

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



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ACCOUNTING is one of the rare fields of study in commerce that can lead to professional status alongside the ranks of doctors, lawyers, engineers and pharmacists, to name a few. The expertise, knowledge and experience held by professional accountants have made them trusted advisers and strategists to businesses. However, the path from an accounting degree holder to a professional accountant is not easy and therefore, accurately fits the adage "the road less travelled".

In today's competitive environment, it helps to have an edge especially when it comes to securing a future career. The MICPA-CAANZ Programme is a dual qualification jointly offered by The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ) – two highly regarded professional accounting bodies with global recognition. Programme graduates who have met the required three-year work experience and training can automatically become members of both bodies.

Head start in accounting

Programme graduates also have access to the Global Accounting Alliance – a group of 10 premier accounting bodies across 11 countries worldwide and are able to obtain technical and membership support from these bodies at no extra cost.

This bodes well for professional accountants with a high level of global mobility in their careers and who would benefit greatly from the strong professional network and support available.

A key feature of the MICPA-CAANZ Programme is the well-rounded training it provides in developing strong application skills and analytical thinking.

Workshop and examination questions simulate real life, which requires a keen understanding of accounting theories and concepts and then knowing how to apply these to actual business scenarios, incorporating a deeper understanding of businesses

and how to strategise. With the requirement to work and study hand-in-hand, the programme is designed to be self-study. However, candidates have the option of getting a head start by commencing two out of five modules in the fourth and final year of an accredited degree in accounting.

Often done alongside an internship placement, which is mandatory for local four-year accounting degrees, candidates can complete the taxation and financial accounting and reporting modules.

Muhamad Syahid Mohd Yusoff, a final year Bachelor of Accounting student from Universiti Teknologi Mara Puncak Alam is one such student who took up the challenge to start the MICPA-CAANZ Programme earlier this year.

He shared his reasons: "I wanted to start developing my professional skills early and prepare for my future career as an accountant. Commencing the programme in

my final year gave me the chance to develop both technical and soft skills and I saw how far I could stretch myself. I also wanted to step out of my comfort zone as I knew it would not be easy to study while doing my internship."

He has since passed the two modules and attributed his success to sticking to the goal he had set – to complete his professional exams within three years, managing his time and prioritising well and most importantly, to ensure complete understanding of the areas covered.

"For me, signing up for the optional tuition classes helped as I was able to clear any doubts I had with the lecturer. Studying in a group was also helpful as we had each other to bounce ideas off and confirm our understanding of the study material," he said.

"As employers today are looking for something different, the MICPA-CAANZ qualification



Muhamad Syahid completed two out of five modules in his final year of university.

will definitely give me the edge when applying for a job and I'm looking forward to entering the next phase of my life, which is starting my career in accounting."

■ For details on the MICPA-CAANZ Programme, call the Marketing Department at 03-2698 9622 or e-mail eileen.mktg@micpa.com.my

Head start in accounting

Accounting is one of the rare fields of study in commerce that can lead on to professional status along the ranks of doctors, lawyers, engineers and pharmacists, to name a few. The expertise, knowledge and experience held by professional accountants have made them trusted advisors and strategists to businesses. However, the path from an accounting degree holder to a professional accountant is not an easy one, and hence quite accurately fits the adage of being 'the road less travelled'.

In such a competitive environment today, it helps to have an edge over your peers especially when it comes to securing a future career. The MICPA-CAANZ Programme is a dual qualification jointly offered by The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ) – two very highly-regarded professional accounting bodies with global recognition. Programme graduates who have met the required 3-year work experience and training can automatically become members of both bodies.

Programme graduates also have access to the Global Accounting Alliance, or GAA, a group of 10 premier accounting bodies across 11 countries worldwide, and are able to obtain technical and membership support from these bodies at no extra cost. This bodes well for professional accountants who have a high level of global mobility in their careers and who would benefit greatly from the strong professional network and support available to them.

A key feature of the MICPA-CAANZ Programme is the well-rounded training it provides to its candidates in developing strong application skills and analytical thinking. Workshop and exam questions simulate real life which requires a keen understanding of accounting theories and concepts, and then knowing how to apply these to actual business scenarios, thus incorporating a deeper understanding of businesses and how to strategize.

With the requirement to work and study hand in hand, the Programme is designed to be self-study. However, candidates have the option of getting a headstart by commencing 2 out of 5 of its modules in the 4th and final year of an accredited degree in accounting. Often done alongside an internship placement which is made mandatory for local 4-year accounting degrees, candidates can complete the Taxation and Financial Accounting & Reporting modules.

Muhamad Syahiid Bin Mohd Yusoff, a final year Bachelor of Accounting student from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Puncak Alam is one such student who took up the challenge to start the MICPA-CAANZ Programme earlier this year. He shares his reasons for doing so: "I wanted to start developing my professional skills early and prepare myself for my future career as an accountant. Commencing the Programme in my final year gave me the chance to develop both technical and soft skills and I saw how far I could stretch myself. I also wanted to step out of my comfort zone as I knew it would not be easy to study whilst doing my internship. "

He has since passed the 2 modules, and attributes his success to sticking to the goal he had set, which is to complete his professional exams within 3 years, managing his time and prioritising well, and most importantly to ensure complete understanding of the areas covered. "For me, having signed up for the optional tuition classes helped as I was able to clear any doubts I had with the lecturer. Studying in a group was also helpful as we had each other to bounce ideas off and confirm our understanding of the study material," he explains.

Muhammad Syahiid adds, "As employers today are looking for something different, the MICPA-CAANZ qualification will definitely give me the edge when applying for a job and I'm looking forward to entering the next phase of my life which is starting my career in accounting."

For more info on the MICPA-CAANZ Programme, please contact the Marketing Department (Tel: 03-2698 9622) or email eileen.mktg@micpa.com.my

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MICPA-CAANZ PROGRAMME

1 PROGRAMME GIVES YOU
2 QUALIFICATIONS CPA(M) & CA(ANZ)
3 AWARDED BY COUNTRIES

When can I start?

Option 1
Upon completion of Degree

- Secure employment with an Approved Training Employer (ATE)
- Commence MICPA-CAANZ Programme whilst gaining practical experience

Option 2
Get a headstart with the Students Sponsorship Programme (SSP)

- Get sponsored by a participating employer to do the MICPA-CAANZ Programme
- Start 2 out of 5 modules in final year of a recognised accounting degree
- Obtain an internship placement
- Receive a conditional job offer before graduation
- Sponsorship for remaining 3 modules whilst gaining practical experience

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