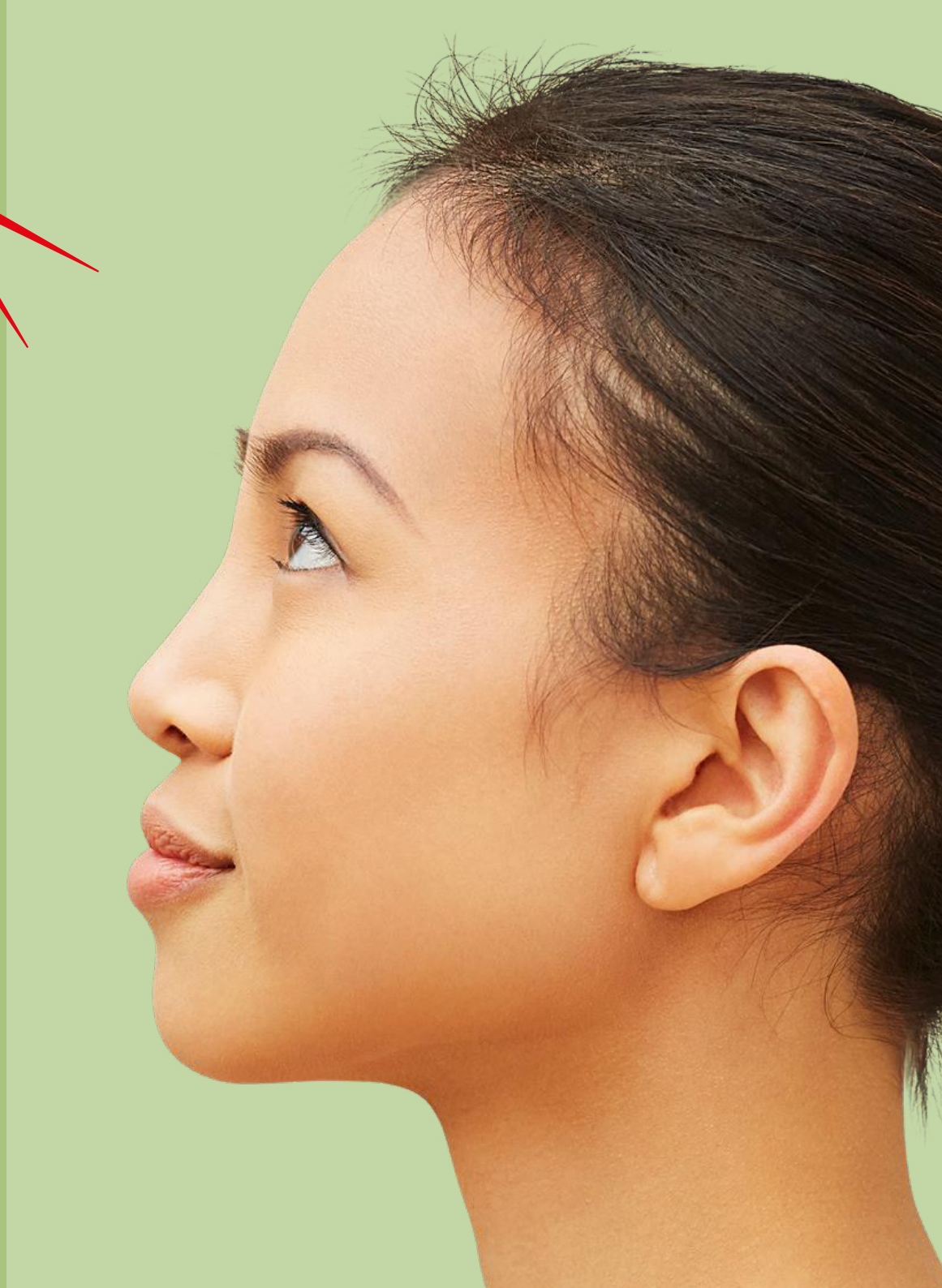
IMAGINE MORE WITH THE NEXT GENERATION ACA



ICAEW

We invited over 100,000 ICAEW training employers, students, members and Partners in Learning across the world to participate in a consultation programme. The key themes we heard were:

CONSULTATION THEMES

- Protect prestige and rigour
- Focus on fundamentals
- Greater flexibility
- Reflect pace of technology
- Reflect changes in profession and workplace
- Branding and promotion
- Keep the ACA as a broad church

KEY OUTCOMES

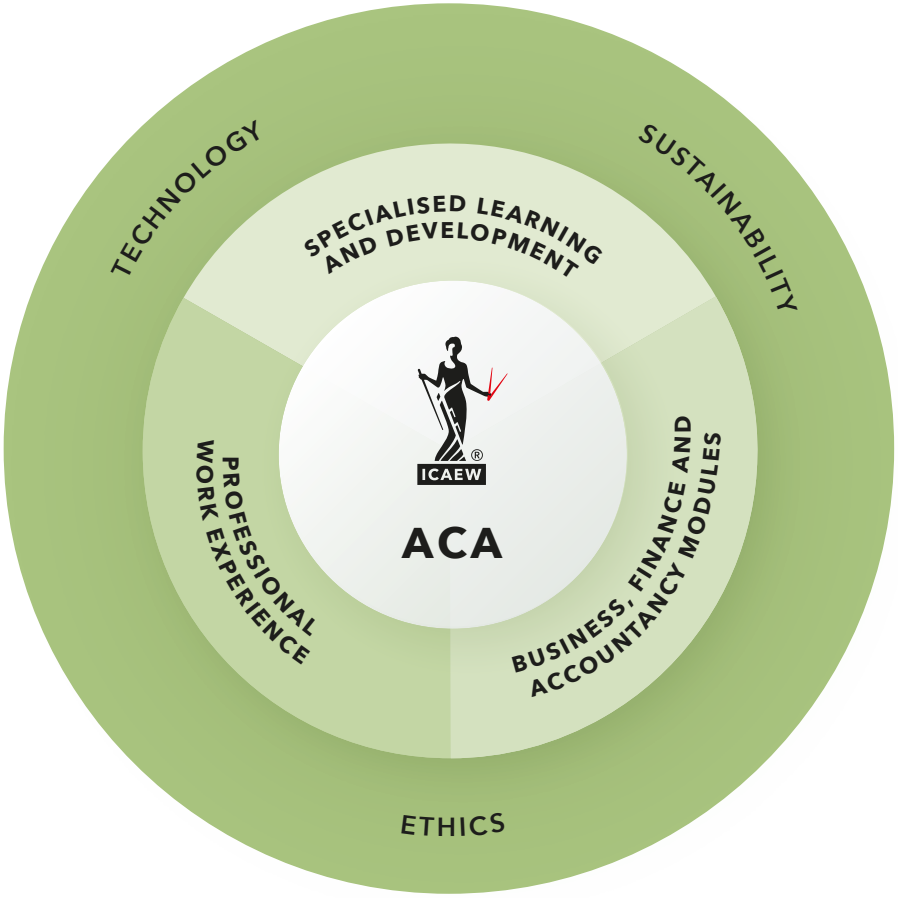
75%
of employers recognised the need for real world skills that can be applied in the workplace

65%
of employers recognised the need to reflect the increasing use of technology and AI in the profession

60%
of employers recognised the need for students to have a strong understanding of Environmental, Social and Governance frameworks and non-financial reporting and assurance

70%
of employers wanted to see the regular reinforcement of foundational knowledge within the ACA

NEXT GENERATION ACA



The Next Generation ACA will create forward thinking leaders who are prepared for our changing world. The comprehensive, dynamic syllabus embeds sustainability, ethics and technology throughout, providing a robust foundation for future professionals. 14 business, finance and accountancy modules develop technical knowledge from fundamental to advanced expertise, and the introduction of Specialised Learning allows for early career specialisation and flexibility. All underpinned by the Professional Work Experience requirement, these changes ensure the ACA qualification remains at the forefront of the profession.

READY FOR THE FUTURE

Changes to our qualifications

The role of accountants is changing. To ensure ICAEW Chartered Accountants are prepared for the future, we will be introducing changes to our qualifications from September 2025. The Next Generation ACA enables the development of *critical thinking, leadership and communication* skillsets, that complement emerging technologies.

Forward-thinking leadership

Over the next decade, sustainability, technology and ethics will be the three key themes impacting every accountant and business they serve. All three have been integrated throughout the qualification, delivering forward-thinking business leaders ready for tomorrow's world.

Fit for the modern workplace

With an even greater emphasis on professional skills development, the Next Generation ACA will develop critical thinkers, agile problem-solvers and effective communicators ready to succeed in today's workplace. It features three new Case Studies at different levels, so that students gain practice applying these crucial skills in a variety of different scenarios. The skills will then be assessed in multidisciplinary modules.

SUSTAINABILITY, TECHNOLOGY AND ETHICS THROUGHOUT

Future ICAEW Chartered Accountants will have three central themes throughout the course of their careers: *Sustainability, Technology and Ethics*.

The Next Generation ACA features brand-new, core modules covering each theme, and goes further than ever before to integrate these competencies at each level of the syllabus.

COMPREHENSIVE, DYNAMIC, SUPPORTIVE

Comprehensive

The Next Generation ACA will place greater focus on teaching students the fundamentals of business, finance and accounting. The robustness of our qualification remains at the forefront of the new developments and ensures quality of teaching and learning.

Dynamic

Updated every year, the syllabus delivers the most reflective and agile chartered accountancy training on offer. It will remain fully flexible, with modules being able to be attempted in any order, allowing employers to choose structured pathways for their students that match business requirements.

Supportive

The syllabus has been redesigned to enable smooth, supportive and attainable progression from Certificate through to Advanced Levels, providing more of a "step by step" journey.

ACA QUALIFICATION DETAILS

14 business, finance and accountancy modules

A refreshed, future-fit syllabus will launch in September 2025. Students need to complete 14 business, finance and accountancy modules that will be split across three levels: Certificate, Professional and Advanced.

Specialised Learning and Development

With a new skills development framework and the introduction of a state-of-the-art learning and development platform, the Next Generation ACA will facilitate early career specialisation.

Professional Work Experience

Students gain invaluable business and commercial insight implementing technical and specialised knowledge in the workplace, by completing a minimum of 450 days professional work experience.

THE ACA QUALIFICATION



SPECIALISED LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

With a new skills development framework, and the introduction of Specialised Learning, the Next Generation ACA will give ACA students the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the workplace today and in the future, wherever they work and whatever their role. The content will feature a blend of interactive activities, quizzes, videos, voice recordings and articles. Students will receive personalised feedback as they progress.



The ACA professional development framework has been designed to:

- Drive career longevity with a focus on key transferable skills such as communication, critical thinking and leadership
- Celebrate diversity by creating personalised views of students' professional development
- Empower employers to hold holistic and valuable development conversations with students
- Encourage lifelong learning and development, by helping students and employers to identify development opportunities and supporting them with relevant resources
- Complement the UK Level 7 Apprenticeship* by improving alignment with apprenticeship standards

** More information will be released once the revised UK Level 7 Apprenticeship Standards have been confirmed.*

Students will need to complete a minimum of 30 units of Specialised Learning from the platform. Each unit will roughly equate to an hour of learning.
By choosing which content they complete, students will be able to personalise their experience to fit with their individual learning needs and role.

TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Students with a training agreement start date from 1 July 2025 will begin studies on the Next Generation ACA route.

Transitional arrangements may apply to students in the system before July 2025 and will be pragmatic and fair.

Students in the system will have an opportunity to finish the current ACA, or alternatively transfer to the Next Generation ACA, subject to the transition rules.

Students transferring from the current ACA must have passed six Professional Level and six Certificate Level exams overall.

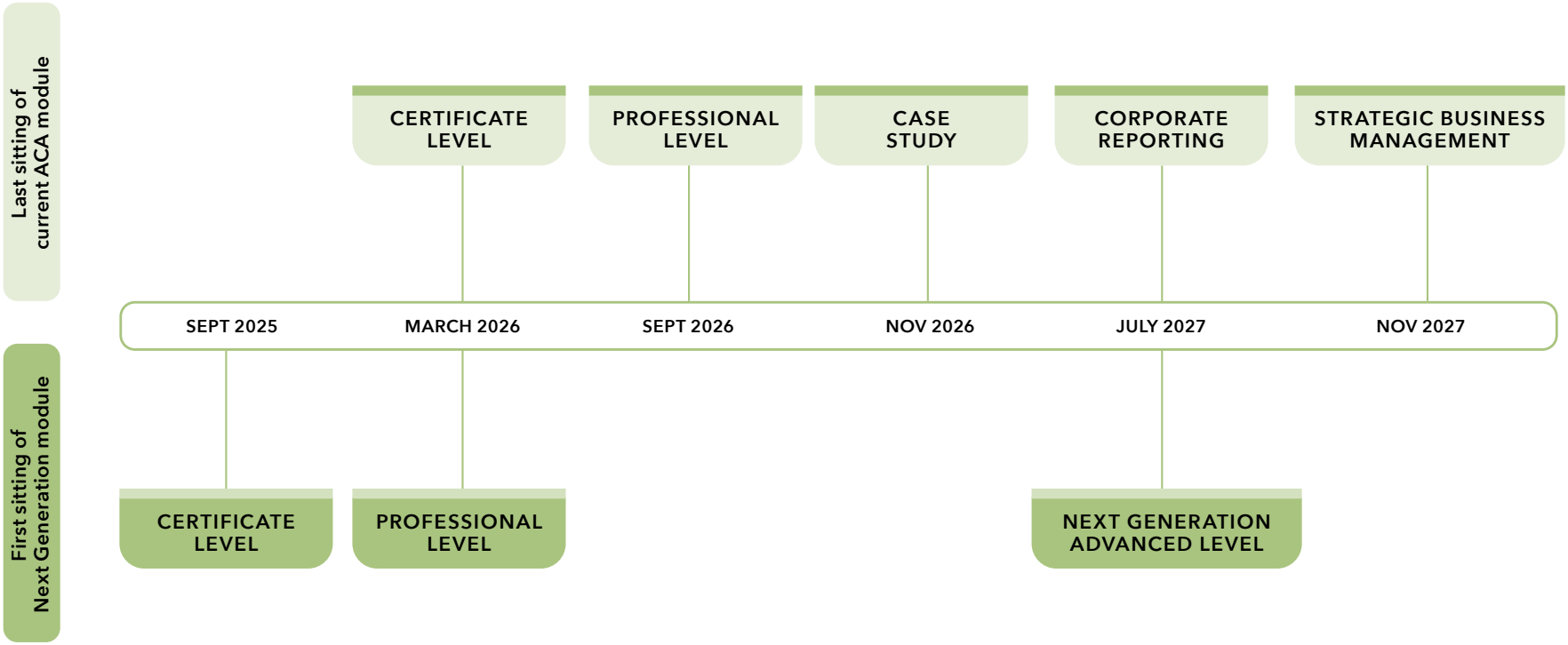
Transitional arrangements are designed to avoid disadvantaging students with respect to completion. Progress will not be delayed; students should not be required to take extra exams.

Students who do not complete current ACA Professional Level or Advanced Level by the last sitting dates will be required to transfer to the equivalent module in the Next Generation ACA.

Dual running will enable students to move seamlessly to the Next Generation ACA.

DUAL RUNNING TIMELINE

The timeline below sets out the last sitting of the existing ACA modules and the first sitting of the Next Generation ACA modules.



Chartered accountants are talented, ethical and committed professionals. ICAEW represents more than 208,000 members and students around the world. 99 of the top 100 global brands employ ICAEW Chartered Accountants.*

Founded in 1880, ICAEW has a long history of serving the public interest and we continue to work with governments, regulators and business leaders globally. And, as a world-leading improvement regulator, we supervise and monitor around 11,500 firms, holding them, and all ICAEW members and students, to the highest standards of professional competency and conduct.

We promote inclusivity, diversity and fairness and we give talented professionals the skills and values they need to build resilient businesses, economies and societies, while ensuring our planet's resources are managed sustainably.

ICAEW is working towards becoming net zero, demonstrating our commitment to tackle climate change and supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goal 13.

ICAEW is a founding member of Chartered Accountants Worldwide (CAW), a global family that connects over 1.8m chartered accountants and students in more than 190 countries. Together, we support, develop and promote the role of chartered accountants as trusted business leaders, difference makers and advisers.

We believe that chartered accountancy can be a force for positive change. By sharing our insight, expertise and understanding we can help to create sustainable economies and a better future for all.

charteredaccountantsworldwide.com

globalaccountingalliance.com

* includes parent companies. Source: ICAEW member data February 2024, Interbrand, Best Global Brands 2023

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