

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



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Benefits of internship

INTERNSHIPS are a great way to gain work experience and build up a resume.

It is also a fantastic tool for networking in your chosen field and the opportunity to discover new fields of work or weed out the aspects you find aren't suitable for your long-term career goals.

Many business leaders see the value in graduates who have gained relevant work experience while still at university.

The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA), through its Students Sponsorship Programme (SSP), provides more than that.

Besides an internship placement with top-tier organisations, candidates will be offered sponsorship to begin the pursuit of highly regarded professional accounting qualification and a full-time job upon graduation.

Candidates will get a head start in the MICPA-ICAA Programme offered jointly by MICPA and the Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia (ICAA), providing graduates with two qualifications and two titles – Certified Public Accountant, Malaysia and Chartered Accountant, Australia.

Three accounting undergraduates, who are current SSP candidates, share their experience.

Ahmad Zulhilmi Abdul Razak, a 23-year-old Bachelor of Accounting student from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and former intern



(From left) Ahmad Zulhilmi, Norizah and Hoh.

of KPMG, said: "On my first day, I was eager to learn all about the working world and audit life. I was so thrilled to see the enthusiasm of other students. It really motivated me."

Norizah Marzuki, aged 24, is a Bachelor of Accounting student at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). She just completed her six-month internship at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and shared her first day experience: "At first I was nervous, but the warm welcome gave me a sense of comfort and belonging."

Yvonne Hoh is a 23-year-old Bachelor of Accounting student from Universiti of Malaya (UM).

A former intern at Deloitte, she

talked about her first day experience. "Initially, I was nervous. But the friendly Deloitte team put my fears to rest, especially during my on-boarding experience. This was also an opportunity for me to meet people."

As an intern, you can expect to be assigned to a team where you will be required to support your seniors while gaining on-the-job-training.

The three candidates learnt how to apply management assertions and audit procedures in a real working environment.

They also learnt about related company law, regulations, various accounting software and more.

They affirmed the importance of communication and interpersonal

skills and learnt to be responsible for their own actions and at the same time, identify their strengths and weaknesses.

On why they chose SSP, both Norizah and Ahmad explained that it gave them the opportunity to secure an internship placement and a job with highly reputable firms after graduation.

Also, being able to pursue their professional accreditation before graduation gives them an advantage over their peers.

As for Hoh, the benefit of working at a reputable organisation, which was willing to sponsor her cost to study the MICPA-ICAA Programme, was the deciding factor.

All of them agreed that studying

while working is not easy but with good time management skills, it is not impossible.

The study leave granted by the firms and advice from their seniors helped them prepare for their exams.

Some unique features of the programme include "open-book" exams and minimal classroom requirements, whereby candidates have 24/7 access to a full-fledged e-learning portal and are able to manage their own time and plan their study schedule.

The average pass rate among SSP candidates has reached 77.6%.

For the four technical modules, Taxation candidates achieved an average pass rate of 90%; Financial Accounting & Reporting – 79%; Management Accounting and Applied Finance – 54% and Audit and Assurance – 73%.

The pass rate for the final module of the programme is 100%.

These results speak for themselves and reinforce the fact that MICPA-ICAA candidates are high achievers.

"I will definitely recommend SSP to my juniors. It is like killing two birds with one stone – you start your professional programme before graduating and secure a job offer. It is a good stepping stone for students," said Ahmad.

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

Life As An Accounting Intern

Internships are a great way to gain work experience and build up a resume. It goes a long way during a job hunt. It is also a fantastic tool for networking and making connections in your chosen field. You will have a first-hand view of how subjects learnt at school and university relate to real-life work experience. There is also the opportunity to discover new fields of work that you may not have known about or weed out the aspects that you find aren't suitable to your long-term career goals. Many business leaders see the value in graduates who have gained relevant work experience while still at university.

The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) through its Students Sponsorship Programme (SSP) provides more than that – apart from an internship placement with top-tier organisations, candidates will be offered sponsorship to begin the pursuit of highly-regarded professional accounting qualification and a full-time job upon graduation. Candidates will get a head start in the MICPA-ICAA Programme offered jointly by MICPA and the Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia (ICAA), providing graduates with two qualifications and two titles – Certified Public Accountant, Malaysia and Chartered Accountant, Australia.

Three passionate accounting undergraduates who are current SSP candidates share their internship experience as well as their thoughts about the Programme.

Ahmad Zulhilmi Bin Abdul Razak, a 23-year old Bachelor of Accounting student from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) a former intern from KPMG said: "On my first day, I was so eager to learn all about the working world and audit life. I wanted to gain as much experience as possible. I was so thrilled to see the enthusiasm of other students. It really motivated me."

Norizah Binti Marzuki, aged 24 is a Bachelor of Accounting student at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). She just completed her 6-month internship at PwC and had this to say about her first day: "At first I was nervous, but the warm welcome by PwC took any nervous feelings away. I felt comfortable with a sense of belonging."

Yvonne Hoh is a 23 year-old Bachelor of Accounting student from Universiti of Malaya (UM). A former intern at Deloitte she shared about her first day: "Initially I was nervous but my fears were laid to rest by the friendly Deloitte team especially during my on-boarding experience. This was also my opportunity to meet many different people."

It is true that working at an accounting firm is not easy. You have to prepare yourself for hard work but the tasks are never mundane. You will be taught new skills and gather valuable knowledge that will mould you into an exceptional accountant. However, no matter how stressful the job, our three interns have nothing but positivity on the experience they gained. They commented that all their colleagues and superiors were very tolerant, patient and always willing to teach and guide them.

As an intern you can expect to be assigned to a team where you will be required to support your seniors while gaining on-the-job-training. Your day-to-day tasks will usually entail liaising with clients, stock-take, preparation of letters, vouching, journal voucher testing, statutory audit, minor audit work with supervision from senior team members and much more.

Our three candidates learnt how to apply management assertions and audit procedures in a real working environment. They also learnt about related company law, regulations, various accounting software and much more. They affirmed the importance of communication and interpersonal skills especially when liaising with clients and colleagues. They learnt to be responsible for their own actions and at the same time identifying their strengths and weaknesses.

When asked why they chose SSP, both Norizah and Ahmad explained that it gave them the opportunity to secure an internship placement and a job offer post graduation with highly reputable firms. Additionally, they would be able to pursue their professional accreditation before graduation giving them an advantage over their peers.

As for Yvonne, the benefit of working at a reputable organisation which was willing to sponsor the expenses to study the MICPA-ICAA Programme was the main deciding factor. "MICPA-ICAA is a very marketable qualification in Malaysia as well as in other countries. My uncle is also a MICPA member and he served as a role model. I want to be as successful as him one day," said Yvonne.

They all agree that studying while working is not easy but with proper time management, it is achievable. The study leave granted by the firms and advice from their seniors helped them prepare for their exams.

"My schedule was quite packed because I sometimes work overtime to assist my senior and on the weekend I attend MICPA tuition classes. Coupled with my personal chores I couldn't find the time to study at first. Then I learnt to juggle my schedule better and everything has been running smoothly since," said Norizah.

Some unique features of the Programme are that the exams are based on an 'open-book' concept and there are minimal classroom requirements to burden the candidates. Candidates have 24-7 access to a full-fledged e-learning portal and are able to manage their own time and plan out their study schedule.

The average pass rate amongst SSP candidates has reached 77.6%. For the 4 technical modules, Taxation candidates achieved an average pass rate of 90%; Financial Accounting & Reporting - 79%; Management Accounting & Applied Finance - 54%; and Audit & Assurance - 73%. More significantly, the pass rate for the final module of the Programme is 100%. These results speak for themselves and reinforce the fact that MICPA-ICAA candidates are high achievers.

"I will definitely recommend SSP to my juniors. It is like killing two birds with one stone – You start your professional programme before graduating and you secure a job offer. This puts you a step ahead of your peers. It is a good stepping stone for students," said Ahmad.

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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+
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