



NEW START4U CIC  
024 7767 1470  
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12-14 Riley Square,  
Coventry CV2 1LX, UK

# MSc Professional Accounting

## (with Professional Study Preparation)

**London Campus**

**Level of study: Postgraduate**

**Mode of study: Full-time**

**Duration: 2 years**

### Overview

This programme has been designed to meet your needs as a student who is at the beginning of a career in the field of accounting. Therefore, the overall aim of the programme is to enable you to develop an integrated and critically aware understanding of international accounting and thus expand your career options by combining the knowledge of your previous degree with a specialised MSc in Professional Accounting.

The programme will give you the specialised skills required to implement theory in areas such as governance and auditing, performance management, corporate and group reporting, and business strategic management. As such, this MSc is designed to build on the transferable skills important for employment in the areas of financial accounting, auditing and management accounting.

### Key facts

Develop your expertise in core professional accounting topics in auditing, strategic management, reporting and performance management. Study an MSc closely aligned with the ACCA professional level papers, including a dedicated year-long module where you should have attempted the ACCA professional stage exams. Prepare yourself for managerial and strategic roles in accounting. Newcastle Business School is part of a select group of business schools worldwide, following accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) in business and accounting – the first in Europe to gain the double accreditation.

### Course information

**Level of study: Postgraduate**

**Fees: To find out about current fees and student finance contact us**

**Entry requirements: A minimum of a 2:2 honours degree or equivalent, and completion of ACCA Applied Knowledge and Applied Skills papers. IELTS 6.5 (or above) with no single element below 6.0, or equivalent .**

**English language requirements: IELTS 6.5 (or above) with no single element below 6.0, or equivalent**



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**Mode of study: Full-time**

**Duration: 2 years**

**Assessment methods: Coursework and exams**

**Scholarships or bursaries: available**

**Student finance: available**

**Payment plan: available**

**Starts: Jan, Sep,**

### **About this course:**

#### **What will I study?**

The programme will give you a thorough introduction to essential accounting concepts, knowledge and skills of important accounting subjects thus enabling you to demonstrate relevant knowledge and understanding of accounting practice. A further intention of the programme is to offer you the opportunity to develop your knowledge in specialist accounting topics in which you are taught the key skills of auditing, financial accounting principles and management accounting principles.

This uniquely designed MSc includes four core modules delivered in the first year of study that are carefully mapped with the ACCA professional level papers. These are designed to offer a strong theoretical base of professional accounting, develop academic skills and grasp of the relevant subject matter within a global context which enhances professional competence and enables you to take effective managerial roles within organisations. These core modules are also designed to prepare you for the challenging ACCA professional examinations.

In your second year, you will study a yearlong Professional Study Preparation module where you'll undertake ACCA paper reviews with study provided by an external accounting training provider or by professional accounting trainers (Associate lecturers) employed by Northumbria. A professional accounting examination expert will provide further advice and guidance, of professional development and support you to prepare for the ACCA professional examinations.

The programme will also support your development in emotional and cultural intelligence through practices embedded in the teaching, such as team working, professional values, cultural awareness as well as business essentials such as problem solving, information handling and analysis. As well as this, you will engage with the principles, theories and practices of Professional Accounting.

#### **ACCA**

This programme will offer you the opportunity to study an MSc which aligns to the professional stage of the ACCA qualification. Through completion of the modules on the programme this will facilitate your ability to apply to attempt the external ACCA examinations (after further preparation for relevant papers),



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whilst also completing an MSc. You will be responsible for booking and paying for the ACCA exams once the Study Preparation module is complete. You should refer to the ACCA website for up to date details on applicable costs which will be incurred on application for their examinations.

### **How will I be taught and assessed?**

You will be taught through a mix of lectures, seminars, IT workshops and one-to-one sessions, averaging around 14 hours per week. You will also be expected to engage in independent study involving directed and self-directed learning, around 33 hours per week.

You will be assessed via coursework, presentations and exams. You'll be taught by experienced lecturers and academics who use their industry experience to demonstrate how the theories you will learn translate in to real life situations. Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) is embedded throughout the course with tools such as the 'Blackboard' eLearning Portal and electronic reading lists that will guide your preparation for seminars and independent research.

### **Careers and further study**

Through the specialist accounting modules that are closely aligned with the ACCA, you will be well placed to pursue a career in accounting in a number of varied roles ranging from corporate reporting and auditing to more strategic and performance focused positions.

### **Entry requirements**

Applicants should have the following:

#### Academic requirements

A minimum of a 2:2 honours degree or equivalent, and completion of ACCA Applied Knowledge and Applied Skills papers, or contemporary equivalent.. Applicants with professional qualifications in accounting and finance will also be considered

If you don't meet the academic requirements Applicants who do not meet the academic requirements but who do have substantial experience of working in a business organisation and/or possess a relevant professional qualification will also be considered. If you are unsure if you meet the entry criteria, please contact us and our team will be able to advise you.

Alternatively, you may also be eligible for our Pre-Masters courses. These are programmes designed specifically for students who are looking to progress on to a Masters degree.

### **English language requirements**

Students require IELTS 6.5 (or above) with no single element below 6.0 or equivalent.

If you have IELTS 5.5 – 6.0, you may be eligible to join our Pre-Sessional English before starting this programme.

### **Modules**

All modules are core unless otherwise stated.



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### **Developing Global Management Competencies I (20 credits)**

This module is the first of two that prepares you to be highly employable, and enables you to demonstrate your ability to make an immediate impact on your organisation of choice. It develops key hard and soft skills which have been identified by current research as those necessary for postgraduate students seeking work. Corporate and Group Reporting (20 credits) This module builds on your earlier financial reporting studies and requires you to consider the more complex aspects of corporate reporting. Over the course of the module you will develop and apply knowledge, skills and professional judgment to various corporate reporting issues. You will develop an appreciation of current developments in corporate reporting and how this impacts on the organisation and will consider how additional disclosures of financial and non-financial information enhance the quality of the information presented in the corporate report.

### **Strategic Business Leadership (20 credits)**

All businesses benefit from strong strategic business leadership. On this module you will be provided with opportunity to increase both your knowledge and skills in relation to running a business. In order to do this the module considers the following nine major themes: leadership, governance, strategy, risk, technology and data analytics, organisational control, planning and decision making, innovation, performance excellence and change management and professional skills. The content of the module will incorporate research by leading international scholars. You will be encouraged to become independent learners by developing skills to find and evaluate articles in a research-focused environment.

### **Development Global Management Competencies II (20 credits)**

Developing Global Management Competencies II facilitates and supports you to develop and refine relevant and up-to-date employability skills, and in so doing enables you to recognise and articulate how you can demonstrate your potential added value to organisations.

You will learn about the development of practical skills and the techniques required by businesses to help in project management and the implementation of data management and data analytics solutions. The module will introduce some project management processes, frameworks and methodologies e.g. PRINCE2, Agile, PMBOK as well as some database principles and data analytics.

### **Audit, Corporate Governance and Ethics (20 credits)**

This module is designed to consolidate and build on your existing knowledge of audit from both a theoretical and a practical perspective. You will study topics and practice questions that will help you prepare for future professional exams, while also considering the wider implications of your learning. This will include discussion of topics that are current for audit and accounting practitioners as well as engaging with academic research about audit and its role in society. The module will therefore help you to understand audit from different perspectives, preparing you for future professional roles where you might encounter audit as either an auditor, auditee or user of audit reports.

### **Performance Management (20 credits)**

This module introduces you to the strategic role of management accounting as a discipline for planning and controlling performance, in order to facilitate the establishment, monitoring and control of strategic organisational objectives. It begins by exploring the process of strategy formulation, and subsequently, the



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development and implementation of appropriate performance monitoring and management frameworks. It also addresses the impact of external factors on strategic management issues, such as macroeconomic, fiscal, market and environmental impacts on performance. From appreciating the strategic context of performance management and the impact of broader factors, the module investigates, at an operational level, the issues relating to performance measurement systems and their design. In addition to the above, the module examines the scope and application of high-level performance measurement techniques in a variety of contexts, including not-for-profit organisations and multinational businesses. The knowledge and skills in this module mean that you can act as an advisor to senior management or independent clients on how to assess and control the performance of an entity, including the recognition of whether a business is facing difficulties or possible failure.

### **Academic and Professional Development (0 credits)**

The module is designed to facilitate the development of the student learning experience over the course of their one-year full-time Masters programme. Academic and Professional Development activities will be delivered, where appropriate, in parallel with Academic Skills (ASK) sessions. Both will be mapped to support student academic skills and professional development to support the delivery of programme modules.

### **Dissertation Preparation and Research Methods (0 credits)**

In this module you will learn about a variety of different research methods. This will equip you with the knowledge and practical skills necessary for you to conduct research at Masters' level and prepare you to complete a Masters dissertation or consultancy project. By the end of the module you will know how to apply both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis techniques. In quantitative techniques you will learn about sampling, questionnaire design, statistical inference, and hypothesis testing while qualitative techniques covered will include methods such as interviewing and focus groups. Analysis methods such as content analysis and thematic analysis will also be covered. In addition, you will gain some understanding of research philosophy (positivism and interpretivism) and research ethics and you will be able to write a research proposal to bring these ideas together.

### **Accounting and Finance Professional Study Preparation (60 credits)**

This module gives you the opportunity to develop your professional accounting career by reviewing the professional level stage ACCA papers, while further increasing your knowledge and research skills in relation to a contemporary accounting topic of your choice within the specified subject areas.

As such, this module provides you with an opportunity to develop your employability skills and enhance your accounting career prospects. This module will build on your first year of studies on this MSc and prepare you for sitting four ACCA strategic professional level papers; you will also develop your critical reflection skills as an ethical and strategic accounting learner. In doing so you will learn the substantive ACCA syllabus for the following Strategic

professional level papers: Strategic Business Leader; Strategic Business Reporting; Advanced Performance Management; Advanced Audit and Assurance and Ethics and Professional Skills.

The content of the module is based on preparation materials published by renowned providers. Professional tutors will support your learning of the subject matters and exam taking skills. In the academic element of



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this module, you will develop your critical and reflectivity skills by engaging in a student led research task and prepare an individual presentation in relation to a contemporary strategic level topic.

### **The Newcastle Business School Masters Dissertation (60 credits)**

In this module you will gain an understanding of the academic skills that are required to produce a Masters Dissertation. By the end of the module you will have written a 3000 word dissertation proposal and a 15000 word Masters dissertation.

Please note that your tuition fees do not include the cost of course books that you may choose to purchase, stationery, printing and photocopying, accommodation, living expenses, travel or any other extracurricular activities. As a London Campus student, you will have full access to our online digital library with over 400,000 e-books and 50,000 electronic journals.

Whilst books are made available via the University Library, you may wish to purchase key texts during their first year of study. In the second year during Professional Study Preparation, you may also wish to purchase professional texts and study guides which approximate to around £70-80 per exam preparation.

In addition, you will be responsible for booking and paying for the ACCA exams after the Study Preparation on the programme is complete. You should refer to the ACCA website for up to date details on applicable costs which will be incurred on application for their examinations.