

THE MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
(INSTITUT AKAUNTAN AWAM BERTAULIAH MALAYSIA)



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# Professional qualification in accounting

**T**HE Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) has a long list of candidates who have shone in their achievements in the MICPA-ICAA Programme.

The MICPA-ICAA Programme is a qualification for accountants who wish to be professionally qualified and hold the titles of Certified Public Accountant and Chartered Accountant.

As the programme is run jointly with the Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia (ICAA), candidates are assessed within the pool of Australian and other international candidates who have enrolled in the same programme.

MICPA is especially proud of Toh Yi Jean, a candidate who aced the Financial Accounting and Reporting module recently, becoming the overall top scorer and awarded a cash prize, as well as winning the Datuk Oh Chong Peng Gold Medal for her performance in this module.

Being her very first professional paper under the MICPA-ICAA Programme, she was surprised and found it difficult to believe. Toh shared that the secret to her success is to study consistently throughout the term so that she does not lose focus and leave everything to last minute. Also, she prepares her own study notes and practises past year questions to reinforce her understanding on what she has learnt.

Toh also attributes her achievement to her parents who have always been fully supportive of her in her studies. Her father who is a chartered accountant, keeps her updated with the latest accounting issues and changes in accounting standards.

"Whenever I'm caught up with work to the extent of almost ignoring my studies, he is the one who puts me back on track by reminding me that passing my professional exams are crucial as getting a professional qualification in Accounting is extremely important. I'm also thankful for my mother who has continuously provided me with full emotional support. Whenever I get stressed with work or studies, I would confide in her as she is always prepared to listen to my problems," she said.

Her supportive parents express that it is their constant hope that their children will do their best, strive for excellence and be happy in their careers.

"Yi Jean has chosen to be in

Accounting although she was from the science stream. She has our full support in this direction and in rising up to the challenge of completing the MICPA-ICAA Programme," said Toh's father.

As an auditor in Ernst & Young Malaysia, the firm sponsors her tuition fees and provides staff with ample study leave to ensure that there is sufficient time to focus on preparing for the exams.

The firm has also been very prompt and efficient in assisting its sponsored staff with the administrative matters for exams such as registrations and arrangements for tutorial classes. Besides that, by providing extra incentive to its staff who scored merit in the exams, the firm has motivated its staff to work hard to excel in their exams.

Being a graduate from the University of Melbourne, Australia, Toh chose the MICPA-ICAA Programme as it provides a high level of education and continuous training applicable to both Malaysia and Australia, equipping candidates to face the challenges of the vast changes in reporting standards and corporate governance across national borders.

The assignments, based on case studies, and exam questions are very practical. Toh found that it reinforced what she studied in university and applies directly to her present tasks at work.

Toh has wise words to share with aspiring accountants and auditors. "Work hard, strive for excellence and always seek to strike a work-life balance. The audit field is not as gruelling as what people generally perceive it to be. In fact, it is an interesting job where you get tremendous exposure by being able to see how different companies operate and by interacting with people from different walks of life.

"Besides the 'all-about-work' part, I'm a firm believer in finding time to do what you like or enjoy. For example, I love exercising, and I would hit the gym early in the morning before I go to work, to get some adrenaline pumped up and endorphins released. It is all about discipline, time management and setting your priorities in life."

■ For details about the programme call 03-2698 9622, e-mail micpa@micpa.com.my or visit [www.micpa.com.my/](http://www.micpa.com.my/)

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