

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Overview

According to The Accounting Profession in the UK and Ireland CCAB report (November 2018) the accounting sector employs over 800,000 accountants and accounts related employees in the UK, responsible for the 'collection, analysis and reporting of financial information' which is core to commercial success and the economy, contributing £59 million to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Accounts professionals may work in financial, management, auditing, tax, forensic and compliance roles, amongst others and be employed in private (also known as public) practice accounting firms, 'in house' within organisation finance departments, retail and investment banks. Chartered Accountants may choose professional training through [ICAEW](#), [ACCA](#), [CIMA](#) or [CIPFA](#) from a wide range of degree disciplines. The largest employers of accounting professionals are the public administration, education and health sectors and 'The Big Four' consist of [PWC](#), [Deloitte](#), [EY](#) and [KPMG](#), with PWC the market leader. The majority of employers are small and medium sized firms.

Financial services firms may include retail and investment banks, broking, consultancy and risk management firms, insurance and underwriting providers, actuarial services and pensions providers and investors, responsible for providing clients with financial products and services and forecasting and investment of funds.

Roles

Internship, one-year placement and graduate roles may have minimum entry requirements, open to applicants from a range of disciplines. Larger companies may offer graduate schemes which typically offer 12-24 months training in different departments or locations of the business.

Here are some examples of job roles, which are available on prospects.ac.uk and targetjobs.co.uk:

[Chartered Accountant](#)

[Chartered Management Accountant](#)

[Chartered Public Finance Accountant](#)

[Forensic Accountant](#)

[Actuary](#)

[Data Analyst](#)

[Economist](#)

[Management Consultant](#)

[Insurance Broker](#)

[Pensions Consultant](#)

[Loss Adjuster](#)

[Underwriter](#)

Finding opportunities

Check [My Jobs Online](#) for vacancies and visit campus career fairs and employer presentations to find out more which employers are advertising vacancies and coming onto campus.

Becoming a student member of one of the professional bodies, such [ICAEW.com](#) which offers ACA training, [ACCAGlobal.com](#), [CIMAGlobal.com](#) or [CIPFA.org](#) can offer member benefits, talks, events and volunteering and campus ambassador opportunities, with the opportunity to meet industry professionals.

[Prospects.ac.uk](#) (accountancy, finance and banking career information)

[Targetjobs.co.uk](#) (accountancy and financial management career information)

[Insidecareers.co.uk](#) (careers information and vacancies in pensions, accountancy, insurance, actuarial and intellectual property sectors)

[AllAboutFinance.co.uk/finance-careers](#) (finance industry and career information)

[DiscoverRisk.co.uk](#) (career paths and options in finance, insurance and risk)

[RateMyPlacement.co.uk](#) (insight day, internship and placement reviews and vacancies)

Building Experience

Gaining experience is important for you to find out about the industry and stand out in a competitive job market. The sector is heavily regulated, so learning about legislation, processes, procedures and software systems is vital. Large firms may offer [insight days](#), [work experience and internships](#) some available from first year, which provide an introduction to a company and industry and can be a great opportunity to meet industry professionals. Languages may be an advantage in some companies.

Approaching local small and medium sized firms directly to enquire about work experience and shadowing opportunities is a good way to make contacts and build experience. The [Reading Internship Scheme](#) may have suitable opportunities.

Volunteering can add valuable experience, you could consider becoming a Treasurer or Trustee of a club, society or charity. Visit [RUSU](#) for volunteering, club and society opportunities. The [ICAEW](#) lists volunteering opportunities on its website and [do-it.org](#) advertises a wide range of opportunities locally and nationally.

Exploring Further

[AccountancyAge.com](#) (accounting industry news)

[Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales ICAEW \(icaew.com/about-icaew\)](#)

[Association of Certified Chartered Accountants ACCA \(accaglobal.com\)](#)

[Chartered Institute of Management Accountants CIMA \(cimaglobal.com\)](#)

[The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy CIPFA \(cipfa.org\)](#)

[The Association of Accounting Technicians AAT \(aat.org.uk\)](#)

[The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland ICAS \(icas.com\)](#)

[Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies CCAB \(ccab.org.uk\)](#)

[The Chartered Institute of Taxation \(tax.org.uk/homepage\)](#)

[Financial Conduct Authority \(fca.org.uk/about\)](#) Financial services regulator

[Financial Reporting Council \(frc.org.uk\)](#)

[Pensions Management Institute PMI \(pensions-pmi.org.uk\)](#)

[Chartered Insurance Institute CII \(cii.co.uk\)](#)

[Institute and Faculty of Actuaries \(actuaries.org.uk\)](#)

The skills and knowledge you've developed in your degree will be valuable in a wide range of roles and sectors. If you're thinking of looking further afield but aren't sure where to start, why not visit the Explore pages of our website or book an appointment with one of our Careers Consultants?

