

Programme Specification

A Programme Specification provides a concise summary of the main features of a programme and its intended learning outcomes. It is intended to be used by prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers.

Programme Title:	
ACCA Accredited Papers at Professional Level	
Programme (AOS) Code(s):	ZB1ACA2
UCAS Code:	N/A
Name of Final Award:	N/A
Level of Qualification:	N/A
Regime of Delivery:	Attendance
Mode(s) of Delivery:	Part Time
Typical Length of Study (Years):	12 months
Professional Body Recognition / Accreditation (including specific requirements where applicable):	Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

Brief Description of the Programme

Accountancy could be your route to working at the top of an organisation if you choose the right qualification. As well as a challenging and rewarding job, a career in business, finance and accountancy offers opportunity and excellent financial reward. Accounting and Finance professionals play an important role in every organisation. Working in a role which contributes to the success of an organisation will make you a respected business professional. No matter what your passions are, choosing accountancy means you can follow your dreams. This is because finance professionals work in every industry, including those you're interested in. So wherever you want to work, choosing accounting and finance means you'll be in demand with employers everywhere.

ACCA qualifications have a worldwide reputation for excellence and the rigorous qualifications are recognised and respected across the globe. Employers across the globe seek out ACCA-trained professionals – because they know they have the strategic thinking, technical skills and professional values to drive their organisations forward.

The ACCA qualification is divided into two levels – Fundamental and Professional.

- The **Fundamentals** level is divided into two modules – Knowledge and Skills. In total the Fundamentals level includes 9 (nine) modules.
- The **Professional** level is divided into two levels – Essentials and Options. To complete the Professional level learners are expected to complete two essential modules namely Strategic Business Leader (SBL) and Strategic Business Reporting (SBR) and choose a further two from the Options level (options are: Advanced Financial Management (P4), Advanced Performance Management (P5), Advanced Taxation (P6) and Advanced Audit and Assurance (P7). The Options papers are specialised papers and they cover, in depth, the specialist areas of professional accountancy, namely: financial management, performance management, tax, and audit and assurance.

This programme relates to the **Professional** level. As a committed anchor organisation, Bucks applied for accreditation and was awarded Silver Learning Partner status by the ACCA enabling the University to deliver the professional papers. Bucks BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance graduates are entitled to 9 (nine) ACCA exemptions at the Fundamentals level (F1 to F9).

Key Characteristics of the Programme

This qualification allows students to study weekends and evenings thereby offering them the flexibility to pursue a course that will enhance their careers. ACCA members drive change in the accountancy sector – advising governments, organisations and regulators and working with our members around the world to push an agenda of fairness and transparency. As ACCA member, you help to shape the future of accountancy, finance and business. When you study with Bucks in association with ACCA, you can take your career in any direction. You open doors to the best and most interesting roles all over the world. And you become one of the sought-after finance professionals our fast-changing world needs.

Distinguishing Features

- Improve students' career progression and have the potential to earn a high salary
- Importantly, we know of no providers in our immediate footprint and with strong regional marketing and Business Development activity we anticipate good potential markets around South Bucks, Thames Valley and Uxbridge
- Be able to work anywhere you choose, internationally - because of our world-class reputation
- Have flexibility in career choice – qualified members can work in any business sector from the financial services and public practice to the public and corporate sectors
- Be part of a global professional body with a reputation for driving global standards of professionalism, ethics, integrity and accountability
- Complements and widens our existing accounting and finance portfolio to a wider audience including working professionals and recent graduates.

ACCA Accreditation

Bucks has successfully applied and obtained the accreditation required from ACCA to run this programme. ACCA Approved Learning Partner programme is a quality assurance programme that aims to recognise high-quality learning providers who can prove that they meet ACCA's performance targets, representing global best practice in the provision of ACCA course tuition and support. All over the world, employers seek out ACCA members to lead their business to sustainable success. That's because they know that ACCA members are strategic thinkers with high ethical integrity, strong financial know-how and the right business acumen.

Programme Aims

The aim of this programme is to apply relevant knowledge, skills and exercise professional judgement in carrying out the role of the accountant relating to governance, internal control, compliance and the management of risk within an organisation, in the context of an overall ethical framework.

The programme also aims to equip students with the ability to apply knowledge, skills and exercise professional judgement in the application and evaluation of financial reporting principles and practices in a range of business contexts and situations. The programme also covers two issues. The first is the external forces (the behaviour of customers, the initiatives of competitors, the emergence of new laws and regulations) that shape the environment of an organisation. The

second is the internal ambitions and concerns (desire for growth, the design of processes, the competences of employees, the financial resources) that exist within an organisation.

It also prepares senior financial executives or advisors, in taking or recommending decisions relating to the financial management of an organisation in private and public sectors. This may require managers to apply strategic management accounting techniques in different business contexts and to contribute to the evaluation of the performance of an organisation and its strategic development. Thus, able to advise individuals and businesses on the impact of the taxes on financial decisions. This may require relying on the assurance engagement and other audit and assurance issues in the context of best practice and current developments.

The main educational aims of the programme are to:

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| 1 | Build on the fundamentals that introduce learners to both financial and management accounting techniques |
| 2 | Cover the main technical areas that all accountants are expected to master. |
| 3 | Explore advanced skills and techniques you learners need to excel at professional level and |
| 4 | Apply relevant knowledge, skills and professional judgement in the application and evaluation of financial data in a range of business context and situations. |

Programme Learning Outcomes

ID	Learning Outcome
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On successful completion of the programme a graduate will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

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| 1 | Demonstrate knowledge and understanding relating to governance, internal control, compliance and the management of risk within an organisation |
| 2 | Exercise professional judgement in the application and evaluation of financial reporting principles and practices in a range of business contexts and situations |
| 3 | Apply relevant knowledge and skills in examining strategic position, determining strategic choices and implementing strategic action within an organisation |
| 4 | Apply relevant knowledge, skills and exercise professional judgement as expected of a senior financial executive or advisor, in taking or recommending decisions relating to the financial management of an organisation or |
| 5 | Apply relevant knowledge, skills and exercise professional judgement in selecting and applying strategic management accounting techniques in different business contexts or |
| 6 | Apply relevant knowledge and skills and exercise professional judgement in providing relevant information and advice to individuals and businesses on the impact of the major taxes on financial decisions and situations or |
| 7 | Analyse, evaluate and conclude on the assurance engagement and other audit and assurance issues in the context of best practice and current developments |

Intellectual / Cognitive Skills

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| 1 | Apply concepts, principles, techniques and make judgements in situations where not all information is complete or consistent |
| 2 | Analyse and interpret data and information and present reasoned conclusions |
| 3 | Integrate knowledge effectively - demonstrate originality and/or creativity in knowledge application and develop emerging techniques in field |

4	Take substantial accountability for work of individuals and groups by leading and initiating activity
5	Critically reflect on own and others' roles and take responsibility for continued development
Practical Skills	
1	Actively seek opportunities to identify and locate potentially useful sources of information
2	Select, analyse, evaluate and present relevant information
3	Use a range of complex and advance skills to identify, define and solve work-related and client-related problems
Key / Transferable Skills	
1	Make identifiable contribution to change and development in the field
2	Make judgements, draw on technical, political and commercial awareness and expertise, in developing solutions
3	Introduce new systems and practices
4	Communicate analyses and conclusions effectively to various stakeholders

Programme Structure

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
BMP2	Strategic Business Reporting	N/A	Core	N/A
BMP8	Strategic Business Leader	N/A	Core	N/A
Students will choose two of the following options:				
BMP4	Advanced Financial Management	N/A	Option	N/A
BMP5	Advanced Performance Management	N/A	Option	N/A
BMP6	Advanced Taxation	N/A	Option	N/A
BMP7	Advanced Audit and Assurance	N/A	Option	N/A

Learning and Teaching Activities

Please see the [Academic Advice pages](#) for a description of learning and teaching activities that are recognised by the University. Detailed information on this specific programme is outlined below:

This programme will be delivered on a part-time basis, mainly evenings and weekends. The oversight of this programme will rest with the Course Leader for Accounting and Finance programme.

Full time staff and approved Associate Lecturers will be used to deliver this programme face-to-face in a classroom and/or via VLE, if required. A combination of lectures and interactive seminars will be the medium of delivery with additional online materials and ACCA approved teaching resources.

Additional Course Costs

None

Assessment Methods

This programme is aimed at preparing ACCA students with nine (9) exemptions for their Professional Level Examinations only.

Assessments are not written, approved or assessed by Bucks New University. Each module will be externally assessed using the required assessment strategies and guidelines set by the ACCA.

A combination of assessment strategies set by ACCA will ensure that the ultimate programme learning outcomes are achieved.

Classification

Calculation of final award:	N/A
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Admissions Requirements

Please see the [Application webpages](#) for more information on how to apply, including a statement on how we support students from a variety of backgrounds. Please also see our [general entry requirements](#) for taught programmes. Applicants who do not meet our published entry requirements are encouraged to contact our admissions team for further advice and guidance.

Typical applicant profile and any programme-specific entry requirements

Applicants will have certificates from all nine Fundamental level papers (F1-F9). Degree holders from ACCA-accredited institutions (including the BSc [Hons] Accounting and Finance course at Bucks New University) may be exempted from all nine exams within the Fundamental level.

Note: Students with less than nine (9) exemptions need to show evidence that they are registered to take the remaining examinations.

Do applicants required a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check?	No
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Opportunities for students on successful completion of the programme

As students the qualification would enable you to:

- Become a member of the world's most forward-thinking accountancy body – the ACCA letters after your name are globally recognised and show employers that you work to the highest professional and ethical standards.
- Open doors to opportunities all over the world – the ACCA Qualification is respected globally, and will help you to open doors wherever your career path may take you. It also gives you the flexibility to branch out into new areas and develop new skills throughout your career.
- Make the world a better place – Ethics are fundamental to your studies and the whole ACCA approach. Which means that when you go out into the world, you'll be able to set and maintain the high standards the organisations you work with need to move into the future.
- Get support throughout your journey – you get access to world-class resources, forums, insight and advice all the while you're studying and throughout your professional life.
- Develop your skills – you'll have opportunities to learn new skills and gain many other qualifications along the way – including a BSc and an MSc.

Student Support

During the course of their studies, students will be supported in the following ways:

- At the start of their studies all students will receive a full **induction** to the programme which will include introduction to the staff responsible for delivering the course, and access to library and IT facilities
- The **Programme Handbook** will outline the exact nature of the course and how it is structured, including the availability of option modules
- Each student will be allocated a **Personal Tutor** who will support their academic development, be able to advise and guide them with their studies and, where necessary, give advice on study options
- Students will be able to access our full range of **support services**, including the Learning Development Unit for skills and study support, the Library, the Careers and Employability Team, Student Finance Team, Accommodation and Counselling Services

Appendices

Quality Assurance

Awarding Body:	ACCA
Language of Study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s):	N/A
Assessment Regulations:	<i>Academic Assessment Regulations</i> , accessible via the Academic Advice webpages (https://bucks.ac.uk/students/academicadvice)
Does the Fitness to Practise procedure apply to this programme?	No
Ethics Sub-committee	N/A
Date Published / Updated:	January 2018 / Revised January 2019
Date programme re-approval required:	December 2024

Other awards available on programme (Exit Qualifications)

None