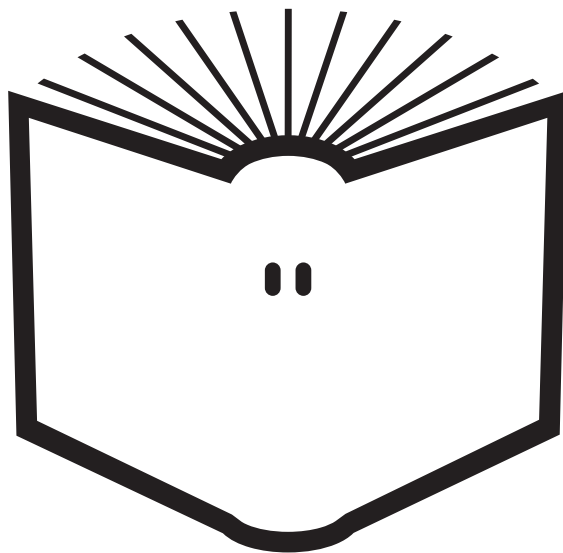


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MAKE ACCOUNTING YOUR CAREER OF CHOICE

The ACCA logo consists of the letters 'ACCA' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red square.

Established in 1904, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) is the world's largest and fastest-growing international professional accountancy body. ACCA has over 122,400 members and more than 325,600 students in 170 countries. "Placed in perspective, every 6 seconds someone, somewhere in the world registers for an ACCA qualification," says Head of ACCA South Africa, Dr Quinton Simpson.

ACCA South Africa offers two internationally recognised accounting qualifications: the NQF-Level 5 Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) qualification, which enables candidates to fulfill the accounting role at technician level, and the NQF-Level 7 ACCA Professional Qualification.

"Thousands of talented young South Africans may mistakenly believe that it is impossible to fulfill their dream of becoming an accountant because they did not complete Accounting in matric. Nothing could be further from the truth. The CAT qualification provides open access. The only requirements for admission are that candidates must be 16 years or older and they must also be literate and numerate," Simpson explains.

Simpson says the CAT qualification is well-suited to school-leavers and those individuals, who have some workplace experience in the accounting field, but do not have a formal accounting qualification. "CAT can be used as an introduction to the accountancy profession or as an accelerated route to the ACCA Professional Qualification," he explains.

Candidates, who have completed a CAT qualification, are typically employed as an accounts clerk, wages clerk, accounting assistant, sales ledger clerk, tax assistant, book keeper, financial controller or accounts manager. Candidates, with work experience may be exempted from certain papers through recognition of prior learning.

The ACCA Professional qualification, which enables candidates to qualify as a Chartered Certified Accountant, is open to individuals who have a senior Certificate issued by the Matriculation Board giving matriculation endorsement (previously matric exemption), with Mathematics and English on Higher Grade.

Other than entering the ACCA qualification via the CAT route or directly from school, ACCA recognises the relevance of prior

learning and can award exemptions on the basis of qualifications awarded by recognised institutions. (For more information on recognised institutions visit www.accaglobal.com)

A mature student entry route is also available. Here candidates must be over 21 years old. Candidates are required to pass two papers within two years of the date for your first eligible ACCA examination session.

Candidates with the ACCA Professional qualification hold highly sought after positions as Financial Directors, CEOs, CFOs and partners in companies and firms worldwide. "The flexibility of the ACCA Qualification means candidates are able to work in any sector they choose, be it public practice, public sector, financial services or corporate sector, giving access to a broad range of complex and interesting roles," he reveals.

Given the demand for accounting skills not only in South Africa, but globally, Simpson says candidates should seriously consider making accounting the career of choice. "Career prospects are excellent and once qualified, accountants enjoy above average financial rewards. An internationally recognised ACCA accounting qualification, coupled with some work experience is a passport to employment, worldwide," he informs.

Simpson invites South African companies and public sector organisations to partner with ACCA SA. ACCA has worked very closely with companies around the world to increase the pool of accountants. The Bahrain Labour Fund has provided 650 accounting scholarships. Ernst & Young has identified the talent and is providing the tuition, and ACCA is providing the examinations and the curriculum. ACCA has also partnered with PriceWaterHouseCoopers and the BPP to produce a pool of accounting talent in Amsterdam. There are now 200 students completing ACCA qualifications for PriceWaterhouseCoopers in Amsterdam.

"These are but two examples. ACCA SA is not only willing, ready and able, but is also very well-positioned to increase the pool of accountants in South Africa," Simpson concludes.

(If you would like more information about ACCA qualifications, contact ACCA SA Head of Education, Tonia Vallis on 011 459 1900).