



The Institute of Financial Accountants

The Institute of Financial Accountants was established in 1916 and is the oldest body of non Chartered Accountants in the world. It represents members and students in more than 80 countries, provides qualifications for those wishing to work in financial management and offers continuous professional development for qualified Financial Accountants. The Institute sets technical and ethical standards to maintain the professional integrity of all its members.

Realising Your Potential

Accountancy is a demanding yet rewarding profession. To achieve your full potential in this highly respected field, it is necessary to attain professional status and hold a qualification tailored to the world of business.

The Institute of Financial Accountants offers this unique professional qualification. A qualification that not only allows members to offer their expertise in accountancy to any business, but also enables them to demonstrate their proficiency in management and strategic skills.

Although businesses are now frequently looking for these combined skills, qualified candidates are still thin on the ground. As a member of the Institute of Financial Accountants you will be well prepared for this demanding role. The Institute provides a ladder to a full professional qualification by offering three levels: Technician, Associate and Fellow.

A student may therefore elect to exit his or her studies at whichever level desired, with the relevant IFA qualification.

To be a member of a professional body, in an ever changing and demanding business world, is crucial. Not only does a professional qualification demonstrate competence to potential employers and clients, it also shows evidence of integrity and professionalism. Another significant aspect of being a member, is the opportunity it gives of updating and improving skills through the continuous professional development programme.

In addition to obtaining a professional accountancy qualification, students who have completed the IFA examination structure up to Associate level will be eligible to study for a BA Honours Degree in Accountancy with Bolton Institute.

Routes to Membership

The Institute offers three routes to professional membership:

- By examination
- By exemption
- By accreditation of prior learning (UK only)

You will probably know people who have obtained their professional recognition through examinations. Indeed, at one time this was the only way. The exemption route is now also well established and accreditation of prior learning (APL) is becoming increasingly important.

For full details of each route to membership, see the individual information sheet.