

ICAEW BEDS, BUCKS & HERTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WORKING OPTIONS



Working in partnership with the charity [Working Options](#), ICAEW Beds, Bucks & Herts (BBH) is championing a project to help smaller local practices to engage with schools in the area, especially those with a higher proportion of students (16-18yrs) from underserved backgrounds.

The aim is to raise awareness of accountancy as a career option, increase diversity and inclusion in the industry and help provide a solution to some of the current recruitment challenges faced across the profession.

Working Options is an employability and life skills charity and has been helping young people to aim high and fulfil their potential since 2010. Ensuring young people have access to information, experiences, and inspiration they need to achieve their potential in employment. The charity delivers real-life training, inspirational talks, and the tangible opportunities for work experience and jobs the young people deserve. Enabling talent from all walks of life to contribute to a thriving workforce and economy.

Working Options has been engaged as a delivery partner to reach socially diverse talent within Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire through a range of accountancy focused sessions and workshops. By working together, Working Options and BBH are able to reach more schools and students and raise awareness of the accountancy and finance sector.

BBH are funding a pilot scheme of online workshops allowing three or four local practices to outline not only the opportunities of what the finance profession offers but also more specific information about their own recruitment processes and where students can find more help.

BBH are providing funding to meet the costs to support Working Options to use their services to provide an opportunity for local practices who don't already have connections with schools in the area. If it is well received and proves effective for the firms already committed to participate, BBH will then look at ways to roll out the programme to involve more firms and across other areas.

If your firm is already an ICAEW Authorised Training Provider (ATE) or is looking for new ways to recruit young candidates, and you can offer your services for one session (support is provided), in the first instance please contact kim.shield@icaew.com. By doing so you will be helping to promote a career in chartered accountancy to a diverse audience locally.



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