

Who is ACCA?

ACCA is the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. We're a thriving global community of 241,000 members and 542,000 future members based in 178 countries and regions, who work across a wide range of sectors and industries. In South Africa we have 730 members and over 2,200 future members working their way through the qualification.

We believe that accountancy is a cornerstone profession of society that supports both public and private sectors. That's why we're committed to the development of a strong global accountancy profession and the many benefits that this brings to society and individuals.

Through the ACCA Qualification, we offer everyone everywhere the opportunity to experience a rewarding career in accountancy, finance and management.

What is our response to gaining audit accreditation from the IRBA?

We're delighted that from April next year there will be a route for ACCA members and future members with relevant experience to gain Registered Auditor status in South Africa.

This recognition represents the culmination of a rigorous application process with the IRBA and we look forward to moving ahead with this. It's a positive reflection of the quality of the ACCA Qualification, the professional standards of our members, and our well-established presence in South Africa. It recognises our commitment to professional competence, and the rigour that we apply in assessing it.

It's rewarding to have the skills and knowledge of ACCA members in audit recognised, as it is in other jurisdictions through regulatory recognition in countries such as Zimbabwe, the UK and Ireland.

This will also further strengthen ACCA's ability to make a strong and positive contribution to South Africa's economy and society, including increasing inclusion and diversity in the audit sector.

What does it mean for ACCA members and students interested in becoming Registered Auditors in South Africa?

ACCA members in South Africa or elsewhere who wish to become Registered Auditors in South Africa must have completed:

- South African variants of the ACCA Qualification's Corporate and Business Law examination and the Taxation examination.
- At the ACCA Strategic Professional level, the Essentials examinations (Strategic Business Leader and Strategic Business Reporting examinations) and the Advanced Audit and Assurance (International) and either Advanced Taxation (South Africa) or Advanced Financial Management examination.

- Meet the ACCA audit training requirements as part of three years practical experience in an ACCA Approved Employer holding the appropriate status.
- They must then access the IRBA Audit Development Programme.

ACCA students and affiliates aiming for registered auditor status should consider the requirements as they plan their training and exam journey.

More information will be made available on the detail of this as we approach the start date of 1 April 2024, but members wishing to undertake the exams listed above can enter them on the ACCA portal.

What about members who do not wish to become registered auditors?

This change does not impose any extra requirements on our many members in South Africa who work in roles where registered auditor status is not required, such as in businesses, the public sector or non-audit general practice. The change is a positive reflection of the calibre of all our members in South Africa and globally.

What about employers?

For an employer to be accredited to provide the appropriate audit training which will be suitable for ACCA audit trainees in South Africa, you will need to apply to be recognised under the Practising Certificate Development Audit South Africa stream. Details are available in the Approved Employer section of the ACCA website.

What is ACCA's position on ethics?

We uphold the highest professional and ethical values, and integrity is one of our three core values (along with innovation and inclusion). Ethics are a core part of our qualification, of the ongoing CPD we offer to qualified members. We expect high ethical standards from our members and students and have a robust governance process which supports this. Through these high standards, and through our research and our advocacy work with partners and governments, we work to support the fight against corruption and the damage it does to societies and economies.

- Our public value mission is at the heart of everything we do as a professional accountancy body. We define public value as acting in the public interest; promoting ethical business; and supporting economic growth.
- We protect the public interest by upholding and declaring proper standards of conduct and maintaining public confidence in the accountancy profession and the ACCA qualification, membership and brand.
- The primary way we deliver this is through the training, CPD and the governance framework of ACCA qualified professional accountants, regulated by the same high standard of ethics, conduct and practice.

- To become an ACCA member, all our students are required to undertake an Ethics and Professional Skills module before applying to be admitted to ACCA membership.
- ACCA's Code of Ethics and Conduct aligns to the internationally accepted and recognised Code of Ethics developed by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA).
- Our role is to ensure the public has 100% confidence in choosing an ACCA qualified accountant for a qualified, ethical, and regulated professional and who is up to date on their knowledge and skills.

What is ACCA's view on sustainability?

As businesses and other organisations ramp-up their sustainability transition, finance professionals in all sectors – including audit - are being called upon to inform, drive and embed their organisation's sustainability strategies. Increasing regulation and public scrutiny, along with the imminent introduction of sustainability disclosure standards in many countries, is adding to the pressure.

Our purpose is to be a force for public good – and the greatest public need of our time is the transition to a greener, fairer, more sustainable world that works for everyone. We are playing our part by spearheading the Accounting for a better world agenda for action across the profession, delivering on our own commitments to the UN SDGs and net zero, and most importantly upskilling and empowering the ACCA global community.

This focus on sustainability is focusing attention on the assurance of reporting in this area, and ACCA through its research and partnerships is working to support progress and development to help support the move to a green economy.

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