

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



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1) A Globally Recognised Qualification (Article)
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A globally recognised qualification

THE Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) was established in 1958, one year after Malaysia's independence.

It is the only home-grown professional accounting body in Malaysia. It was first known as MACPA (The Malaysian Association of Certified Public Accountants) and anyone wanting to pursue a career as a professional accountant knew that the MACPA exams were the one to take.

MACPA exams were known to be very challenging but many pursued it and passed, and have done very well in their careers.

Eventually, MACPA became known as MICPA, and in 2009 it joined forces with the Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia (ICAA) to offer the MICPA-ICAA Programme. It is open to accounting graduates from accredited universities.

This new programme provides graduates with two qualifications and titles – Certified Public Accountant, Malaysia, and Chartered Accountant, Australia.

Graduates also receive the Global Accounting Alliance (GAA) Passport, which makes them part of a global network of over 800,000 professionals around the world.

This dispels the general misconception that MICPA is only recognised locally. To set the record straight, MICPA has always been and still is an internationally recognised qualification.

MICPA is a founding member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), making it a well-respected, internationally recognised professional accounting body. Its standards meet and exceed prescribed benchmarks.

This is evident as there are two MICPA-qualified accountants who are currently residing and working overseas. They have enjoyed an international career spanning two decades as MICPA professionals.

Hezelina Hashim graduated with a double major in Marketing with specialisation in International Business.

"I loved the course so much that I thought that was where my career would be. When I returned to Malaysia, my father encouraged me to do an accounting professional qualification with one of the Big Four firms and that's exactly what I did," says Hezelina.

She started her career in Andersen and was seconded to Reading, the United Kingdom, in her second year at the firm.

"At the end of 12 months, they offered to extend my secondment. Subsequently, they offered to make my stay permanent," shares Hezelina.

Hezelina, who is currently attached to BDO in the UK, says



Hezelina enjoys an international career as a MICPA professional.

she chose to stay in this profession because she enjoys what she does.

Rita Wong Bunney, a financial consultant at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia, moved there 10 years ago and has since enjoyed a diverse career.

"I managed to find work within two weeks after I landed in Australia 10 years ago, and never had much problem in finding work since then," she says.

"One of the interviewers told me that the moment they saw that I was a MICPA-qualified Malaysian accountant, they had faith in me and hired me."

They both agree that the MICPA qualification has given them an edge over their peers, making them the more preferred choice for employers.

MICPA has approximately 15% of its members working overseas, attesting to the fact that the qualification is internationally recognised.

Both Hezelina and Rita are perfect examples.

They both share the belief that the structure of MICPA's Programme equipped them with important skills that have served them well in their profession.

"I am very proud to be a MICPA member. The qualification gave me good grounding to excel as a professional accountant. Suffice to say there haven't been any negative moments in my 20 years with MICPA," says Rita.

"The qualification has enabled me to work on par with my colleagues here in the UK. There has never been an issue. If you are willing to learn and adapt, you will be fine," says Hezelina.

Hezelina's advice to future accountants is to grab all the opportunities you can and not to shy away from challenges.

■ For details on the programme, call 03-2698 9622, e-mail micpa@micpa.com.my or visit www.micpa.com.my

MICPA – An Internationally Recognised Qualification

The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) was established in 1958, one year after Malaysia's independence. It is the only home-grown professional accounting body in Malaysia. It was first known as MACPA (The Malaysian Association of Certified Public Accountants) and anyone wanting to pursue a career as a Professional Accountant knew that the MACPA exams were 'the' exams to take. MACPA exams were known to be very challenging but many pursued it and many passed, and have done very well in their careers.

Eventually, MACPA became known as MICPA, and in 2009 they joined forces with the Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia (ICAA) to offer the MICPA-ICAA Programme – open to accounting graduates from accredited universities. This new Programme provides graduates with 2 qualifications and titles – Certified Public Accountant, Malaysia and Chartered Accountant, Australia. With this dual qualification, graduates also receive the Global Accounting Alliance (GAA) Passport which makes them part of a global network of over 800,000 professionals around the world.

This dispels the general misconception that MICPA is only recognised locally. To set the record straight, MICPA has always been and still is an internationally-recognised qualification. MICPA is a founding member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), making it a well-respected, internationally-recognised professional accounting body. Its standards meet and exceed prescribed benchmarks.

Evidence of this is found in two MICPA-qualified accountants who are currently residing and working overseas. They have enjoyed an international career spanning two decades as MICPA professionals.

Hezelina Hashim graduated with a double major in Marketing with a specialisation in International Business. "I loved the course so much that I thought that was where my career would be. When I returned to Malaysia, my father recommended that I do an accounting professional qualification with one of the Big Four firms and that's exactly what I did" said Hezelina.

She started her career in Andersen and was seconded to Reading, UK in her second year at the firm. "At the end of twelve months, they offered to extend my secondment. Subsequently, they offered to make my stay permanent," shared Hezelina.

Hezelina, who is currently attached to BDO in UK said that she chose to stay in this profession because she enjoys what she does. She loves the challenges her job brings. She said that each day is different and she has the opportunity to meet many different people from different backgrounds, which is very exciting.

Rita Wong Bunney, a Financial Consultant at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia moved to the land Down Under ten years ago and has enjoyed a diverse career since then. "I managed to find work within two weeks after I landed in Australia ten years ago, and never had much problem in finding work since then. One of the interviewers told me that the moment they saw that I was a MICPA-qualified Malaysian accountant, they had faith in me and hired me," she said.

They both agree that the MICPA qualification has given them an edge over their peers making them the more preferred choice for employers.

“The MICPA programme was very challenging and the hands-on training that I received at Andersen was instrumental in how I view the business world. I tend to see the big picture which helps in coming up with solutions. The benefits that you get from going through the professional accounting programme are immeasurable,” said Hezelina.

“I believe that my MICPA qualification is very appealing to employers as we are well-grounded technically and have real-life experience,” shared Rita.

MICPA has approximately 15% of its members working overseas attesting to the fact that the qualification is indeed internationally-recognised. Both Hezelina and Rita are perfect examples of this statement.

They both share the belief that the structure of MICPA’s Programme equipped them with important skills that have come to serve them well in their profession.

“I am very proud to be a MICPA member. The qualification gave me good grounding to excel as a professional accountant. Suffice to say there haven't been any negative moments in my 20 years with MICPA!” exclaimed Rita.

“The qualification has enabled me to work on par with my colleagues here in the UK. There has never been an issue. If you are willing to learn and adapt, then you will be fine,” said Hezelina.

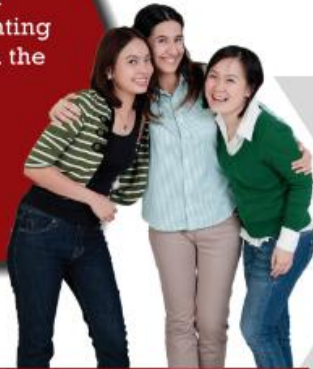
Hezelina’s advice to future accountants is to grab all the opportunities that one can and don’t shy away from any challenges. She added: “If you love meeting new people, learning about different companies and industries, and always learning new things everyday of your career, then this profession is for you.

For more details on the 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



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2 Qualifications
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