

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



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(From left) PPAS-MICPA scholars Nur Syahira, Alia Khaleeda and Mohammad Hazim.

## Chance to shine

THE Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) is the nation's sole professional accounting body. Founded in 1958, its membership is highly regarded globally.

A revamp of its professional programme in 2009 resulted from a collaboration between MICPA and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ) which used to be known as Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia (ICAA).

CAANZ's Chartered Accountants Programme is available in Malaysia through MICPA. Candidates of the MICPA-CAANZ Programme have shown strong performances, with an average pass rate of 70% to date.

This has encouraged bodies such as Yayasan Peneraju Pendidikan Bumiputera (YPPB) to work with MICPA on the advancement of young bumiputra accountants through sponsorships of eligible students.

The PPAS-MICPA sponsorship is a unique hybrid programme that had its first intake in September 2016. Candidates complete two out of five modules full time for the first nine

months. Classes comprise two components - tuition for the MICPA-CAANZ Programme and a Nurture and Development Programme that builds confidence and soft skills.

Towards the end of their full-time study, candidates are facilitated into full-time employment with reputable accounting firms including the Big Four, where they will be sponsored to complete the remaining three modules on a part-time basis while gaining practical work experience.

One of the scholars, UITM Puncak Alam graduate Nur Syahira Rusli, shared: "Our nation is short of bumiputra accountants. It is my greatest aspiration to be one of them so I can promote the importance of accounting to students in Malaysia."

Universiti Sains Malaysia graduate Alia Khaleeda Mohd Amin said her English skills improved greatly after eight months in the programme.

"The MICPA-CAANZ qualification is gaining popularity in Malaysia because many employers are now looking for individuals with this qualification," she added.

She said that the course structure, which combines assignments, classroom participation and open book examinations, makes it more effective in developing the professional skills required by today's employers.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia graduate Mohammad Hazim Md Lani said, "I encourage those keen to pursue a professional qualification to grab this opportunity as it helps to develop one as an individual before embarking on a career in accounting. The sponsorship covers tuition fees, exam fees, accommodation and allowances. I loved that they provided comfortable and safe accommodation located within walking distance to Taylor's College, as well as knowledgeable and dedicated tutors."

Applications are currently open for the next intake of the PPAS-MICPA sponsorship, which will commence in September.

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## Golden Opportunities for Future Accountants

Accounting education does not end after obtaining a Bachelor's degree in accounting. The next step is to obtain a professional accounting qualification, which then leads to lifelong learning to ensure one's skills and knowledge are consistently up-to-date and in line with industry requirements.

The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) is the only Malaysian professional accounting body, founded in 1958 – its membership carries prestige and is highly-regarded not just in Malaysia, but globally. A revamp of its professional programme in 2009 resulted from a collaboration between MICPA and Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand (CAANZ) (then known as Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia (ICAA)). CAANZ's Chartered Accountants Programme is made available in Malaysia through MICPA with its Taxation module customized to the Malaysian environment.

Candidates of the joint MICPA-CAANZ Programme have shown strong performance in all 5 modules, producing an average pass rate of 70% to-date. This proven track record and quality education provided by the Programme have encouraged bodies such as Yayasan Peneraju Pendidikan Bumiputera (YPPB) to work with MICPA on the advancement of young Bumiputera accountants in Malaysia through the offering of sponsorships to eligible students.

The 'PPAS-MICPA' sponsorship is a one-of-a-kind hybrid programme that had its first intake in September 2016. Candidates complete 2 out of 5 modules on a full-time basis for the first 9 months. Classes comprise 2 components – tuition for the MICPA-CAANZ Programme and a Nurture & Development Programme (NDP) that focuses on building confidence and soft skills. Towards the end of full-time study, candidates are facilitated into full-time employment with reputable accounting firms including the Big 4, where they will be sponsored to complete the remaining 3 modules on a part-time basis whilst gaining the required practical work experience.

It has been 8 months since the first batch of 20 candidates started the Programme, and the results have been remarkable – they achieved a 100% pass rate for their 1<sup>st</sup> module, with their 2<sup>nd</sup> module underway. They are currently being placed into accounting firms with this process due to complete soon.

One of the scholars, Nur Syahira Binti Rusli, a graduate from UiTM Puncak Alam shares that “Our nation is very short of Bumiputera professional accountants. It is my greatest aspiration to be one of them so that I can promote the importance of accounting to students in Malaysia.”

Another scholar, Alia Khaleeda Mohd Amin, a graduate from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) said she saw a marked improvement in her English skills after 8 months in the Programme. She shares, “I have grown in my interpersonal, communication and leadership skills. Now I am able to converse in English more fluently and comfortably and have developed more self-confidence.”

Nur Syahira echoed similar sentiments about the Programme: “It has developed my interpersonal and communication skills. I've learned to be more open-minded and to accept and respect other's opinions. I'm also more confident in sharing my views with others.”

Alia Khaleeda has no qualms about her decision to join the programme: “The MICPA-CAANZ qualification is gaining popularity in Malaysia because many employers are now looking for individuals with this qualification. This will enhance my employability and enable me to secure a good job in a renowned organization. I am getting the upper hand to adapt to the course before entering working life.” She adds that the course structure which combines assignments, classroom

participation and open book examinations makes it more effective in developing the professional skills required by today's employers.

Mohammad Hazim Bin Md Lani, a scholar & graduate from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) opines: "This is one of the best scholarships on offer for professional accounting. Just 5 modules within 3 years which include 9 months of full-time study and 27 months of part-time study and you can apply the knowledge gained in your work. After 3 years, you will qualify as a Certified Public Accountant, Malaysia and Chartered Accountant, Australia & New Zealand – and then you can focus on other life goals. The past 8 months have been an excellent opportunity for me to adapt to the professional papers and learn how to tackle them."

He further adds: "I would definitely encourage those who would like to pursue a professional qualification to grab this opportunity as it leads you one step closer to achieving your dream and most importantly it helps develop yourself as an individual before embarking on a career in accounting. The sponsorship covers tuition fees, exam fees, accommodation and allowances. I loved that they provided us with comfortable and safe accommodation, conveniently located within walking distance to classes at Taylor's College. We were also provided with knowledgeable & dedicated tutors. What more could you ask for? Under this programme, you've got all you need to succeed in your professional studies."

Applications are currently open for the next intake of the PPAS-MICPA sponsorship which will commence in September 2017.

**For more information about MICPA and the PPAS-MICPA sponsorship:**

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## MICPA-CAANZ SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

### This sponsorship offers:

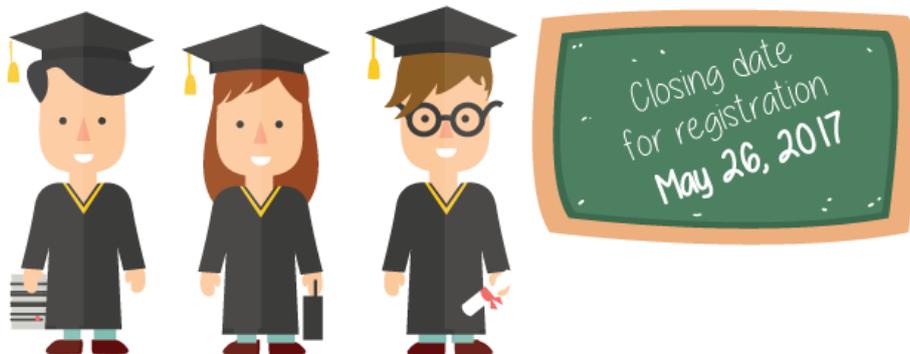
- Sponsorship of MICPA-CAANZ Programme fees
- Full-time study for first 9 months of the Programme:
  - + Attempt 2 out of 5 modules of the MICPA-CAANZ Programme
  - + Attend Nurture & Development Programme
  - + MICPA-CAANZ Programme tuition classes
  - + Provision of monthly allowances during full-time study
- Facilitation of job placement after completion of full-time study
- Part-time study for remaining 3 modules (tuition classes held on weekends)

#### Note:

- This programme is currently only offered in the Klang Valley
- Candidates should complete all 5 modules within 3 years (inclusive of the 9 months full-time study)

### Eligibility Criteria:

- Bumiputera
- 25 years old & below
- Completed or will be completing a Degree in Accounting accredited by MICPA or CAANZ before the Programme commences in Sept 2017
- Minimum final CGPA of 3.0
- Complete assessments & attend interview



Scan here to register



Contact MICPA

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