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Road to becoming an accountant

A COMMON question that children are asked: "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

For certain, not many will say they want to be an accountant. At least, not until they are older.

Accountants today are no longer seen as bean counters or just bookkeepers.

The professional accountant is one who leads, innovates, value-adds and is a trustworthy source of knowledge and advice.

How do I become one?

The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) has been in the field of developing accounting professionals in Malaysia and beyond for over five decades.

For those intending to do a professional programme, MICPA recommends first aiming for a university degree in Accounting.

In partnership with the Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia (ICAA), the MICPA-ICAA Programme is open to those who have accredited degrees, as a pathway to

becoming a professional accountant.

Once a degree is obtained, the graduate can then apply for a job that will equip them with relevant practical training in the field.

Parallel to that, one might want to sign up for a professional accounting programme such as the MICPA-ICAA Programme. The programme builds a strong foundation in the application of theoretical accounting into practical work, which means candidates need to have a solid understanding of concepts and theories.

Upon completion of the programme and obtaining the relevant working experience for three years, the accountant qualifies for admission as a full member of MICPA and ICAA. Thus, he or she obtains the title of a professional accountant.

The partnership between MICPA and ICAA allows graduates of the programme to use the designations "CPA (Malaysia)" which stands for "Certified Public Accountant" and "CA (Australia)" for "Chartered Accountant".

Both terms represent an accountant who



MICPA conducts a joint programme with ICAA to train future Certified Public Accountants and Chartered Accountants.

has met requirements in education, examination, experience and training that certifies them to provide a broad range of financial services to their clients in both public practice and the private sector. They are bound by standards set by the professional body to regulate professional conduct among its members.

As a professional accountant, your career can take you anywhere – to the heights of

being leaders of top organisations, a business consultant who helps other organisations in their strategies to become more profitable, or even running your own business and growing it into a conglomerate. The possibilities are endless.

■ For details, contact MICPA at 03-5698 9622, e-mail micpa@micpa.com.my or log on to www.micpa.com.my

Road to becoming an accountant

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" is a favourite question to ask a child. Rarely will they reply "An accountant!" At least not until they have gotten much older and understand the concept of wealth and making money, because it is the general perception that accountants make a lot of money – or at least, they are known to be good at managing it.

If you are a student still studying in secondary school or college, and are an aspiring accountant – you have made a very worthy choice. Accountants today are no longer seen as bean counters or just bookkeepers. Look around you and you will see many accountants who are professionals in their own right. There aren't many qualifications out there in which you are regarded as 'a professional' – apart from lawyers and the usual science-based professions like engineers, doctors, pharmacists and dentists. But the accountant who has undergone a professional qualification is indeed in a highly-regarded field, and certainly seen as a professional.

The professional accountant is well-rounded - equipped with technical knowledge and possesses the right skills necessary to succeed in the profession. Being a professional sets you apart as one who leads, innovates, value-adds and is a trustworthy source of knowledge and advice. You might be wondering – how can I become one?

The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) has been in the field of developing accounting professionals in Malaysia and beyond for over 5 decades now and have had many successful graduates walking through their doors since then. For those intending to do a professional programme, MICPA recommends first aiming for a university Degree in Accounting. In partnership with the Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia (ICAA), the MICPA-ICAA Programme is open to those who have accredited degrees, as a pathway to becoming a professional accountant.

Once a degree is obtained, you can then apply for a job that will equip you with relevant practical training in the field. There are numerous organisations to choose from – those in public practice such as accounting firms, and organisations in commerce and industry. Parallel to that, you should sign up for a professional accounting programme such as the MICPA-ICAA Programme which builds a strong foundation in the application of theoretical accounting into practical work, which means candidates need to have a solid understanding of concepts and theories. Upon completion of the Programme and obtaining the relevant working experience for three years, you qualify for admission as a full member of MICPA and ICAA and can then call yourself a professional accountant. Because of the partnership between MICPA and ICAA, graduates of the Programme are entitled to use the designations ‘CPA (Malaysia)’ which stands for ‘Certified Public Accountant’ and ‘CA (Australia)’ – ‘Chartered Accountant’.

You may be wondering – what’s the similarity between a CPA and a CA? The answer is – both terms represent an accountant who has met requirements in education, examination, experience and training that certifies them to provide a broad range of financial services to their clients in both public practice and the private sector. They are bound by standards set by the professional body to regulate professional conduct amongst its members.

The term ‘Chartered Accountant’ came into being in the 19th century in England and Scotland and was used to designate accountants who had a royal charter granted to them under Queen Victoria. Members of accounting bodies incorporated under the royal charter use the CA designation in a number of Commonwealth countries that include Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

For countries not part of the royal colony, there were no royal charters to be obtained and hence the ‘Certified Public Accountant’ designation was coined, originally by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and is used by other countries such as Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, China and Korea, to name a few. The CPA designation represents the result of rigorous certification exams and the fulfilment of other mandatory requirements in order to be able to practice accounting as a professional, similar to what is required of a CA.

As a professional accountant, your career can take you anywhere – to the heights of being leaders of top organisations, a business consultant who helps other organisations in their strategies to become more profitable, or even running your own business and growing it into a conglomerate. The possibilities are endless. The training you get along the way on your journey to being a CPA or CA gives you invaluable knowledge and skills that will make you highly sought after.

For more details about the MICPA-ICAA Programme:

Call +603-2698 9622

Email: micpa@micpa.com.my or visit: www.micpa.com.my

Get a headstart
in your Accounting
profession with the
MICPA-ICAA
Programme



Begin your professional
journey in your 4th year with
the Students Sponsorship
Programme (SSP):

- › Get an internship placement
- › Complete 2 out of 5 programme modules during internship
- › Secure a job offer



1 Examination
=
2 Qualifications
& Memberships
CPA (M) & CA (Aust.)
+
∞ Opportunities



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