

# ACA CAREER PLANNER

If you're recently qualified, now is the ideal time to be giving some thought to longer term career planning. You've worked hard to reach this key point in your career, but where do you go from here?

There are a wide variety of options open to you, offering the opportunity to move into new and challenging areas. Use our route map overleaf to see which paths may be of interest to you.

For more advice, CV and interview guidance, or for an in-depth consultation, please feel free to contact us.

We work with a huge range of companies nationwide, from large City banks and FTSE100 firms through to SMEs and dynamic start-ups – not to mention the opportunities we can offer via our network of 153 offices in 34 countries worldwide. So whatever your background and career objectives, you can take advantage of our extensive network of contacts to ensure you have the widest selection of opportunities in your chosen field.

By using Michael Page, you will be in the care of specialist consultants who will be able to advise you on all aspects of choosing the right career path for you.

**For more information contact James Barrie on 020 7269 2180  
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# YOU ARE HERE

## Public Sector

### Charities

Today's charities are hugely competitive organisations managed by experienced professionals who raise, manage and distribute millions of pounds to millions of people.

### Housing

Widely recognised as having the greatest affinity to industry clients and their finance functions. Housing is a challenging yet rewarding environment with multiple revenue streams, stakeholders and challenges to get involved in all of which require a strong technical skill set coupled with great exposure to wider business

### Education

Education is something we can all readily associate with. As well as being a highly rewarding and diverse sector, it is also politically emotive and media sensitive.

### Government

The largest employer in the UK. This sector as a whole has been pulled into the 21st century and offers some of the most challenging opportunities around. Contemporary departments are run with efficiency, but still allow a greater level of work-life balance than the private sector.

### Other specialisms

Health  
Arts  
Memberships

## Industry & Commerce

### Internal audit, risk & compliance

These roles tend to involve travel and a project orientation. You will gain an overview of the scope of the business and significant exposure to management.

### Group accountant/ financial accountant

Involves half-year and year-end reporting, often with responsibility for consolidation of accounts and some non-specific tax and treasury work.

### Management accountant/ financial planning & analysis

Involves the provision of financial information for management plus budgeting, forecasting and variance analysis.

### Financial analyst/ corporate development

These roles tend to be more ad-hoc and project based with the emphasis on providing information for operational/non-finance areas and corporate strategy.

### Treasury

As an HO function, treasury is the nucleus of any multinational business. You will gain exposure in funding, risk and cash management.

### In-house tax

Implementation of the firm's tax model in its entirety. An in-house role enhances your existing skills whilst building commercial experience.

## Practice

### Larger firm

Gain experience of dealing with larger and/or international clients and more challenging issues – possibly as a stepping stone to I&C or banking.

### Smaller firm

Gain a broader role than pure audit and become closer to your client as an all-round business advisor. Faster progression prospects.

### Tax

Develop a specialism where you advise clients in changing and complex legislation that has a direct effect on their profitability.

### Corporate recovery

Working as an advisor to underperforming businesses will hone your commercial skills and give you real world experience.

### Corporate finance

One of the most dynamic and challenging areas of the profession encompassing deal generation/execution, due diligence and modelling.

### Forensic

A mix of accounting and investigation work, researching financial and business issues, often where some form of litigation is pending.

### Consultancy

Working on a diverse range of intellectually challenging projects in fast changing environments, you will gain strong commercial skills.

### Transaction support

Commercial and financial transaction support work plays a key role in preparing a strong negotiating position for the client.

### Lead advisory

The sharp-end of CF, advising clients on a range of deals. You will need to understand the objectives of all parties and have strong negotiation skills.

## Financial Services

### Front office specialisms

#### Equity research

Produce verbal or written research on publicly listed companies – may be specific to either an industry, country or region and is marketed to investors.

#### Fund management

Producing research on publicly listed companies to assist fund managers in making investment decisions.

#### Corporate finance/ private equity

Due diligence valuation and technical structuring of deals, whether mergers, acquisitions, or IPOs from an equity perspective.

#### Debt & structured finance

Credit analysis of the counterparties in a transaction, or supporting the deal originators in structuring and executing debt driven deals.

#### Risk management

Ensure level of risk exposure of the bank remains within parameters by analysing the risks linked to equity, fixed income or derivative products.

### Finance

#### Product control

Providing statistical and financial support to the trading floor by P&L and risk analytics. This role is product specific and will directly support traders.

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## Outside Finance

### Lecturing

Involves teaching a wide variety of financial subjects, managing clients and generally getting involved in the running of the organisation.

### Recruitment consultancy

Using your qualifications and negotiation skills to manage and develop client relationships and to service clients' and candidates' recruitment needs.

### Investor relations & financial public relations

Commercial astute role where your financial skill-sets are leveraged to keep stake-holders abreast of the company's performance and the challenges it faces.

## NEWLY QUALIFIED ROUTE MAP

As you can see, you are now at a key point in your career and so should be giving some thought to longer term career planning. The options open to you are varied and offer the opportunity to move into new and challenging areas.