

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



Press Clipping

PUBLICATION : The Star

SECTION : Work and Study Page 1

DATE : April 24, 2018

TITLE : A Professional Accounting Pathway

A professional accounting pathway

THE idea of studying to become a chartered accountant (CA) or certified public accountant (CPA) often invokes images of intense struggle, stress and sleepless nights.

It is no secret that the path to becoming a professional accountant requires determination, perseverance and focus.

With accounting becoming a popular field of undergraduate study, it has become necessary to have more than just a degree.

Receiving a professional qualification can help one progress further in her career.

However, with myriad professional courses available, it can be daunting for a fresh graduate to decide her next step.

A joint programme offered by two prestigious professional bodies – the Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) and Chartered Accountants

Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ) – the MICPA-CAANZ programme is fast becoming the qualification of choice for

accounting graduates and employers alike due to its many benefits. It provides



Teoh Hwee Chee.

graduates with two memberships and qualifications – CPA (Malaysia) and CA (Australia and New Zealand) – both of which are recognised globally.

Members also have access to the Global Accounting Alliance (GAA), a group of 10 prestigious accounting bodies from 11 countries.

The GAA passport lets members obtain technical support from their local GAA bodies without having to pay a fee. This benefit is useful for accounting professionals looking to embark on a global career.

The programme requires candidates to work and study

“I organised my study load by arranging my studying around peak periods at work and personal downtime.”

Drew Siow

concurrently for at least three out of five modules. The MICPA-CAANZ requires three years of work-study experience but it is possible to complete all five modules within two years.

Examinations are open-book with questions based on real-world scenarios. The programme is focused on developing candidates' application skills and analytical thinking.

Drew Siow qualified as a CPA and CA in 2016 during his three years of gaining audit experience in PwC Malaysia. He has since moved on to PwC Australia, where he is a senior auditor.

According to him, being able to relate his lessons to his work improved his understanding of the course material and real-world applications.

“Studying while working instilled discipline in me, which has been useful in defining priorities in my career and personal life.

“I organised my study load by arranging my studying around peak periods at work and personal downtime.”

Siow did well in the programme, becoming a top scorer in Malaysia and winning Gold Medals for three modules of the programme.

Teoh Hwee Chee is another recent graduate who is obtaining practical experience as a tax consultant at KPMG Malaysia. She completed two of the MICPA-CAANZ modules during her degree and the remaining three while working.

She says that working while studying has given her better insight into how a business operates across various industries. As for how she managed to study while working full-time, she shares, “Planning is necessary but self-discipline is just as important.”

Siow and Teoh kept in touch with colleagues and friends pursuing the same module to share learning materials, tips and useful resources.

■ For more information on the MICPA-CAANZ, call 03-2698 9622, e-mail info@micpa.com.my or visit www.micpa.com.my

A Professional Accounting Pathway

The mention of studying to become a Chartered Accountant (CA) or Certified Public Accountant (CPA) often invokes images of intense struggle, stress and sleepless nights. It is no secret that the path to becoming a professional accountant requires sheer determination, perseverance and focus on attaining the goal. With accounting becoming a very popular field of study of choice at the undergraduate level, it has become a necessity to go beyond just having a degree, to holding a professional qualification in order to progress further in one's career. However, with the wide number of professional courses available, it can be daunting for a fresh graduate in deciding their next step. It is undoubtedly one of the biggest decisions in an accountant's life.

The MICPA-CAANZ Programme is fast becoming the qualification of choice for both accounting graduates and employers alike, due to the many benefits it offers. A joint Programme offered by 2 prestigious professional bodies – The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ), it provides its graduates with 2 memberships and 2 qualifications – the CPA (M) and CA (ANZ) titles, both of which are globally-recognised. Additionally, members will have access to the Global Accounting Alliance (GAA), a group of 10 prestigious accounting bodies in 11 countries. The significance of the GAA passport is the ability to obtain technical and membership support from the local GAA bodies without having to pay any additional fees to them. This is something very useful for accounting professionals embarking on a global career.

The mechanics of the Programme require candidates to work and study concurrently for at least 3 out of its 5 modules. As with any other profession, whether it is the field of medicine, engineering, pharmacy, or law, the practical aspect of work experience is a necessity in order to truly call yourself a professional as what matters most is how theoretical knowledge is applied in the real world. This qualification requires 3 years of work experience whilst concurrently completing the examinations,

however it is possible to complete all 5 modules within 2 years. As the exams are open book, and exam questions based on real life business scenarios, it is very much focused on developing a candidate's application skills and analytical thinking – very necessary attributes in the working world.

Drew Siow qualified as a CPA and CA in 2016 after 3 years of gaining audit experience in PwC Malaysia and has since moved to PwC in Australia where he is a Senior Auditor. He concurs that he was able to improve his understanding of the learning materials and its application in real life as he could relate what he had learnt from each module directly to his work. He adds, "Studying while working instilled a discipline in me from the early part of my career, which has proven very useful in managing competing priorities at work and in my personal life." He shares his tips to handling work and study – "Be organized and plan ahead. I managed my study load by systematically breaking up the reading and studying into carefully proportioned sections, taking into consideration the peak periods at work and personal down time." He also emphasizes the need to stay connected with colleagues and friends pursuing the same module. He formed a support group to share learning materials, tips and useful resources. Drew did very well in the Programme, obtaining top scores in Malaysia and winning Gold Medals for 3 modules of the Programme.

Another recent graduate, Teoh Hwee Chee is currently obtaining her practical experience as a Tax consultant in KPMG Malaysia. She completed 2 modules during her final year of her accounting degree at Multimedia University, Cyberjaya campus, and the remaining 3 modules whilst working. She too agrees that working while studying has helped give her stronger insights into how a business works and operates within various industries and she is able to relate the topics learned to the real world. This in turn helped her to apply her knowledge when dealing with the various clients she works with. As for how she managed studying whilst working full-time, she shares, "Planning is key, but being self-disciplined is just as necessary as I had to remain focused especially when I had planned for my study time and ensure that I stick to my priorities. I also tried to study smart by focusing on the learning outcomes and ensuring that I understood the key points." She also ensured she kept connected to her network of friends and colleagues who were pursuing the same module as they were able to share insights and ideas, and have discussions with each other.

These young members are proof that the hard work pays off in many ways – not just in developing technical know-how, but also by molding them into well-rounded individuals with resilience, focus and determination. They both have no regrets over their choice to pursue the MICPA-CAANZ qualifications and would readily recommend it to anyone who is eligible to do so.

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

INFINITE POSSIBILITIES MICPA-CAANZ PROGRAMME



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

- + Self-study
- + Open book exams
- + Dual Membership
- + 70% average pass rate
- + Recognition by employers
- + Enhances candidates' application skills
- + Global Accounting Alliance (GAA) Passport

THE MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS (MICPA) (3246-U)
www.micpa.com.my | +603-26989622



theMICPA



MICPAchannel