

ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

Student Prospectus

CREATING WORLD CLASS
ACCOUNTANTS



THE ASSOCIATION
OF INTERNATIONAL
ACCOUNTANTS

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Global Demand

The world is getting smaller, borders are becoming more open and with increasing globalisation comes a greater demand for International Accountants. Accountants with a solid understanding of the fundamentals of accountancy, with a good knowledge of International Financial Reporting Standards and also importantly, with expertise in local accountancy practices.

Accountancy is Key

Accountants manage the money, the lifeblood of any business, and consequently accountancy will put you right at the heart of the organisation; giving you the opportunity to become a key decision maker. A significant number of Chief Executives began their careers in finance.

The skills and expertise you will acquire as you train to become an International Accountant will prepare you for a career within any organisation and give you the opportunity to reach the top. AIA provides the blueprint, but you are the architect, and how far you go is up to you.

Career Opportunities

This global demand for accountancy professionals offers an abundance of opportunities. Finance work has never been more varied, more interesting or more challenging.

A career in accountancy can provide the foundation for becoming a professional, earning a high salary and growing to become a leader in your chosen field.

“ The AIA qualification has enabled me to meet all the challenges of a varied career which has involved vastly different roles and a great deal of international travel.

”

Robert Irving, Senior Finance Manager,
BT

Accountancy is a profession which can present you with new challenges every day of your working life. The AIA qualification equips you for a career in any organisation – public sector, private sector, commercial and industrial – and each sector and organisation offer distinct challenges.

Accountancy professionals hold top positions in all sorts of companies, from SMEs to large multinational corporations. Here are some of the job titles International Accountants fulfil:

Chief Financial Officer Partner
CEO Director Accountant General
Entrepreneur Auditor Consultant
Auditor General Internal Auditor Treasurer
Financial Controller Finance Director
Chief Executive Business Advisor Tax Partner
CFO Owner Manager

Do any of those roles appeal to you? Your skills, knowledge and professionalism will be sought by organisations of all sizes and not just by accounting firms. Any industry or sector you choose to work within will offer opportunities to progress your career. Your perfect job is out there waiting for you.

Keep Your Options Open

If you are serious about a career in accountancy you need to think seriously about a professional qualification. There are a lot of qualifications to choose from and the choice you make now will affect your career options in the future. The AIA professional qualification allows you to keep your options open, letting you decide at a time that suits you, what direction your career will take.

About AIA

AIA is an international accountancy examining and membership body, based in the UK. It is one of only a handful of professional bodies that are statutorily Recognised Qualifying Bodies (RQBs) in the UK for statutory auditors under the Companies Act 2006.

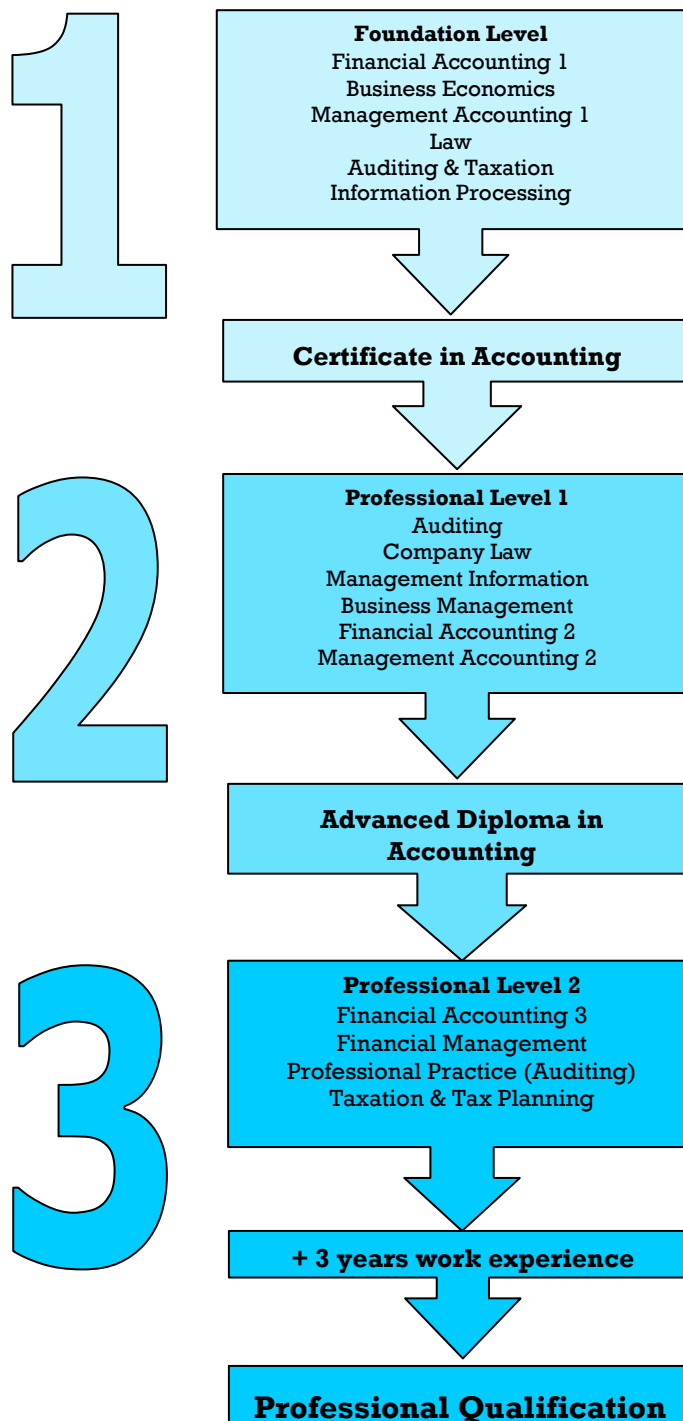
This prestigious recognition by the UK Government demonstrates that the AIA professional exams are credited as being of the highest standard and that International Accountants have the skills and expertise to hold top positions across the world of accountancy, business and finance.

The professional qualification is recognised in over 30 countries and AIA has members in over 85 countries worldwide, making AIA members part of a growing network of professionals who hold key positions in multinationals, SMEs, private practice and the public sector across the globe.

AIA has over 80 years experience in accountancy education, ensuring that our students have access to the latest accountancy knowledge and developments, and that the AIA exams are specifically formulated with flexibility and career advancement in mind.

The Building Blocks to Qualification

Qualification as an International Accountant is by exam and work experience. The exams are split into three blocks, each of which build on the knowledge and skills you achieved in the prior level; breaking the qualification down into easily achievable, bite-sized chunks. AIA recognises the competencies you attain as you complete each block and you are awarded a certificate to demonstrate your continued learning and expanding knowledge base.



Balancing Local and International Expertise

As an international organisation, AIA understands the balance between global business and local knowledge and the exams are based on International Financial Reporting Standards, complemented by a range of variant papers applicable to local tax and company law in key jurisdictions.

More detailed information about the exams and the syllabus can be found on the AIA website: www.aiaworldwide.com.

Combining Theory and Practice

To qualify as an International Accountant it is not only necessary to prove academic ability and technical knowledge by passing the AIA exams, it is also essential to demonstrate the acquisition of, and the ability to competently apply, technical knowledge, professional knowledge, professional skills and professional ethics, values and attitudes in the workplace.

Therefore, every AIA student must also complete a minimum three years practical work experience or Initial Professional Development (IPD) before being presented to the public as a professionally qualified accountant.

What is IPD?

Initial Professional Development or IPD is defined as work experience, gained by performing the work of a professional accountant under qualified supervision at progressive levels of responsibility.

Obtaining IPD

The diverse nature of accountancy work makes it possible to gain your experience in industry, commerce or public practice. You can obtain experience in more than one sector and you may find that a variety of experience will benefit your career.

The organisation in which you undertake your IPD can be any size and the type of work may vary from one employer to another; what is essential is that your employer is able to offer you a varied training environment and facilitate access to guidance and support from a professionally qualified accountant. For further information please refer to the AIA IPD Guidelines, available to download at www.aiaworldwide.com/IPD.

Recognising Your Achievements

AIA operates a policy of exemptions designed to reduce repetition for students who have already attained a relevant qualification of an acceptable standard. Exemptions are awarded on registration as an AIA student and are assessed on an individual basis. For further information, please contact the AIA Recruitment Team.

Study

You can choose from a range of study methods to prepare for the exams, depending on your circumstances. You may prefer to register with an Approved Training Provider or you may choose to study by distance learning to fit around your family and work commitments; whichever method you choose AIA will support you all the way. In addition to your choice of study, you can supplement your learning with AIA study materials, recommended reading and online resources.

“As a student AIA provided a personal service and gave me all the help and encouragement I needed to complete the professional exams.”

Branch Network

AIA has a comprehensive branch network that offers local technical knowledge and support, organises seminar, events and social gatherings, as well as acting as the 'voice' of the AIA in their locality.

Student Benefits

Accountancy is a diverse profession and each individual AIA student will have different requirements. AIA prides itself on providing students with a service that is tailored to meet your individual needs, wherever you are in the world and whatever career path you choose.

In addition to belonging to a recognised global professional body that offers a flexible and supportive approach to study, students receive the following benefits:

- AIA online account, which allows you to:
 - Enter the AIA exams
 - View your exam results as soon as they are released
 - Check your progress through the exams
 - Update your personal details and profile
- International Accountant, the AIA bi-monthly magazine; featuring regular articles and news
- Student Focus, the AIA student supplement, published twice a year; featuring exam feedback, articles and news
- Access to a global branch network, social events and seminars
- Online technical information and resources
- Online study resources
- Online career resources
- Weekly AIA Accountancy E-news
- Monthly AIA Student & Graduate eGuidance
- Quarterly AIA Training eGuidance

Continuing Professional Development

As a professional you will also be expected to ensure your knowledge and skills are relevant to the constantly changing needs of the market. Professional development will play a major part in your career, giving you opportunities to further enhance your skills and knowledge. AIA will support you throughout your career.

Entry Requirements

Applications for Student membership of AIA are accepted from those who have a minimum of two A Level passes and three GCSE passes including English and Mathematics, or an equivalent UK or overseas qualification accepted for university entrance, or have a minimum three years work experience in the accountancy profession.

Graduates with any degree discipline are welcome to apply.

When Will I Qualify?

It all depends on you! If you already have an accountancy degree which is accredited maximum exemptions and you ace the exams, you could graduate in as little six months. Even if you receive no exemptions you could still complete the exams in a minimum of two and a half years. The important thing to remember is to go at your own pace.

Why AIA?

Service – AIA treats all its students and members as individuals, they receive a personalised service that is tailored to their own specific needs – if we can help, we will.

Flexibility – AIA allows you to study at your own pace and in your own time.

Support – AIA will support you far beyond the exams – we will assist you throughout your entire career.

Opportunities – International Accountants hold key positions in a all business sectors and a diverse range of organisations, making valuable contributions to the profession.

Experience – AIA has been helping our members achieve their career goals since 1928.

Global – AIA has a global network of branches and partners who will support you wherever you are in the world and wherever you want to go.

Rewards – AIA recognises your hard work and commitment at every stage of the exams.

Qualification as a Statutory Auditor

By taking the AIA professional qualification you can train to become a statutory auditor. For more information please download "Guide to becoming a statutory auditor," which is available from the AIA website, www.aiaworldwide.com and contact Membership Services to register your interest, e: membership.services@aiaworldwide.com, t: +44 (0)191 493 0286.

One easy step to your new career in accountancy...

Return your completed Student Application Form with the relevant fees and certificates to:

Membership Services
Association of International Accountants
Staites 3
The Watermark
Metro Riverside
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE11 9SN
United Kingdom