



**THE INSTITUTE
OF CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS**
IN ENGLAND AND WALES

VITAL

issue 31 – winter 2006 the magazine for ICAEW students

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Welcome to the accountants crime scene!

SPOTLIGHT ON

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LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS

Have you got what it takes?



VITAL DETAILS

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WELCOME

WELCOME

Well, with the first month of 2007 having just passed us, have you managed to stick to your New Year's resolutions? Maybe you chose to lead a healthier lifestyle and give up a few of life's luxuries or maybe you decided to make this your best ever professional year? Whatever it was, the beginning of a new year is the ideal opportunity for change and improvement.

I'm sure by now you must be aware of the new logo and brand makeover the Institute launched last month. Whilst it still maintains the essence of the ICAEW, it now portrays a more modern feel which is subsequently reflected in your new look VITAL magazine. We hope you like it!

This issue is packed with helpful career advice and takes a closer look at the world of forensic accountancy (see page 6).

If you're the type of person who loves to take the lead and rise to a challenge, you'll want to sign up to the 2007 Leadership Essentials programme. Read our article on page 4 to find out more.

And finally, as always you can count on us to bring you a new range of student offers. See page 5 for these new exciting benefits.

NEW YEAR, NEW BRAND



**THE INSTITUTE
OF CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS**

IN ENGLAND AND WALES

The Institute has embarked on a major new re-branding project to redesign and evolve the ICAEW brand mark and corporate identity. Since its foundation in 1880, *Economia*, the familiar lady who has been the symbol of the Institute, has undergone a few minor tweaks in the past, but this time she has received a full makeover.

She still represents the true values of good management and continues to carry items of significance:

- the rod, signifying command
- the rudder, the symbol of guidance
- pair of compasses or dividers, denoting accurate measurement.

The new logo retains the heritage of the older version but the new prestigious and modern design looks to the future and stands for quality.

It's the result of many months work with the Institute's marketing team, volunteer members, various surveys and consultations to not only redesign the brand mark but also define what the Institute represents and its core values going forward.

We'd love to hear any comments you have about our new look and identity. Why not drop us a line at VITAL@icaew.com and share your thoughts with us.

SEPTEMBER CHANGES TO WORK-BASED LEARNING

Over the last year we have been reviewing Work-Based Learning with the intention of updating and enhancing the current approach in time for the launch of the new ACA. As a result, from September Work-Based Learning will be replaced by Initial Professional Development (IPD), a scheme which looks at student progression over the three year training contract and provides you with the skills and attributes needed to be a successful ACA.

IPD will help prepare you for exam success, while also assessing and developing those skills not covered in the exams, such as:

- learning from more experienced colleagues
- collaborating with peers
- developing a negotiation in a clear and fair manner.

Such skills will become progressively more challenging over the three year training contract.

IPD will also help prepare you for membership Continuing Professional Development (CPD) obligations. In linking IPD

and CPD our aim is to ensure that your transition into membership is seamless.

Skills considered for IPD and CPD fall under the headings of:

- Ethics and professionalism
- Personal effectiveness
- Technical and functional expertise
- Business awareness
- Professional judgment.

As an existing student, you will have the choice of moving to the new system in September or continuing with the current Work-Based Learning framework. We will send you more information nearer the time but if you would like to know more about IPD email kirsten.denoven@icaew.com

INDUSTRY NEWS

BANKS LOSE FAVOUR WITH ACCOUNTANTS

A poll conducted by Venture Finance has revealed that small and medium-sized businesses would rather have an independent financier than depend on a bank. The survey of 105 chartered accountants showed that more than half of these financial professionals believe banks do not offer their clients the best deals. In addition, the accountants were critical of banks' high-pressure foisting of additional expensive services.

Financial Times, 9 December 2006

SOARING FRAUD COSTS BRITISH FIRMS £6BN, SAY ACCOUNTANTS

Accountancy firm BDO Stoy Hayward has claimed that business fraud increased by 40% last year, although this is considered to still only be the tip of the iceberg. Business lost to fraud is reported as £1.37 billion but the true cost is likely to be at least £5 billion higher according to the accountants as it is believed that as few as 15% of frauds are reported to the police.

Evening Standard, 2 January 2007

CHRISTMAS EXCESS BOOSTS INSOLVENCIES

Grant Thornton predicts Christmas stretch will be too much for 10,000 overstretched consumers. Almost 30,000 individuals are set to become insolvent in the first quarter of 2007, almost 10,000 of them as a result of excessive Christmas spending. There were a record number of personal insolvencies in 2006, set to hit 100,000 for the first time ever. Mike Gerrard, head of GT's personal insolvency practice, said: *"I think insolvencies will carry on rising for a while yet, although they may well start to plateau at the end of this year. Some people have been struggling with debts for a while and excessive spending at Christmas could push them over the edge."*

Accountancy Age, 3 January 2007

PAY BOOM AS CITY FACES A FLOOD OF RULES

Regulatory experts in the City have seen wages increase by as much as 25% thanks to a wave of new rules and regulations. Accountancy is experiencing a massive skills shortage whilst demand for experts is growing.

Accountants with two years' experience have seen wages increase from £50,000 to £60,000.

Mail on Sunday, 7 January 2007

EXAM DATES

PROFESSIONAL STAGE

Closing date
15 February 2007

Admission letter
2 March 2007

Exam dates
19, 20, 21 March 2007

Results available from 5pm GMT
27 April 2007

Closing date*
10 May 2007

Admission letter
25 May 2007

Exam dates*
11, 12, 13 June 2007

Results available from 5pm GMT
20 July 2007

ADVANCED STAGE

Closing date*
21 June 2007

Admission letter
6 July 2007

Exam dates*
23, 24, 25 July 2007

Results available from 5pm GMT
31 August 2007

*RESTRICTION

Please note you will **not** be able to apply for the Professional Stage June or the Advanced Stage July sessions until mid-March.

RESULTS SERVICE

To ensure you receive your admission letter and exam results remember to tell us of any changes to your postal or email address by calling us on +44 (0)1908 248 040 or emailing studentsupport@icaew.com



TAKE THE LEAD AND RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

activity-based workshop, raising questions about personal leadership style and development. This is followed by a one day Masterclass in the City of London led by polar explorer Alan Chambers MBE.



new skills in themselves such as project management and personal leadership, as well as enjoying the reward of helping others.

You will gain valuable insights into your personal leadership strengths and development needs, enjoy action learning through personal experience the chance to practice leadership among your peers, and enhanced creativity. You will also have more confidence in your leadership abilities.

For employers, the programme is a chance to engage, motivate and retain top talent, accelerate leadership development and team working potential, as well as improving strategic decision making and bottom line growth.

And there are also real benefits for the people living in Arusha, Tanzania – their lives are being transformed with school renovation, soil conservation, community building and orphanage support projects.



For further information or an application pack please visit: www.icaew.com/leadershipessentials or call +44(0)20 7920 8400.

Book now to avoid disappointment

Getting ahead in today's competitive business environment demands not only knowledge, drive and experience, but also strong and effective leadership skills. As an ACA student you already possess the determination to succeed and are rapidly gaining practical and technical competencies, but how do you learn to become a leader?

The ICAEW is recruiting for this year's Leadership Essentials 2007 programme, an exciting and challenging experience to develop leadership, motivational and management skills in young professionals.

The unique programme comprises a series of practical interactive sessions to help you recognise the life skills and other qualities needed for success in a leadership role, building on your own personal strengths and weaknesses. Leadership Essentials begins with a two day competitive,

You can then extend the course and develop further skills by undertaking a life changing five day charitable project in Tanzania. The programme concludes with the Leadership Essentials Ball, where the overall winning team is announced.

A focus on coaching and personal feedback from experienced professionals throughout the programme allows you to understand your behaviours and how they affect others in your team.

This programme is ideal if you aspire to – or already – lead a team, are being fast tracked as a future finance sector leader or are a generalist manager needing to polish your leadership skills. Almost 700 people have already graduated from the programme, discovering surprising

COMMON CONTENT PROJECT

Bringing consistency to the
accountancy profession

The ICAEW is part of the Common Content Project in which eight leading accountancy Institutes across European countries are collaborating to bring consistency to professional qualifications. The project aims to unify qualifications and ensure they reach the highest standards to meet changing public expectations and maximise common aspects while retaining the national elements unique to each country. After consultation last year, the Common Content Steering Group agreed the syllabus and stipulated the skills needed by professional accountants in all the member countries (France, The Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Scotland, Ireland, England and Wales).

The ICAEW has been developing the new 2007 ACA qualification in parallel with the Common Content work for a number of years, and the content and skills provided by the ACA now meet the Common Content requirements.

BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS AND NEWLY QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANTS

The Common Content joint approach to qualification development ensures the qualifications that meet its standards:

- are globally recognised market leaders
- provide the natural career choice for high flying people
- offer increased staff mobility and flexible career opportunities all over the world.

BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYERS

Qualifications developed under the Common Content joint approach:

- meet public expectations of professional accountants
- focus on the services demanded by clients and employers
- promote common education and training programmes
- provide commercial benefits to firms.

The Common Content Project is now evaluating the opportunity for new bodies, first in Europe and later worldwide, to join the group. The Scandinavian countries and Spain have already expressed a strong interest while, further afield, Canada and Australia are also interested.

For more detail, see the website:

www.commoncontent.com

CURRENT OFFERS

UP TO 60% OFF MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

With the long winter evenings still with us, why not treat yourself to a magazine subscription from Magscriber. With up to 60% discount on leading titles you can afford to treat yourself. To order, visit www.icaew.com/magazines and click on the logo to view the offers.

DISCOUNTS ON GREAT HOLIDAYS

In this issue we are pleased to bring you discounted holidays from Virgin Holidays so get ready for summer and save yourself an exclusive 6% on your break in the sun. For further details visit www.icaew.com/virginholidays

To research or check availability visit www.virginholidays.com before making your booking. Once you have chosen your dream break, simply call 0871 222 0052 and quote 'ICAEW' to get your discount.

Check out our discounted offers on airport parking and executive lounges from BCP, car hire from Hertz and travel insurance from AIG Direct.

www.icaew.com/airportparking
www.icaew.com/carrental
www.icaew.com/travelinsurance

DISCOUNTED LONDON TRAVEL

Do you live or work in London? The Student Oyster Photocard will give you access to discounted bus and tube travel. To apply simply contact Transport for London on 0845 330 9876, selecting options 2, 1, 1 and state you are applying for the placement scheme.

All applications must be accompanied by a letter from the Institute (on ICAEW headed paper) which confirms your eligibility. These were mailed directly to all members of CASSL in December.

If you have not received a letter and wish to apply for a card please contact Student Support on +44 (0)1908 248 040, or email studentsupport@icaew.com

ADD TO YOUR FAVOURITES

Remember that you can take advantage of discounts on a whole host of other offers from a range of leading brands. These are updated regularly so make sure you add www.icaew.com/studentoffers to your favourites.



www.icaew.com/lovefilm



www.icaew.com/amazon



www.icaew.com/johnlewis



www.icaew.com/thewhitecompany



Inspiration of Gifts

www.icaew.com/virginexperience



majestic.co.uk

www.icaew.com/majesticwine



www.icaew.com/cdwow



www.icaew.com/tmlewin

COMPETITION



Magscriber are offering three readers the opportunity to win a year's subscription to one of five titles. Winners will be able to choose from one of the following:

- Good Housekeeping magazine
- BBC Good Food magazine
- BBC Gardener's World magazine
- GQ magazine
- BBC Top Gear magazine.

To participate please login to www.icaew.com/studentoffers and answer a few simple questions.

Terms and conditions apply: Full terms and conditions for the competition can be viewed on the VITAL section of our website: www.icaew.com/studentoffers

WELL DONE TO:

Rebecca Hayes

Rebecca won the flying lesson from Virgin Experience Days

Robert Self

Robert is now the proud owner of five new chart CDs from CD Wow

Both competitions were run in VITAL issue 30.



FINANCIAL CSI

If the early 21st century corporate landscape is typified by complex cross border multi-stakeholder ownership; debt-trading, private equity led mergers, acquisitions, failures and disputes; strict regulatory enforcement and increasing white collar fraud... then who are you gonna call?

OK, so Financial CSI might be a dramatic pseudonym for forensic accounting, but it is apt: instead of a white chalk outline of a body, the forensic accountant's crime scene is a set of accounts and transactions. But both disciplines apply a methodical, diligent investigation to collect and quantify facts, figures and crucially, values.

As an accounting specialism forensic accounting combines accounting, auditing and investigation skills to quantify losses arising from an incident, such as a natural disaster, or a fraud, such as a misappropriation of profits or pension fund by an unscrupulous company director.

So crucially, forensic accounting is not a strictly technical role. Yes, a forensic accountant can be retained to analyse, interpret, summarise and present complex financial and business-related issues. But they have to be presented in a manner that is understandable and properly supported.

They can be engaged in public practice or employed by insurance companies, banks, police forces, government agencies and other organisations to do the following:

- investigating and analysing financial evidence
- developing computerised applications to assist in the analysis and presentation of financial evidence
- communicating their findings in the form of reports, exhibits and collections of documents
- assisting in legal proceedings, including testifying in court as an expert witness and preparing visual aids to support trial evidence.

In order to properly perform these services a forensic accountant must be familiar with legal concepts and procedures. In addition, a forensic accountant must be able to identify substance over form when dealing with an issue.

HOW CAN A FORENSIC ACCOUNTANT BE OF ASSISTANCE?

A forensic accountant can be of assistance in various ways, including:

Investigative Accounting

- Review of the factual situation and provision of suggestions regarding possible courses of action
- Assistance with the protection and recovery of assets
- Co-ordination of other experts, including: Private Investigators, Forensic Document Examiners, Consulting Engineers
- Assistance with the recovery of assets by way of civil action or criminal prosecution.

Litigation Support

- Assistance in obtaining documentation necessary to support or refute a claim
- Review of the relevant documentation to form an initial assessment of the case and identify areas of loss
- Assistance with Examination for Discovery including the formulation of questions to be asked regarding the financial evidence

- Attendance at the Examination for Discovery to review the testimony, assist with understanding the financial issues and to formulate additional questions to be asked
- Review of the opposing expert's damages report and reporting on both the strengths and weaknesses of the positions taken
- Assistance with settlement discussions and negotiations
- Attendance at trial to hear the testimony of the opposing expert and to provide assistance with cross-examination.



WHAT TYPES OF ASSIGNMENTS DOES A FORENSIC ACCOUNTANT PERFORM?

Detailed below are various areas in which a forensic accountant will often become involved:

- criminal Investigations
- shareholders' and Partnership Disputes
- personal Injury Claims/Motor Vehicle Accidents
- business Interruption/Other Types of Insurance Claims
- business/Employee Fraud Investigations
- matrimonial Disputes
- business Economic Losses
- professional Negligence
- mediation and Arbitration.

WHAT CHARACTERISTICS SHOULD A FORENSIC ACCOUNTANT POSSESS?

A capable Forensic Accountant should have the following characteristics:

- curiosity
- persistence
- creativity
- discretion
- well organised
- confidence
- sound professional judgement.

A forensic accountant must be open to consider all alternatives, scrutinise the fine details and at the same time see the big picture. In addition, a forensic accountant must be able to listen effectively and communicate clearly and concisely.

BY WAY OF A SUMMARY...

The forensic accountancy market has seen a great deal of activity in recent years which will continue over at least the next two years. The growth of regulatory compliance requirements, the increase in fraud and the increase in corporate activity has caused growth in demand for forensic accountants and forensic technologists both within and without the profession. In the public sector the creation of the Specialist Organised Crime Agency in April 2006 has also brightened the spotlight on forensic and anti-fraud matters.

Both specialist and generalist accounting firms are keeping a keen eye on the revenue growth generated by forensic work. At least two of the Big Four forensic groups have cited an intention to triple their headcount during the next two to three years. Some of the biggest non-conflict players involved in risk and commercial intelligence are also expanding their forensic arms.

This demand in the short term is having an inflationary impact on salaries. In addition, some of the newer US boutiques are continuing to apply aggressive search and selection campaigns backed by market-beating salaries and offers of dynamic growth and promotion prospects.

GRADUATES

Whereas five years ago only a couple of the specialist forensic boutiques recruited graduates into ACA training contracts (preferring instead to tap into the Big Four newly qualified market) today nearly all of the top and mid tier forensic practices do this. Starting salaries range from £22K to £27K in the Big Four. Top academic qualifications are key. For the more established forensic boutiques, nothing less than a 1st class degree will suffice. For the Big Four, a 2.1 is the accepted minimum. Candidates to look out for are those with analytical prowess, an innate inquisitive nature, and a robust personality. Candidates fluent in more than one language are preferred; with an eye on the West and Eastern Europe forensic market, most firms will pay a premium for such candidates.

NEWLY QUALIFIED TO TWO YEARS POST QUALIFIED (UP TO ASSISTANT MANAGER LEVEL)

Most demand for qualified candidates continues to be at the newly qualified level. Preferred non-forensic candidates will have audit, transaction services or corporate recovery investigative experience (i.e. asset tracing). Salaries for newly qualified candidates from a non-forensic discipline are £38K in the mid-tier to £45K in the Big Four. Boutique firms continue to out pay the Big Four to retain their newly qualified talent. In such firms it is not uncommon to have a one year post-qualified forensic accountant on £50K.

THREE PLUS YEARS POST QUALIFIED (MANAGER AND SENIOR MANAGER)

After newly qualified accountants, the next most sought after candidates are at the Manager and Senior Manager (or Associate Director) level. Salaries here range from £52,000 for a newly promoted manager to £75,000 for a senior manager in the Big Four.

NON-ACCOUNTING CANDIDATES

In addition many firms are bolstering their forensic accounting services with non-accounting forensic or investigative services. Candidates for these roles can come from a skill specific background (quantitative specialists, economists, journalists) or have an industry specialism such as oil & gas, pharmaceuticals or construction. One firm has created a specialist division dedicated to crime in financial services for which non-accountants with a background in banking compliance and risk are ideal.

FORENSIC TECHNOLOGY

There has been a significant increase in demand for IT forensic specialists at junior and senior levels. Due to the ever changing and highly specialist nature of this work, candidates are sought from a global pool including Australia, the Far East and in particular, South Africa which is considered to be some years ahead of the UK in the application of some forensic technology in criminal investigations.



Content supplied by

Michael Page
FINANCE

If you would like further information, please email vital@michaelpage.com

PROFILE

JAINIL GANDHI

Financial Management Consultant
IBM Global Business Services

Degree: Economics
University: Cambridge University

GENERATING INNOVATIVE BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS



I was always keen to work in the professional services industry so after graduating with an Economics degree from Cambridge University, I looked into how I could give myself a head start in my chosen career. I researched many options and found qualifying as an ACA would provide me with the broad range of skills heavily demanded by businesses today.

I wanted to complete my training with one of the "Big Four" firms and so I joined a graduate training programme. I enjoyed the challenges of training and it was rewarding to find that as I progressed through the ACA, my roles and responsibilities changed to reflect the new technical skills I'd acquired. This allowed me to gain practical knowledge and experience that I could actually use in my job which is so important, rather than just text book knowledge. By the time I had qualified, I had planned a global audit, lead audits as the in-charge Field Manager, and advised clients on their conversion to IFRS. Without a doubt, the ACA gave me the confidence and ability to tackle a variety of diverse and challenging roles.

After qualifying, I started to look for new challenges, and being an ACA meant there were plenty of options available for me to choose from. I decided to advance my career by moving into financial management consulting as I wanted to work closely with clients and help enhance their financial processes and systems.

I joined IBM Global Business Services (GBS), one of the leading worldwide consulting firms who help organisations solve their toughest and most complex business problems. As a Financial Management Consultant I help companies maximise the effectiveness of their finance department and help them become more competitive by working collaboratively with the client and other team members to help generate innovative business and financial solutions.

My role means that I am project rather than function or task orientated so I'm always always involved with different services, industries and locations. So far this has included a public sector organisation in Leeds and a FTSE 100 multinational in London, but as our region includes the UK, Ireland and South Africa, I could find myself in a financial institution in Edinburgh or a telecommunications company in Johannesburg.

I'm currently working on advising a global finance transformation where we analyse a company's financial structure right from its roots and recommend changes in systems, processes, procedures, skills and capabilities. Our aim is to improve the delivery of information, the usage of information by Finance's customers, and the relationship between Finance and its clients. The diversity of my job means I'm constantly exposed to a whole range of business issues, each with their own unique set of challenges to be solved.

I enjoy being involved throughout the whole project lifecycle, having to manage the different planning, implementation and evaluation phases through which the projects evolve. I have to get to understand the clients' requirements, design and present the solution to the

"I strongly believe that the skills and experience the ACA has given me are invaluable and have provided me with the capabilities and exposure needed to fulfil demanding roles. Whether you work in practice or industry the ACA provides you with the skills you need to succeed. It's also opened up a whole world of opportunities with regards to my career development."



different stakeholders, such as representatives of business units and those responsible for the financial planning function, and then train all those impacted.

One of my recent projects was to design and implement a financial planning and performance management solution for a diverse multi-billion pound organisation. I love the fact it has allowed me to draw upon the knowledge and experiences of technical and industry experts, accountants, consultants and client staff in devising a bespoke and successful solution.

For anyone considering a career in chartered accountancy, my advice would be to understand the breadth and content of the ACA and to join a strong trainee scheme. Also, always look to create opportunities that develop a broad range of skills and experiences required by business today.

I strongly believe that the skills and experience the ACA has given me are invaluable and have provided me with the capabilities and exposure needed to fulfil demanding roles. Whether you work in practice or industry the ACA provides you with the skills you need to succeed. It's also opened up a whole world of opportunities with regards to my career development.



"As a Financial Management Consultant I help companies maximise the effectiveness of their finance department and help them become more competitive by working collaboratively with the client and other team members to help generate innovative business and financial solutions."

Waterstone's vouchers can be redeemed at branches of Waterstone's, HMV and Hatchards in the UK

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WIN £50 WATERSTONE'S VOUCHERS?

Would you like to win £50 vouchers? If so, just tell us how you got into chartered accountancy and the ACA. We are looking for students, graduates, and people who have taken AAT-ACA Fast Track route. Tell us about your job, your training and how the ACA has helped you.

Maybe you work in an unusual industry or your route into the ACA was extraordinary? Maybe you previously held a completely different job and got into accountancy after deciding on a career change.

We really want to hear from you. Drop us a line telling us a little about yourself and if we choose you, you could win £50 Waterstone's vouchers and have your profile published in VITAL. Email us at VITAL@icaew.com

STUDENT SOCIETIES

GET INVOLVED



by Juan Watterson
ICAEW's National
Student Council
Chairman

We all know that getting through the ACA is tough, and for many of us that means "work hard, play hard". That's where student societies play their part to help to support the social side of student life.

Student societies are run by students for students. They exist to bring people together from large and small firms who are all suffering the same rigorous exams and climbing similar steep learning curves.

SOCIAL EVENTS

As an ACA student you are automatically enrolled in your local student society free of charge. It will be organising social events in your local area (*see the list of some upcoming events opposite*). Whether you swarm in as a group from a Big Four, or you are the only student in your firm, you will meet people going through the mill with whom you can share experiences, unwind and enjoy yourself over a few beers or a cup of coffee.

NATIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

For anyone who is interested in the national perspective, National Student Council (NSC) is the governing body for student societies. We provide briefings and feedback to the Institute on national policies including the branding initiative, the new syllabus, future strategy of the Institute, student support, in fact all aspects of student interaction. The NSC elects a chair and vice chair each year to represent the student body to the Institute, and, as this year's Chairman, I sit on the ICAEW's governing council, so students do have a voice at the top of the Institute. I also meet with the student leaders of CIPFA and the Irish Institute.

In addition, the NSC support local student societies, sharing notes on best practice and ideas for events as well as good and bad times to hold them.

FIRST STUDENT SOCIETY HANDBOOK

This year the NSC will launch its first Student Society handbook to help you run your society. Despite our national remit, we are a very welcoming group of minstrels, touring the country for our quarterly meetings and are always happy to welcome new faces, new ideas and new perspectives on the issues that students face when undertaking their ACA. It doesn't seem like so long ago that I was chairman of the Isle of Man Students' Society, with a membership of fewer than fifty, and I now sit on Council and represent you and over 12,000 other students!

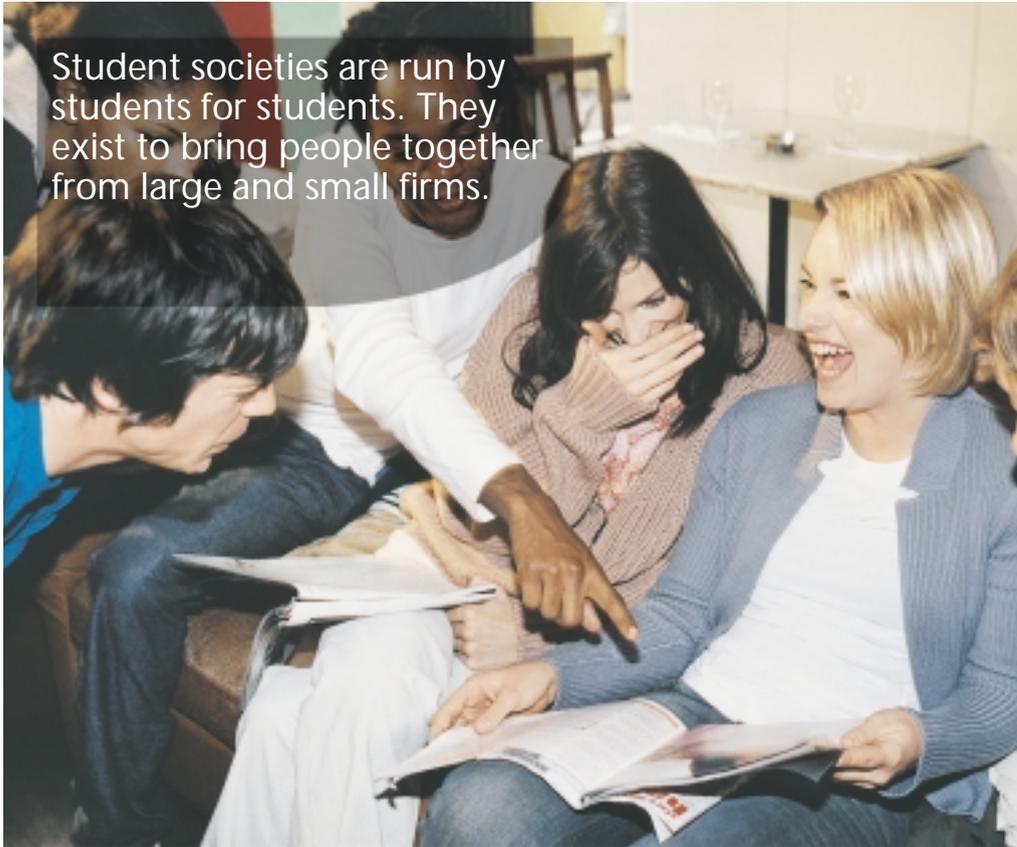
GET INVOLVED!

So the message is simple – get involved! Student societies can be great fun and give you the opportunity to develop leadership, representation and organisation skills, as well as opening the door to the workings of the ICAEW.

There's something for everyone who is willing to get involved, and societies are great breeding grounds for tomorrow's leadership talent.

Chair - Juan Watterson
juan.watterson@gov.im

Student societies are run by students for students. They exist to bring people together from large and small firms.



One of the best ways of picking up additional skills during your training contract can be by getting involved in your local student committee. You can tailor your involvement to suit yourself, you might organise an event or manage the finances (perhaps your first real chance to find out how your clients feel!), meet and greet, or represent your area on National Student Council (NSC).

Of course it all looks good on your CV at the end of the day, and is also a great way of picking up contacts from other firms and recruitment companies.

FREE ONLINE LIBRARY RESOURCE

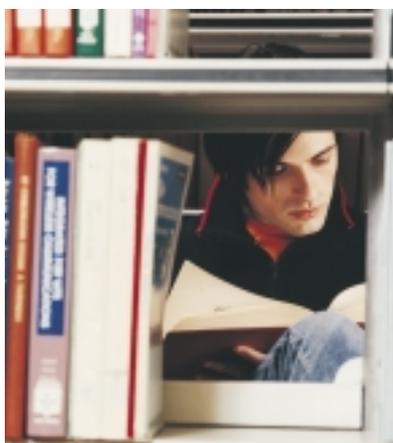
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- **FULL TEXT ARTICLES** from major business and trade magazines and academic journals. There are UK and international journals covering all aspects of business, finance and accounting.
- **INDUSTRY INFORMATION**, covering market overviews, surveys and forecasts.
- **COUNTRY INFORMATION**, covering a wide range of surveys, reports and in-depth analysis.
- **COMPANY INFORMATION**, covering key facts and employees, major products and services, top competitors, locations and subsidiaries for the world's 10,000 biggest companies.
- **PENSIONS INFORMATION**, providing access to NAPF publications on topical pensions issues, including the Made Simple series, PolicyWatch and NAPF research reports.

- **SARBANES OXLEY INFORMATION**, providing up to date news and analysis of important developments under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, with particular emphasis on how these affect non-US companies and individuals.

Institute members and students can access these resources via the LIS eLibr@ry by simply logging into the Institute website www.icaew.com/elibrary

For more information about any of these resources, please contact the Library & Information Service on +44 (0)20 7920 8620 or email library@icaew.com



JOIN THE STUDENT CAREERS ADVISER NETWORK (SCAN)

The Student Recruitment team in the Institute's Learning & Professional Development section is looking for volunteers who are willing to give up a few hours a year to join the Student Careers Adviser Network (SCAN).

SCAN consists of a group of volunteer members and future members, called Student Careers Advisers, who visit schools, colleges and universities in their local area on behalf of the ICAEW, to promote the ACA qualification and careers in chartered accountancy.

No expert knowledge is needed, just a willingness to share experiences, and both Student Careers Advisers and their employers can benefit from the programme.

For example, employers can forge strong links with local schools and colleges, promoting their organisation and their ACA training, and meet potential employees. While Student Careers Advisers can develop communication and presentation skills, meet and network with like-minded qualified and trainee ACAs and work with bright young talent.

To become involved, or for more information, contact Kassia Gardner at kassia.gardner@icaew.com

STUDENT SOCIETY EVENTS

Beds, Bucks & Herts Chartered Accountants Student Society

- 2 March – Gangsters and Molls Ball
Please contact deirdre.hyde@icaew.com

Bristol Chartered Accountants Student Society BADCASS

- February Pub Quiz
- 23 March – Annual Dinner
Please contact badcass@kaliba.net or www.bcass.co.uk

Leicester & Northampton Chartered Accountants Student Society LANCASS

- 2 February – Annual Dinner
Please contact janet.marchant@icaew.com

Northern Chartered Accountants Student Society NCASS

- 23 March – Annual Dinner
Please contact pmrule@yahoo.com

Sheffield & District Chartered Accountant Student Society (SDCASS)

- 16 February – Annual Ball
Please contact sheffieldsca@icaew.com or call +44 (0)11 4292 2415

VITAL is pleased to be supported by Michael Page Finance, international providers of financial recruitment consultancy across all sectors and at all levels.

WISHING ALL OUR
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