

## Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	<b>Course Title</b>	MSc International Professional Accounting (ACCA)
2	<b>Course Code</b>	PT1291
3	<b>Awarding Institution</b>	Birmingham City University
4	<b>Teaching Institution(s)</b> (if different from point 3)	
5	<b>Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation</b> (if applicable)	

6	Course Description
	<p>Looking to study a postgraduate accounting course in Birmingham, the UK's second largest City? Are you also looking to study ACCA to become part of a huge global network of highly skilled professionally qualified accountants?</p> <p>Our <b>MSc International Professional Accounting (ACCA)</b> degree is directly aligned with the Strategic Level professional examinations of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) professional body. The course is a professional and practice based level 7 Masters and aims to provide you with enhanced employment prospects.</p> <p>This is an ideal opportunity to combine your studies towards achieving a high quality Masters level degree award whilst also studying towards the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) Strategic Professional examinations. The ACCA do not grant exemptions from their essential strategic professional papers but this course is designed to fully prepare to undertake these professional body exams. The successful completion of this Masters course does not provide you with the ACCA qualification; however, the course is designed to prepare you for the rigour of the external professional examinations.</p> <p>Our status as a Platinum Approved Learning Partner of the ACCA reflects the quality of our course provision and excellence in the standard of our tuition.</p> <p>You will benefit from an integrated programme of study where the modules studied align directly with the ACCA syllabus.</p> <p><b>Employability</b></p> <p>The course is strategic, practice-led, and knowledge-applied. It will prepare and equip you for a career involving accounting, finance and/or management in commerce. This course will adopt a highly practical orientation where the learning, teaching and assessment activities designed to enhance your professional knowledge and skills that can be applied directly in the workplace.</p>

The course incorporates a range of modules exploring a variety of related disciplines, recognising that the accounting function cannot operate in isolation. You will consider both internal and external stakeholders in the decisions they make and the advice they provide.

The course aims to develop you with employability skills, attributes and attitudes relevant to the modern business world. It will provide you with an opportunity to apply your knowledge and skills in workplace relevant scenarios. You will work on real world case studies requiring postgraduate skills enabling you to experience the workplace environment. Employment will be enhanced due to option modules that will build up your technical knowledge and professional skills in areas such as Audit and Assurance, Taxation, Accountancy, Finance, Management and Governance.

The course will consider the study of accounting and finance from an international perspective including the use of international accounting and auditing standards as appropriate. You will also be able to participate in international business games. All students on the course have the opportunity to undertake a 20 week Professional Placement that extends the course to 18 months to further enhance your employability. The flexibility built into the proposed course will enable you to build a course that best suits your skills, interests and aspirations.

#### **What if you do not wish to study for the ACCA professional exams?**

There is no requirement for students on this Master's course to sit the professional exams set by the ACCA. If you decide that you want to focus solely on the Master's level award then you can. If you do wish to take the strategic professional ACCA examinations then you will need to be a registered student of the ACCA and be eligible to sit those exams. Please note that the ACCA charge fees for registration and their professional examinations that not covered by your course fee to the University. To find out more about ACCA fees, and how you can start a successful career having completed this course, visit [www.accaglobal.com/graduate](http://www.accaglobal.com/graduate).

The standard taught course is a 12 months in duration course but we also offer the opportunity for you to undertake Professional Placement which is an 18 month course.

The Professional Placement version of the course is optional and is offered as an alternative to the standard version of the course.

This will allow you to complete a credit bearing, 20 week Professional Placement as an integral part of your Master's Degree. The purpose of the Professional Placement is to improve your employability skills which will, through the placement experience, allow you to evidence your professional skills, attitudes and behaviours at the point of entry to the postgraduate job market. Furthermore, by completing the Professional Placement, you will be able to develop and enhance your understanding of the professional work

environment, relevant to your chosen field of study, and reflect critically on your own professional skills development within the workplace.

You will be responsible for finding and securing your own placement. The University, however, will draw on its extensive network of local, regional and national employers to support you in finding a suitable placement to complement your chosen area of study. You will also benefit from support sessions delivered by Careers+ as well as advice and guidance from your School.

Placements will only be confirmed following a competitive, employer-led selection process, therefore the University will not be able to guarantee placements for students who have registered for the 'with Professional Placement' course. All students who do not find a suitable placement or do not pass the competitive selection process will be automatically transferred back to the standard, non-placement version of the course.

### **When does the course start?**

The course is designed to prepare students for the December and June ACCA exam sessions and for this reason, the course starts earlier than most other Masters level courses. Our course Induction is held at the end of August and teaching commences in the first week of September. You should ensure that you are available to commence your studies at the start of the course otherwise there is a risk of academic failure.

### **What's covered in the course?**

The course is aligned to the ACCA strategic professional syllabus. For this reason you will study all the essential modules, and at least two of the option modules, that you need to take to complete the ACCA strategic professional exams. In addition, you will be required to undertake a module on governance and ethics and in the summer term you will be study the integrated strategic case study or take the professional placement route.

The course adopts an international perspective across the modules including the consideration and application of international accounting and auditing standards.

### **Our staff**

Our tutors are largely qualified accountants with expert academic and professional knowledge and experience. They have worked for companies such as Cadbury Schweppes, Marks and Spencer Financial Services, the Audit Commission, Top 4 and Top 20 accountancy firms, in particular, Deloitte, KPMG, BDO, and training providers Kaplan Financial and BPP. Our tutors are highly experienced and can therefore use real-life experiences to enhance your learning in the classroom.

### **Why Choose Us?**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birmingham City University is one of a select few UK universities that are Platinum Approved Learning partner of the ACCA. This is the highest level of accreditation, and it is a distinction we have held continuously for many years.</li> <li>• Excellent pass rates.</li> <li>• Our students achieve outstanding results, consistently outperforming the qualification's global pass rates. Several students recently achieved top 10 world ranking results in some of the modules we taught,</li> <li>• Excellent ratings of students experience in NSS surveys.</li> <li>• Our industry experienced staff and small class sizes means you'll get personal, dedicated tuition and support.</li> <li>• Our all-inclusive fees are very competitive and include revision, tuition and mock exams, texts and exam kits, providing our students with great value for money.</li> <li>• We welcome students from around the world, creating a diverse, multi-cultural learning environment.</li> <li>• If you are an international student, we're highly experienced at guiding international students throughout their studies, providing you with the opportunity to enrol onto free sessions such as improving your English language, mathematical or study skills.</li> </ul>
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<b>7</b>	<b>Course Awards</b>		
<b>7a</b>	<b>Name of Final Award</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Credits Awarded</b>
	Masters of Science International Professional Accounting (ACCA)	7	180
	Masters of Science International Professional Accounting (ACCA) with Professional Placement	7	240
<b>7b</b>	<b>Exit Awards and Credits Awarded</b>		
	Postgraduate Certificate International Professional Accounting (ACCA)	7	60
	Postgraduate Diploma International Professional Accounting (ACCA)	7	120

<b>8</b>	<b>Derogation from the University Regulations</b>
	N/A

<b>9</b>	<b>Delivery Patterns</b>			
	<b>Mode(s) of Study</b>	<b>Location(s) of Study</b>	<b>Duration of Study</b>	<b>Code(s)</b>
	Full Time	City centre	12 months	PT1291
	Full Time with Professional Placement	City Centre and Placement Provider	18 months	PT1292

<b>10</b>	<b>Entry Requirements</b>
<p>The admissions requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at <a href="https://www.bcu.ac.uk/">https://www.bcu.ac.uk/</a>.</p>	

<b>11</b>	<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>
	<b>Knowledge and understanding</b>
<b>1</b>	Critically evaluate and apply relevant knowledge to complex issues including the contexts within which international accounting operates, a systematic understanding of the external context of organisations and how they are managed.
<b>2</b>	Demonstrate in depth advanced knowledge and critical understanding of current issues and international developments in accounting, and use current and alternative technical language to describe practices of accounting and apply them in structured and unstructured situations.
<b>3</b>	Present and summarise transactions and other economic events, create financial statements complying with relevant regulatory requirements and critically evaluate such techniques.
<b>4</b>	Critically analyse the operations of a business and perform financial analyses and projections; and evaluate the contexts in which accounting data and information is processed and present information to organisations in a professional context.
<b>5</b>	Demonstrate in depth knowledge and critical evaluation of theories and empirical evidence concerning the effects of international accounting.
<b>6</b>	Critically evaluate issues relating to financial management, risk and the operation of capital markets and make appropriate recommendations.
	<b>Generic Skills, Abilities and Attributes</b>
<b>7</b>	Critical evaluation of arguments and evidence. Demonstrate professional skills and commercial awareness when communicating with other professionals and organisations, including scepticism when appropriate.
<b>8</b>	Independent and self-managed learning.
<b>9</b>	Analysis, filtering and evaluation of data and drawing reasoned conclusions concerning structured and, to a more limited extent, unstructured problems from a given set of data and from data acquired.
<b>10</b>	Location, extraction and analysis of data from multiple sources, including acknowledging and referencing sources.
<b>11</b>	Numeracy, including the processing and analysis of financial and other numerical data and the application of statistical concepts at an appropriate level.
<b>12</b>	Use contemporary information and communications technology for the acquisition, analysis and communication of information.
<b>13</b>	Communicate professionally in both oral and written forms, including the presentation of quantitative and qualitative information, together with analysis, argument and commentary, in a form appropriate to the intended audience.
<b>14</b>	Work effectively with others.

<b>12</b>	<b>Course Requirements</b>																																		
<b>12a</b>	<p><b>Level 7:</b></p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 140 credits):</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ACC7039</td> <td>Strategic Business Leader</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACC7040</td> <td>Strategic Business Reporting</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACC7036</td> <td>Governance and Ethics</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACC7034</td> <td>Integrated Strategic Case Study</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ACC7041</td> <td>Advanced Financial Management</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACC7038</td> <td>Advanced Taxation</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACC7037</td> <td>Advanced Audit and Assurance</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Level 6:</b></p> <p><b>In order to qualify for the award of MSc International Professional Accounting (ACCA) with Professional Placement, a student must successfully complete Level 7 modules listed above, totalling 180 credits, as well as the following Level 6 module:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PLA6001</td> <td>Professional Placement</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	ACC7039	Strategic Business Leader	40	ACC7040	Strategic Business Reporting	20	ACC7036	Governance and Ethics	20	ACC7034	Integrated Strategic Case Study	60	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	ACC7041	Advanced Financial Management	20	ACC7038	Advanced Taxation	20	ACC7037	Advanced Audit and Assurance	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	PLA6001	Professional Placement	60
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**12b Structure Diagram**
**Course Structure (12-month course only)**

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
<p><b>Core:</b> Strategic Business Reporting (20 credits)</p>	<p><b>Core:</b> Strategic Business Leader (40 credits)</p>	<p><b>Core:</b> Integrated Strategic Case Study (60 credits)</p>
<p><b>Core:</b> Governance and Ethics (20 credits)</p>		
<p><b>Optional (1 from 2)</b> Advanced Audit and Assurance (20 credits)</p> <p>Advanced Taxation (20 credits)</p>	<p><b>Optional (1 from 2)</b> Advanced Audit and Assurance (20 credits)</p> <p>Advanced Financial Management (20 credits)</p>	

**18 month Professional Placement course:**

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
<p><b>Core:</b> Strategic Business Reporting (20 credits)</p>	<p><b>Core:</b> Strategic Business Leader (40 credits)</p>	<p><b>Core:</b> Integrated Strategic Case Study (60 credits)</p>	<p><b>Core:</b> Professional Placement (60 credits)</p>
<p><b>Core:</b> Governance and Ethics (20 credits)</p>			
<p><b>Optional (1 from 2)</b> Advanced Audit and Assurance (20 credits)</p> <p>Advanced Taxation (20 credits)</p>	<p><b>Optional (1 from 2)</b> Advanced Audit and Assurance (20 credits)</p> <p>Advanced Financial Management (20 credits)</p>		



### 13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

#### Level 7

#### Workload

#### 24% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	432
Directed Learning	432
Private Study	936
<b>Total Hours</b>	1800

#### Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	61%
Exam	34%
In-Person	6%