and insurance broking sectors including 10 years of international exposure stint in Bahrain.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A CAREER IN ACCOUNTANCY?

A career in accounting is, in my opinion, most rewarding as you can have opportunities to grow not only horizontally across industries but also vertically within an industry. For example, I have been in the accounting profession for over 15 years and today I am not only working as the head of finance in my company but also, being in the insurance domain, work as a liability insurance specialist.

WHAT BENEFITS DO YOU SEE IN BEING AN ACCA MEMBER?

The ACCA Qualification brings host of benefits such as international recognition, respect amongst peers, association with an internationally recognised qualification, scope of career enhancement in your home country as well as abroad and above all, a rewarding and fulfilling career.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO STUDENTS THINKING ABOUT A CAREER IN ACCOUNTANCY?

Accountants are the back bone of any industry; as such I would always recommend anyone to consider a career in accountancy. Accountants have the capabilities to shape themselves not just as 'accountants' but also as 'business managers'.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY A WAY IN WHICH BEING AN ACCA MEMBER IS AN ASSET TO YOU IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE?

ACCA has given me not only the confidence to take up a bigger role within the finance and accounting domain but has also given me the opportunity to excel myself vertically within the organisation by taking up a business role. As I mentioned above, apart from being the finance head in my organization I also work in the liability insurance and reinsurance domain and have assumed a business manager's role.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD SAY TO STUDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT WHETHER THE TIME AND MONEY THEY INVEST IN DOING ACCA WILL BE WORTH IT IN THE LONG TERM?

I believe ACCA is the qualification of today. ACCA has international recognition and I would always recommend a student to take up the ACCA Qualification and work hard to achieve it. The time and money spent on an ACCA qualification is a good investment, giving more than adequate returns in future.

IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE, DESCRIBE SOME OF YOUR OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES.

In my current role, following are my overall responsibilities:

- Head of finance function and overall responsibility for the finance team
- Responsible for management reporting
- Responsible as business manager – liability insurance
- Responsible for reinsurance accounting and managing treaty reinsurance.

WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE WHILST STUDYING, AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THEM?

My greatest challenge was studying for ACCA and working full-time as a finance manager. It was truly challenging and the only opportunity I got to study was after office hours and during weekends. I also had the responsibility of managing my family. However, hard work, perseverance, family support and God's Grace helped me overcome all the hurdles and I was able to clear my exams in the first attempt.



PERSONAL DETAILS

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Name | MEHUL PALAN |
| Job title | VP – FINANCE AND REINSURANCE |
| Employer | ALLIANCE INSURANCE BROKERS PVT. LTD. |
| Studies | ACCA member since 2005 |

About ACCA

ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) is the global body for professional accountants. We aim to offer business-relevant, first-choice qualifications to people of application, ability and ambition around the world who seek a rewarding career in accountancy, finance and management.

We support our 154,000 members and 432,000 students in 170 countries, helping them to develop successful careers in accounting and business, with the skills needed by employers. We work through a network of 83 offices and centres and more than 8,500 Approved Employers worldwide, who provide high standards of employee learning and development.

ACCA CONNECT

For any questions, contact *ACCA Connect* – our global customer services centre.

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DISCLAIMER

ACCA members are not entitled to undertake statutory functions as a chartered accountant in India

