ACCOUNTING SPECIALISATION & CAREER GUIDE

Brought to you by BIZ ACCOUNTANCY NETWORK

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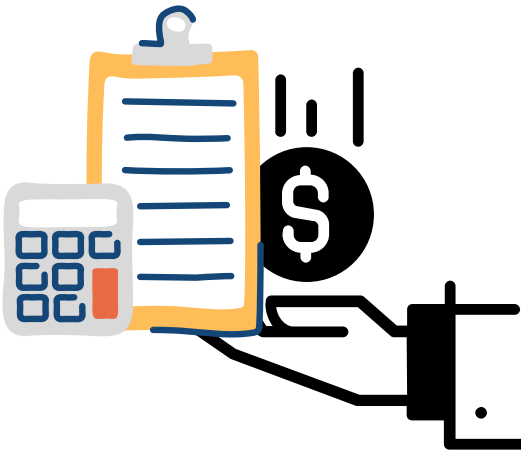
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WHAT DOES ACCOUNTING ENTAIL



Program Overview

The **NUS BBA (Accountancy)** programme aims to develop technical competency while instilling high ethical standards and good business sense, to prepare students to conquer the challenges in an ever-changing global economic environment. As the programme name suggests, it is not only a full-fledged accountancy degree built on an especially strong foundation of business knowledge from other domains, but also a full-fledged business degree with a specialized rigorous focus on accountancy.

HARD AND SOFT SKILLS REQUIRED

Soft skills

- Time management
- Good communication skills
- Analytical thinking
- Meticulousness
- Team spirit

Hard skills

- Proficiency in software such as Excel
- Good Mathematical knowledge

RELEVANT CCAS

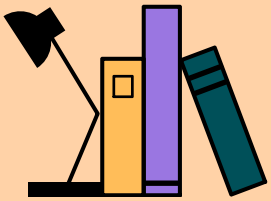
- NUS Bizad Club
- NUS Biz Accountancy Network (BAN)
- NUS Mathematical Society



COMPULSORY ACCOUNTING MODULES (44MCS)

1. ACC2706 - Managerial Accounting
2. ACC2707 - Corporate Accounting & Reporting 1
3. ACC2708 - Corporate Accounting & Reporting 2
4. ACC2709 - Accounting Information Systems
5. ACC3701 - Assurance & Attestation
6. ACC3702 - Corporate & Securities Law
7. ACC3703 - Taxation
8. ACC3706 - Corporate Governance & Risk Management
9. ACC4701 - Integrated Perspectives in Accounting & Business
10. ACC4702 - Advanced Corporate Accounting and Reporting
11. ACC4703 - Valuation

USEFUL ACCOUNTING LEVEL 4000 ELECTIVE MODULES TO TAKE BASED ON YOUR CAREER GOALS



Career in Tax

Advanced taxation (ACC4711)

This module builds on ACC3703 which teaches you operational skills such as tax computation and tax laws.

ACC4711 focuses more on the finer issues such as tax planning and consultancy. This module is suitable for those interested in pursuing a career in tax. Taking this module also grants an exemption of the taxation module under the CA Singapore professional program.

Career in Audit

These modules will build on ACC3701 which teaches students the operational skills needed to conduct an audit.

External Audit

Advanced Assurance (ACC4714)

ACC4714 examines risk from an external standpoint suitable for students looking to pursue careers in external audit such as in Big 4 Firms. This module will teach you to look at audit issues from a managerial and governance perspective.

Internal Audit

Internal audit (ACC4761A)

ACC4761A focuses on teaching students how to manage the operational risk of organisations. It focuses on internal audit issues such as internal controls and how one can ensure that they have put sufficient controls in place to manage the organisation's risk.

USEFUL ACCOUNTING LEVEL 4000 ELECTIVE MODULES TO TAKE BASED ON YOUR CAREER GOALS

Career in Audit

Forensic Audit

Forensic accounting (ACC4712)

ACC4712 looks at a subset of internal audit, forensic auditing. It focuses on uncovering fraud when internal and external controls fail to detect and prevent fraud.

Financial Institution Audit

Financial institution audit and compliance (ACC4713)

ACC4713 deals with money flow and how money is being regulated and how it should be regulated (e.g. anti money laundering, countering financing of terrorism). This module is especially useful if you wish to pursue a career in auditing banks and financial institutions.

Accounting and biz analysis for banks (ACC4761H)

ACC4761H teaches students about the compliance and reporting requirements in banks. Students wanting to pursue an accounting career in the banking sector should take this module due to the differing reporting and compliance requirements from other industries.



Common Specialisations to pair with the Accountancy Degree

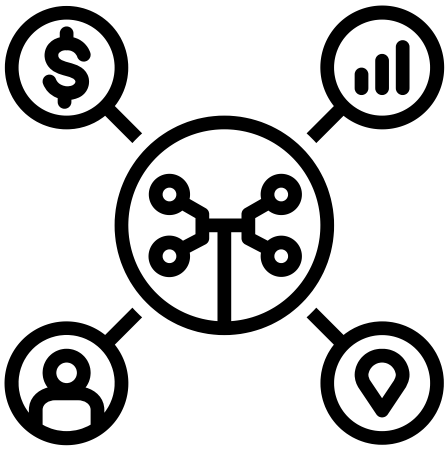
Finance Specialisation

This specialisation is for students looking to pursue a career in the banking and financial sector.

Taking a specialisation in finance would be very useful in helping to broaden students' career options in the banking and financial sectors.

Additional pointers:

- Number-centric
- Potential for more career pathways
- Accounting students may map modules during their student exchange programme to secure the finance specialisation
- Highly encouraged for students that want to build their transactional management and awareness skills



Business Analytics Specialisation

The business analytics specialisation would give students a greater advantage in the fields of taxation and audit as firms start placing greater emphasis on data interpretation and analytical skills.

Additional pointers:

- May require strong knowledge in coding and solving mathematically related problems
- Can acquire technical skills from Business Analytics (eg. data preparation and visualisation) which may be closely linked to the accounting field, improving employment prospects in tech-reliant firms

Common Majors and Minors to pair with the Accountancy Degree

Major/Minor in Computer Science (or) **Major/Minor in Business Analytics (Offered by the school of Computing)** (or) **Minor in Information Systems**	Doing a major/minor in these will be advantageous for students looking to pursue a career in the areas of technology consulting or in the areas of Tax technology and transformation. It will also provide additional advantage for students in the areas of tax and audit especially with increased demand for data analytics and programming skills.
Minor in Infrastructure Management and Finance (or) **Major/Minor in System Engineering** (or) **Minor in Data Engineering**	Doing a major/ minor in these will be advantageous for students looking to pursue a career in technological consulting, restructuring and research and development tax consulting.
Major in Sustainable Urban Development	With environmental sustainability gaining increased importance, a major in sustainable urban development will be beneficial for students looking to pursue a career in climate change and sustainability assurance.

Common Majors and Minors to pair with the Accountancy Degree

Major/Minor in Economics	Doing a major/minor in these would complement the accountancy degree for students looking to pursue careers in the areas transfer pricing taxation, financial services advisory or corporate tax consulting. Students will be able to double count a few modules towards the fulfilment of the major/minor.
Minor in Real Estate (or) **Major in Real Estate Finance**	Doing a major/minor in these would complement the accountancy degree for students looking to pursue careers in the area of corporate tax consulting in real estate. Students will be able to double count a few modules towards the fulfilment of the major/minor.
Major/Minor in Quantitative Mathematics (or) **Minor in Financial Mathematics**	Doing a major/minor in these would complement the accountancy degree for students looking to pursue careers in the areas of advisory, financial and banking industry.

Useful Professional Accounting Qualifications to consider

1 For students looking to practice locally

Students should consider getting a Chartered Accountant (CA Singapore) Certification

Module exemptions:

- Students are exempted from taking the foundation modules once they graduate from NUS with an BBA (Accountancy) degree
- Students can be exempted from taking the Taxation module in the professional program if students took the Advanced Taxation (ACC4711) module and their results meet the minimum requirements of ISCA.

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2 For students looking to practice internationally

Possible relevant qualifications

1. the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)
2. the Certified Management Accountant (CMA) provided by the Institute of Management Accountant (IMA)
3. CPA Australia - relevant for students hoping to work in Australia, BAC curriculum also has some exemptions
4. Certified Public Accountant (CPA) provided by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)



LIST OF FAVOURABLE FIRMS

List is non-exhaustive and not endorsed

BIG 4	Deloitte EY KPMG PwC
Mid-tier	RSM Moore Stephen Bakertilly Foo Kon Tan PKF BDO CLA Mazars GrantThornton

*Companies are not ordered by preference

Final Tips from Seniors

Seniors strongly recommend seeking opportunities to experience and understand the different aspects of accountancy: Taxation, Audit, Consulting, Advisory etc. so as to find the best role suited for you given your personal working style and preferences.

Internships are also recommended and should be taken in line with what you want to pursue (e.g. Tax associate)

Another advice is to partake in more case competitions and join CCAs closely related to your field of study, as you stand to gain more insights in these activities than solely from mugging the content in school. One example is analytical skills which are highly beneficial in Accountancy. For ACC Competition, there are plenty of opportunities organised by both external firms and other universities, so spend your time wisely to choose :)

Lastly, take a look at the course reviews available, because they can help you to prepare for and plan your academic journey better!

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