Accountants are vital to the operation and success of businesses and organisations at all levels and, not surprisingly, there is a high demand for skilled accountants worldwide.

The Master of Professional Accounting (MPA) – with studies across taxation law, auditing or corporate governance – fulfils the academic pre-requisites for registration as a professional accountant in Australia.

This CPA Australia and CA ANZ-accredited course is designed for business professionals who are pursuing a career change as an accountant. It will also suit those already in the industry who need a recognised accounting qualification.

You’ll become adept in complex accounting and business issues, and grow your expertise in financial management, accounting information systems, financial reporting, auditing, corporate governance and contemporary accounting standards and research.

Advanced standing may apply to students who have completed relevant undergraduate and postgraduate study.

scu.edu.au/international
Major areas of study

The MPA comprises a core sequence of units that meet the professional accounting educational requirements and includes study in the following areas: business accounting, accounting information systems, financial reporting, management accounting, economics, quantitative analysis, company and commercial law, finance, accounting, theory and research.

Students also study advanced topics in accounting such as taxation law and practice, auditing and assurance and corporate governance.

Management skills are also honed through study of communications and a number of electives. A key feature of the MPA program is the opportunity to undertake a double-weighted industry research project that students can apply to their current or future workplace.

Core units:
- Contemporary issues in accounting theory
- Legal studies
- Business accounting
- Finance
- Economic and quantitative analysis
- Accounting information systems and processes
- Managerial accounting
- Professional auditing
- Taxation law and practice
- Corporate governance
- Management communication
- Industry research project.

Career opportunities

The global accounting profession has high employment demand, offering MPA graduates the opportunity to seek employment in a range of industries in Australia and abroad.

Graduates of the MPA are equipped to work in business, government and not-for-profit organisations in accounting, financial services and management positions. Management roles and activities undertaken by graduates include developing financial plans, preparing and certifying financial reports, conducting audits, advising company directors, shareholders and clients.

Professional placement

As part of this course, students may choose to undertake a 150-hour internship (equivalent to one unit) in either a paid or volunteer role. This practical experience, combined with theoretical understanding, enhances the learning experience for students.

Students are responsible for securing their internship placement and are given extensive assistance in interview and application procedures, access to an extensive database of potential employers and roles and ongoing support from the dedicated Work Integrated Learning team.

Professional recognition

The Master of Professional Accounting fulfils the academic prerequisites for registration as a professional accountant in Australia and is accredited by CPA Australia and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA).

Graduates may also be eligible to apply for admission to the Institute of Public Accountants (IPA).

How to apply

Apply online (preferred) at scu.edu.au/international OR complete the International Application for Admission form with all supporting documents:

- Original or Certified copy of academic transcripts, with grading system
- Academic or employer references (if required)
- English language test results (e.g. IELTS, TOEFL)
- Advanced standing application (if relevant).

Submit your completed application with all supporting documents to intapps@scu.edu.au

Pathway

Student who do not have the recommended academic skills or English language score may apply for the Postgraduate Qualifying Program (PQP) or English for Academic Purposes (EAP).

Details

Location: Gold Coast
Duration: 2 years
Starts: March, July, November
Units: 16
CRICOS: 078675A
2020 Annual fees: $29,200*

Admission requirements: Qualification equivalent to an Australian Bachelor degree; and English language comparable to Academic IELTS 6.5 overall.

*Annual tuition fees are in Australian dollars (AUD), are correct at time of printing and subject to change. They are based on completing eight (8) units per year. Students are required to pay Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the duration of the visa in advance. In addition, students will be charged Student Services and Amenities Fees (SSAF) and indicative non-tuition fees of $1,000 to $2,000 per year.