



Welcome

**New approach to professional training –
UWE Bristol BSc Professional Accounting**

BUSINESS WITH CONFIDENCE

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An innovative collaboration

- Unique partnership between UWE Bristol, ICAEW and SWAT UK to combine degree study with professional training and employment
- Aimed at :
 - ICAEW authorised training employers (ATEs) in practice
 - School leavers seeking a professional accountancy career but undecided between employment and a degree, or with aspirations to go to University but put off by fees

The BSc (Hons) Professional Accounting

- Specifically designed for students in full-time employment with ICAEW ATE firms
- Students attend UWE in short study blocks, with assessment points every 3 – 4 months
- After 4 years, gain BSc (Hons) Professional Accounting and able to apply for maximum exemptions up to ACA Professional level (12 papers)
- After 5 years achieve the ACA qualification
- Optional additional 1 year to achieve the MSc Accounting and Financial Management (additional cost)

The process

- Students must be working for, or have an offer letter from, an ICAEW ATE in order to apply
- Students make direct application to UWE outside UCAS – online application
- Can apply for BSc (Hons) Professional Accounting alongside a full UCAS application too – effectively a sixth choice
- Employers make enrolment on BSc (Hons) Professional Accounting a condition of their training agreement
- Students are classed as full-time despite block release and extended 4 year undergraduate study.

The finances

- Students apply to Student Finance for the full £9,000 fees loan for each stage of study = total of £27,000
- This covers all undergraduate tuition and examinations
- No professional exam training fees for employer or student to pay (up to the degree)
- Employer's decision whether / how to reimburse any element of the loan - e.g. might be based on success and/or loyalty to firm post graduation

The programme

AAT 3 or 320 UCAS Points		Introduction to Practice 10 days (SWAT UK)	Fundamentals of Accounting 1	Introduction to Audit and Business	Fundamentals of Accounting 2	Taxation	Economic Principles	End Stage One 120 credits AAT4
AAT 4	SWAT UK	Management Accounting and Financial Decision Making	Intermediate Taxation	Business Law	Financial Accounting and Reporting 2	Audit and Corporate Governance	Corporate Finance	End of Stage Two 240 credits CFAB
CFAB		Management Accounting and Financial Management	Corporate Reporting Theory and Practice	Personal Financial Planning	Strategic Management	Accounting in Context	Advanced Taxation	End of Stage Three 360 credits Degree

The timeline

Stage 1: 12 months	Sept 2012 – Dec 2012	Introduction to Practice + 30 credits	10 + (3x2) days = 16 days
	Jan 2013 - Apr 2013	30 credits	3x3 days = 9 days
AAT 4 Sept 2012	Jun 2013 – Aug 2013	30 credits	3x3 days = 9 days
Stage 2: 15 months	Sept 2013 – Dec 2013	30 credits	3x2 days = 6 days
	Jan 2014 - Apr 2014	30 credits	3x2 days = 6 days
	Jun 2014 – Aug 2014	30 credits	3x2 days = 6 days
CFAB Jan 2015	Sept 2014 – Dec 2014	30 credits	3x2 days = 6 days
Stage 3: 15 months	Jan 2015 - Apr 2015	30 credits	3x2 days = 6 days
	Jun 2015 – Aug 2015	30 credits	3x2 days = 6 days
	Sept 2015 – Dec 2015	30 credits	3x2 days = 6 days
BSc June 2016	Jan 2015 – Apr 2016	30 credits	3x2 days = 6 days

Advantages for employers

- High calibre incentivised trainees
- More flexible training costs and relatively limited number of work days lost to training
- Trainees with a broader more critical educational experience than purely professional training - develops talent more effectively

Advantages for students

- Earn full-time salary and gain professional experience with degree level study
- Although take full student loan to pay fees, employer may contribute to degree cost in part or in full
- Qualify more quickly than traditional graduate route with potentially lower/no debt
- A degree, employment and professional qualification - best of all worlds

The essential elements of the ACA

- Students must be employed by an ICAEW ATE
- They must also complete all the essential elements of the ACA:
 - Exams
 - 450 days technical work experience
 - Initial professional development
 - Structured training in ethics
- The programme provides for all of these through training with the employer, UWE and SWAT UK

Becoming an ATE

- Straightforward
- Quick
- No cost
- We will support you through the process

Practical training

- 3 – 13 September 2012: Basic bookkeeping and accounts preparation ('day 1' to 'day useful')
 - Delegates put a complete file together which is reviewed
 - Some basic Sage training
 - Students can be productive as soon as they come into the office
- 2013/14: Skills training
 - Supervising people and reviewing work
- 2014/15: Skills training
 - Presentation skills; client care; effective letter writing; business acumen

Why should firms use this new approach?

- This programme provides students with:
 - The ability to earn as they learn; reducing their student loan
 - Practical work experience
 - The prospect of a job with the employer on completion
 - On-going employability
- Access to top students
 - Demand from students is expected to be high, so participating firms can cherry-pick the best students
- Potential credit from all 12 papers of the ACA at the Professional Stage
 - The course has been designed specifically with this in mind

Why should firms recruit onto this programme?

- Risk-free training
 - Since the default position is that the course is funded through student loans, firms have the potential for zero-cost training to the Professional Stage of the ACA exams
 - Whilst firms can use their own training provider for the Advanced Stage, SWAT UK have negotiated a highly competitive rate with Kaplan
- Mainly work-based
 - Students only spend about 25 days per annum at UWE
- Natural break-points in the contract

How does this compare with AAT-ACA Fast Track?

- AAT-ACA Fast Track

- Government funded to NVQ level 4
- Likely credit from up to 5 of 12 Professional Stage papers
- Firm usually pays for ICAEW credits
- ACA qualification possible within 4 to 6 years

- UWE BSc (Hons)
Professional Accounting

- Student funded to Professional Stage
- Likely credit from all 12 Professional Stage papers
- Firm usually pays for ICAEW credits
- ACA qualification in just over 5 years

Who pays for this programme?

- The default position is that:
 - The student pays UWE fees
 - The firm employs and pays the student a salary
 - The firm pays for the credit from Professional Stage exams and the first attempt at the Advance Stage tuition and exams
- Firms may choose to contribute to the UWE fees:
 - Pay some or all of the fees on behalf of the student
 - Make a contribution towards the student loan on completion of the degree or ACA
 - Make a contribution towards the student loan on completion of a period of post-qualification experience

How do I sign up for this programme?

- You need to be an ATE
- Notify ICAEW or SWAT UK that you are interested
- Decide how you want to find the right student
 - Use your own local sources
 - Use the programme partners' support
- Decide your minimum entry level
 - UWE requires 320 UCAS points, e.g. 1A and 2Bs
 - Suggested minimum of 340 UCAS points, e.g. 2As and 1B

What help can you give me finding students?

- UWE will receive applications directly and ensure they meet their minimum entry requirements
- Firms can register with any or all three programme partners (ICAEW; UWE; SWAT UK)
 - ICAEW can add interested firms to trainingvacancies.icaew.com
 - SWAT UK can provide screening, assessments and initial interviews if required
- Marketing material: UWE, ICAEW and SWAT UK can provide literature for promotion to school leavers.

Conclusion

- The first cohort of students will start on 3 September 2012
- The first year will be limited to just 25 places
- We anticipate a high demand from students
- The programme enables students to transfer between the Professional Accounting and Accounting and Finance degrees at the early stages
- Potential credit from all 12 papers of the ACA at the Professional Stage
- We already have some firms signed up, but we need more!

For further information

Visit

<http://courses.uwe.ac.uk/n42b>

<http://trainingvacancies.icaew.com>

www.icaew.com/uwe/employerfaq

www.swat.co.uk

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