EXTRAORDINARY STARTS HERE.
BECOME AN ICAS CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT.
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If you want your career to be challenging, rewarding and exciting, becoming a Chartered Accountant offers all this and more.

Chartered Accountants don’t just work for accountancy firms; they work in every sector of business. Qualifying as a Chartered Accountant will give you a wealth of business expertise, and not just in accountancy and finance.

Being ‘chartered’ takes you beyond accountancy training. It’s a rigorous professional qualification, combining expert tuition, relevant workplace experience, and unrivalled support and guidance.

As a Chartered Accountant, you could potentially work anywhere. You can make your mark in global financial centres, at big accountancy firms, for government bodies, or in cutting edge technology companies. For those with an entrepreneurial streak, becoming a Chartered Accountant will give you the skills to manage and run your own business.

If you’re looking for an extraordinary career, becoming an ICAS Chartered Accountant is the perfect place for you to start.
When it comes to Chartered Accountants, CAs are in a world-class of their own.

By choosing to study with ICAS, you’ll train to become a CA. The CA qualification is exceptional. It’s prestigious and internationally respected. When you become an ICAS CA you’ll join an elite group of highly regarded business professionals.

Being able to use the letters CA after your name speaks volumes. No other Institute, training body or membership organisation in the UK can use the designation ‘CA’ – it is an exclusive privilege for our members only.

As an ICAS CA you’ll be instantly recognised and respected as a world-class business professional.

No matter where you go in the world, employers and peers will appreciate who you are: a dynamic, capable, forward-thinking and versatile business professional.
“Although employers will change over the course of your career, ICAS stays with you throughout.”

I decided to undertake an internship at EY while at university, during which I took the opportunity to speak to the recently-qualified CAs who emphasised the global recognition and career opportunities provided by the qualification.

While studying to become a CA, I found that there was great exposure to a breadth of topics from accounting and finance to law and business management, and I made friends for life!

For anyone considering becoming a CA, I would emphasise how diverse and resourceful the ICAS network is, and although employers will change over the course of your career, the institute stays with you throughout.

I now work in Operational Transaction Services (OTS) at EY, where we support the whole deal lifecycle from initial assessment through to post-deal value enhancement. I have also established the OTS Graduate Programme and have gained international experience including a secondment to our Middle East and North Africa department.”

KATHERINE RITCHIE CA, MANAGER, OPERATIONAL TRANSACTION SERVICES, EY, LONDON

ECONOMICS & GEOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
TRAINING FIRM: EY
I initially pursued accounting as it is a portable tool across roles and industries and I applied to join one of the Big 4 firms (KPMG). With the CA qualification, the knowledge that you are armed with is as useful to an entrepreneur in a start-up enterprise as it is for a CFO in a Fortune 500 company.

The CA qualification is truly portable. Since I qualified in the UK, I have lived and worked in Singapore, Switzerland and now the USA – all accounting and finance roles. I have had no problem moving companies and jobs, using my CA as the passport to do so. In the USA there has recently been the mutual recognition of qualifications between ICAS and NASBA, and I am due to sit the IQEX exam in September, to hopefully become a CPA in the USA.

My current role as Chief Risk Officer at Trammo Inc. draws on many elements of the CA qualification including financing, budgeting/modelling, evaluating the impacts of strategic changes, restructuring and winding down of solvent but dormant entities.”

NICHOLAS WILSON CA, CHIEF RISK OFFICER, TRAMMO, INC., NEW YORK
ECONOMICS AND FINANCE, UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
TRAINING FIRM: KPMG
WHAT IS ICAS?

ICAS was the first ever professional accountancy body, created by Royal Charter in 1854. With over 21,000 members working in the UK and internationally, we have a truly global reach.

Our members work in public practice, but also across every conceivable sector of industry, as well as in the public sector and in education.

Our members don’t just work for the Big Four. They work for some of the world’s most prestigious organisations and best known global brands. Choose to train with us and you could join them.

THERE ARE OVER 21,000 CAs WORLDWIDE.

SOME OF THE CITIES OUR MEMBERS WORK IN

Here’s just some of the other industries ICAS CAs work in:

- 21% FINANCIAL SERVICES
- 10% OIL & GAS
- 8.7% RETAIL
- 7.8% FOOD & DRINK

80% OF FTSE 100 COMPANIES EMPLOY CAs
WHY TRAIN WITH ICAS?

ICAS is the best choice you can make if you want to train to become a world-class Chartered Accountant.

Right from the start, ICAS offers you expert professional qualifications and support to help start your extraordinary career.

AN OUTSTANDING REPUTATION

We’ve been around for a long time - more than 160 years in fact - so when it comes to training CAs we know exactly what we’re doing. When it comes to producing exceptional CAs our track record speaks for itself. Some of the world’s most prominent and successful business leaders did their CA training here with us. Now you can too.

DEVELOPED BY EXPERTS

The CA qualification is one of the most highly regarded professional accounting qualifications out there, and we’ve developed it from scratch. What makes ICAS different is that we create our own syllabus, teaching materials and exams, for all our students. This gives the CA qualification a great deal of credibility and prestige in the wider business community. We regularly consult with employers to ensure the CA qualification remains both current and relevant to the needs of business today.

BUSINESS ETHICS

Ethics and integrity are at the heart of the professional responsibilities of a CA and our commitment to ethical leadership is reflected throughout the CA qualification, culminating in the dedicated Business Ethics exam.
TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE
The technical knowledge and professional skills you’ll learn will become the foundation of your professional career. Our hands-on approach combines expert tuition with practical application to ensure you can get to grips with complex accounting and financial activities easily. The common thread throughout the CA qualification is our commitment to ethics, so you’ll be educated to make informed decisions and uphold the highest ethical standards.

COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT
We know that studying to be a CA is tough. With ICAS, you can rest assured that we’ll support you throughout your studies and beyond. We are committed to supporting our students and helping them achieve high pass rates at all levels of the CA curriculum.

A TRULY INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION
ICAS has developed a number of reciprocal agreements with international accounting bodies, including with USA bodies NASBA and AICPA. This agreement is the first of its kind between a UK Chartered Accountancy body and American accountancy bodies and provides a simple route for ICAS members to achieve the USA CPA by passing one exam (IQEX) and satisfying the relevant State Board requirements. Find out more aticas.com

Visit becomeaca.org.uk to find a training vacancy
MORE THAN JUST A QUALIFICATION

The CA qualification opens the door to an incredible range of ICAS member benefits and opportunities. Wherever you are in the world, we’re here to support you throughout your lifetime as a CA.

Just take a look at what’s on offer.

PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY
As a CA, you’ll join a global community of CAs across a wide range of sectors and professions. The CA qualification has an excellent reputation and reflects an incredible amount of hard work and commitment. This gives all members of ICAS a close connection. At ICAS, we also help you connect with other members so that you can learn from their experiences and build the knowledge and network needed to develop your career.

CAREER SUPPORT
Whether you’re looking for a career move, searching for a mentor, or want to develop your skills, we’ve got all your career needs covered. Our innovative virtual, global mentoring programme can match you with the right mentor to help you make all the right career moves. What’s more, the ICAS Professional Development programme offers everything from courses to webinars, workshops to conferences – all designed to take you further in your career.

TECHNICAL UPDATES AND NEWS BRIEFINGS
When you become a CA, keeping your technical knowledge current is essential. With our ongoing programme of technical updates, in-depth analysis and commentary, we do the hard work for you. Our expertise ensures your skills remain up-to-date, regardless of your specialism or industry sector.

EVENTS AND CONFERENCES
ICAS runs a packed programme of exciting events designed to encourage our members to connect, network, and learn. You can network with like-minded colleagues at our CA dinners around the world, drop in to a masterclass on a special interest topic, come to a speed mentoring event, or see the latest exhibitions – in some of the UK’s most exciting venues.

We guarantee you won’t be disappointed.
“Becoming a CA with ICAS has strongly supported my career development, especially the ongoing member connectivity with the institute. The prestige associated with the CA qualification opens doors across the world, and with regular ICAS events, CAs are supported through their careers.

I trained at PwC, one of the Big 4 accounting firms, and now work for HSBC as Senior Risk Manager. My role involves defining and implementing the strategy and framework for risk governance and reporting.”

SONAL BAKRANIA CA, SENIOR RISK MANAGER, HSBC, LONDON

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
TRAINING FIRM: PWC

“I am currently a Manager at Bissets, a small practice, which allows me to cover a wide range of areas including management accounts production, preparing tax returns, managing staff, and finding new business for the firm. The CA qualification offers a sound education on technical areas, and adapting to new situations, which helps improve problem-solving and analytical skills.

Being a CA provides a vast number of opportunities to work across different industries and countries as the qualification is well-respected and recognised worldwide.”

EMMA BISSET CA, MANAGER, BISSETS LIMITED, GLASGOW

ACCOUNTANCY AND ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
TRAINING FIRM: EY
HOW CAN I BECOME A CA?

Depending on your current circumstances, there are a number of ways you can become a CA with us. For starters, you don’t need to have been to university if you want to be a CA. Here’s a quick overview of the main routes to becoming a CA.

THE DIRECT ENTRY ROUTE

One of the great things about the CA qualification is that you can start your CA training straight from school.

You also don’t need to have any previous knowledge of accountancy or finance to study with us, as we make sure that you’ll cover all the bases in your training. What you do need are some good A-level/Higher results under your belt – along the same lines as what you’d need to get into university.

It normally takes five years to complete the CA qualification through the direct entry route. You’ll study with us at the same time as getting some hands-on practical experience with an ICAS authorised employer (known as an ATO or Authorised Training Office). Entry requirements for training vacancies with ICAS authorised employers vary so it’s worth checking with our individual employers.

THE GRADUATE ENTRY ROUTE

Lots of our students come straight to us to become CAs when they finish university. It doesn’t matter what degree you’ve studied, as we don’t require you to have any previous experience in accountancy or business. Our students come from varied and diverse backgrounds.

All you need is a good university degree that meets our entry requirements. We welcome international students too – just check that your degree classification meets our UK requirements.

The graduate route to becoming a CA usually takes three years and is organised in the form of a training contract with an ICAS authorised employer (known as an ATO or Authorised Training Office). Entry requirements for training vacancies with ICAS authorised employers vary so it’s worth checking with our individual employers.
THE PROFESSIONAL ENTRY ROUTE
If you’ve already gained experience working in a financial role, or are an experienced university graduate, then the professional entry route to becoming a CA could be for you. This is a highly flexible way to become a CA, as you can study and sit your exams with ICAS at different times to suit you. We even offer a combination of online and face-to-face learning so you can study for the CA qualification without giving up your current job.

APPRENTICESHIPS
The ICAS Level 7 (L7) Apprenticeship provides an opportunity to work and study at the same time, to qualify as an Accountancy Professional and as a CA.

Apprentices studying with ICAS will cover the same syllabus as students working towards their CA qualification through traditional routes. Apprentices will qualify as a CA and achieve the L7 Apprenticeship Certificate. There are some additional requirements for the apprentice, including an additional assessment at the end of the apprenticeship.

The apprentice must have Maths and English (at Level 2) before they attempt the end-point assessment. The L7 apprenticeship is open to those working more than 50% of their time in England.

For our full list of apprenticeship programmes at CA training companies please visit becomeaca.org.uk

START YOUR EXTRAORDINARY CAREER TODAY.
To find the route that’s right for you, and read more about our entry requirements, visit ICAS.com/becomeaca
STEPS TO BECOMING AN ICAS CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

1. MEET THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
   Secure a training contract with one of our ATOs, dependent on your chosen route.

2. SECURE A TRAINING CONTRACT

3. RELEVANT, PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE
   Demonstrate key competencies and record in your Achievement Log.

4. PROFESSIONAL STUDY
   Study and pass the three levels of the CA qualification along with a dedicated business ethics assessment.

YOU ARE NOW ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR ICAS MEMBERSHIP AND BECOME A CA

ONCE YOU’VE BEEN ADMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP, YOU’LL BE ABLE TO ADD THOSE ALL IMPORTANT LETTERS TO YOUR NAME.
WHAT IS A TRAINING CONTRACT?

If you’re studying via the direct or graduate entry routes, getting a training contract in place is your first step towards becoming a CA. We work in partnership with a wide range of ICAS authorised employers (ATOs) to offer our students an exciting array of employment opportunities. Our range of authorised employers is incredibly diverse so whatever your career aspirations, there’s something for everyone.

Our dedicated recruitment website advertises the latest training contract opportunities. You’ll find opportunities to train in public practice with top accountancy firms, or you might choose to work in the public sector, with a multinational or a smaller start up business.

Find a CA training vacancy that fits your career aspirations at becomeaca.org.uk

WHERE CAN I TRAIN?

You can train and study for the CA qualification at training centres throughout the UK. Where you attend classes depends on where your employer is based or where you are working. You can attend classes and complete your exams in a host of training centres across the UK.

No matter where you do your training, you’ll have the same ICAS experience. We work hard to make sure that the standards of teaching and student support are consistently high across all teaching locations.
The CA qualification is designed to make sure that you develop the necessary technical knowledge and skills, combined with professional skills in judgement, analysis, communication and presentation, to deal with a wide variety of complex and often unpredictable issues and situations.

These technical and professional skills will enable you to formulate and communicate professional solutions. You’ll also gain the necessary professional and ethical values to deal with and make informed judgements on complex ethical and professional issues.
TEST OF COMPETENCE (TC)
SCQF LEVEL 9
The building blocks of the CA qualification. Here you’ll get to grips with basic concepts in accountancy and finance. You’ll develop core knowledge across six key areas:
• Business Law
• Business Management
• Finance
• Financial Accounting
• Principles of Auditing and Reporting
• Principles of Tax
Depending on your previous level of study, you may be eligible for TC exemptions. You can find the full list of TC exemptions on icas.com by searching ‘Exemptions’.

TEST OF PROFESSIONAL SKILLS (TPS)
SCQF LEVEL 11
Going beyond technical knowledge.
Being a good CA is about much more than your technical ability. TPS equips you with essential professional skills and how to apply them in practice. It builds on core knowledge learnt at TC and prepares you for working with clients in the real world. Subjects studied at TPS are:
• Advanced Finance
• Assurance and Business Systems
• Financial Reporting
• Taxation

TEST OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE (TPE)
SCQF LEVEL 11
Bringing it all together.
The final level combines everything you’ve learned at TC and TPS. Students work on a multi-disciplinary case study, advising on a complex, real life business scenario. This calls for strong professional judgment and utilises all the technical knowledge and professional skills learned at TC and TPS.

BUSINESS ETHICS (BE)
Ethics is at the heart of the CA qualification.
All students complete a Business Ethics course which runs through the entire qualification and includes a separate exam in the final year.

RELEVANT PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE (RPE)
Developing your skills and knowledge with your employer.
To qualify as a CA, you’ll also need a minimum of 450 days of relevant practical experience under your belt, gained at work with your employer and recorded in your Achievement Log.

QUALIFICATION ACCREDITATION
ICAS is recognised by the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Partnership as a Credit Rating Body. The CA qualification is credit rated at the same level as a Masters Degree with a total of 485 SCQF credit points. SCQF recognition offers employers a quick and easy way to recognise and compare the CA with other equivalent or international qualifications.

To find out more about the CA qualification syllabus, visit icas.com/becomeaca
“Having enjoyed accounting and finance at secondary school, I decided to become an accountant and being a CA was the end goal once I had made this decision.

I am now Digital Solutions Senior at Johnston Carmichael, and work with a range of business clients on digital solutions for their accounting needs.

The qualification is both prestigious and recognised worldwide, and I truly believe the world is your oyster once you have your CA qualification.”

COLLEEN WELSH CA, DIGITAL SOLUTIONS SENIOR, JOHNSTON CARMICHAEL, EDINBURGH

TRAINING FIRM: CONSILIUM CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

“Having studied Accounting and Financial Management at university, I went on to qualify as a CA at BDO LLP in London. I then decided to join the world of start-ups!

I now work at Deliveroo, where I look after financial reporting and work closely with our commercial finance team, auditors and tax and VAT team.

I am proud of being a CA as the qualification is so well respected, leading to opportunities at different companies across the world.”

JONATHAN CHRISTODOULIDES CA, SENIOR FINANCE MANAGER UK & IRELAND, DELIVEROO, LONDON

ACCOUNTING & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, UNIVERSITY OF SURREY
TRAINING FIRM: BDO LLP
“Being ICAS trained is like the cherry on top of the cake. It helps you stand out and get noticed in front of employers. Not only that, it gives you credibility when wanting to start your own business or joining a high-growth start-up.

I am currently a Strategy Consultant for Finocracy, working internationally with high-growth innovative start-ups and disruptive government initiatives in Middle Eastern countries.

The CA qualification is the key to many doors in life. You can advance your accountancy career or learn the tools to start your own venture. I recall one of my friends opening up his own pineapple farm after becoming a CA!

Set yourself up with a firm that will enable you to become a CA and make it the first milestone in your life, not the last.”

SHAHBAZ MIRZA CA, STRATEGY AND FINANCE CONSULTANT, FINOCRACY
ACCOUNTANCY & FINANCE, UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW
TRAINING FIRM: PWC

For more CA Stories visit icas.com/becomeaca
THE QUALIFICATION HAS BEEN THE CORNERSTONE OF MY CAREER – I’M VERY PROUD TO BE A CA.

BARRY MCGONAGLE CA
FINANCE DIRECTOR, SKYSCANNER LIMITED, EDINBURGH