Diploma in Charity Accounting

INSPIRING CONFIDENCE, MAKING A DIFFERENCE
Inspiring confidence

The Diploma in Charity Accounting (DChA) is awarded by ICAEW to those who can demonstrate a high level of competence in charity accounting and financial management.

As charities and social enterprises take on broader roles, competition for funds has increased. Current regulatory changes dictate that impeccable standards of integrity and accountability are applied and every penny is managed effectively. Charities and the not for profit sector have recently come under increasing pressure to demonstrate these high standards, particularly in relation to public sector funding. Both regulatory and public pressure on charities have grown, along with a need to demonstrate accountability and transparency in how they spend their funds. Being awarded the DChA will establish your charity accounting credentials and demonstrate that you have the necessary skills and expertise to meet all of these challenging demands.

The DChA will also highlight your ability to make a real difference to organisations operating in the charity and voluntary sector – inspiring confidence in your colleagues and clients.

BENEFITS TO YOU AND YOUR ORGANISATION

Once you have successfully completed either the experience or the study route, the DChA will offer numerous benefits to you as an individual and to your organisation, as many of the UK’s largest charities and accountancy firms will testify. These include:

• acknowledgement at the highest level of your expertise in charity accounting and financial management;
• the right to use the designatory letters DChA – a benchmark of success;
• free Charity and Voluntary Community subscription for up to 12 months when you start the course, helping you to keep your knowledge up to date (for new subscribers only); and
• inclusion in a professional online register, demonstrating your skills and knowledge.

EXPERIENCE ROUTE

Open to senior professionals including non-accountants with a minimum of three years’ experience.

A written application (Examination of Experience) based on six subject areas, where you demonstrate your charity accounting and financial management expertise and skills to date.

STUDY ROUTE

Open to ICAEW members or graduates with one to three years’ experience.

A classroom-based postgraduate diploma course delivered by CASS Business School, which has its own Centre for Charity Effectiveness to bring you the very best expertise in the sector.
‘There is no doubt that this Diploma will be much sought after by business and accounting professionals who want a respected set of initials after their name to recognise their achievements and expertise in this sector. The charity sector is very specialised and the charities themselves both as employers and clients will recognise the value of the award when assessing their employees and advisers’

Nicholas Brooks, DChA, FCA
Partner
Head of Not for Profit
Kingston Smith LLP
How to obtain the DChA

EXPERIENCE ROUTE

WHO IS IT FOR?
All senior professionals, including non-accountants, who have at least three years’ experience in the UK charity sector.

If you have gained sufficient experience in the UK charity sector by working for, or with, a charitable organisation, you will get public recognition for these skills and expertise by obtaining the DChA, through the experience route.

Being awarded the DChA means you have demonstrated your expert knowledge of charity accounting and financial management. You will also have the right to use DChA after your name and join an online register of award holders.

EXAMINATION OF EXPERIENCE
The DChA experience route requires you to complete (in your own time) an Examination of Experience, so you don’t have to study or undertake formal tuition to apply. The Examination of Experience will ask you a series of questions based on your experience in the following six areas:

- voluntary sector policy
- resource management
- marketing and fundraising
- strategy, diversity and governance
- charity accounting, audit and taxation
- voluntary sector financial management.

KEY BENEFITS
No formal qualifications needed to apply. On successful completion you will receive designatory letters, DChA.

DChA acknowledges your expertise in charity accounting and financial management at the highest level.
STUDY ROUTE

WHO IS IT FOR?
The study route is ideal for graduates or ICAEW members who already have proven accountancy skills and are looking to develop or enhance a career within charity accounting and financial management. The course will provide you with in-depth knowledge of specialist charity accounting, audit and taxation, and the distinctive techniques for financial management and investment management. The course is designed with an emphasis on practical application in the workplace, so you can implement your new skills straight away.

STUDY THE COMPLETE PICTURE
The DChA study route is delivered by the world-renowned Cass Business School, which has its own Centre for Charity Effectiveness to bring you the very best expertise in the sector. The diploma is taught on a part-time basis over two years and consists of seven modules, which will provide you with a comprehensive understanding of the voluntary sector and charity finance. These are:

- Learning and Understanding the Voluntary Sector
- Resource Management
- Marketing and Fundraising
- Strategy, Diversity and Governance
- Fieldwork Exercise
- Advanced Charity Accounting, Audit and Taxation
- Voluntary Sector Financial Management.

KEY BENEFITS
Gain access to a strong network and connections within the charity sector.
Opportunity to join ICAEW’s online register of award holders.

HOW TO APPLY
For further information about routes to the DChA, how to apply, application packs and start dates:
TEL: +44 (0)1908 248 250
EMAIL: dcha@icaew.com
WEB: icaew.com/academy/dcha
ICAEW connects over 147,000 chartered accountants worldwide, providing this community of professionals with the power to build and sustain strong economies.

Training, developing and supporting accountants throughout their career, we ensure that they have the expertise and values to meet the needs of tomorrow’s businesses.

Our profession is right at the heart of the decisions that will define the future, and we contribute by sharing our knowledge, insight and capabilities with others. That way, we can be sure that we are building robust, accountable and fair economies across the globe.

ICAEW is a member of Chartered Accountants Worldwide (CAW), which brings together 11 chartered accountancy bodies, representing over 1.6m members and students globally.

ICAEW
Chartered Accountants’ Hall
Moorgate Place
London
EC2R 6EA
UK

T +44 (0)1908 248 100
E generalenquiries@icaew.com
icaew.com