


ICAS^s

GRADUATING WITH A
NON-ACCOUNTANCY DEGREE

ICAS 

A woman with short, layered brown hair and a slight smile is the central focus. She is wearing a light-colored top under a dark jacket. The background is a grayscale image of a large, historic stone building with Gothic architectural features like spires and crenellations.

"I've been able to gain a first-class qualification without studying a relevant subject at university."

EMMA HORTON
training with



After studying Archaeology at the University of Durham, Emma moved to London and shortly after joined PKF as assistant to the training co-ordinator. She decided to pursue a career in accounting after learning more about CA training and the opportunities it offered. As a consequence she decided to apply to become a CA and is now training with PKF as a trainee business adviser in London.

WHAT DOES BEING ICAS TRAINED MEAN FOR YOU?

I'm so pleased that I've been able to gain a first-class qualification without studying a relevant subject at university; when I graduated I wasn't sure what I wanted to do as a career but now I'm professionally trained and working in a fast-paced, interesting industry with lots of opportunities.

The CA qualification really suited me as you do stretches of classes and then work – not both at the same time. Studying was hard, but not impossible and it was very interesting. Training with ICAS has provided me with a well-respected qualification which will

open up a lot of career opportunities in the future.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

As I work in audit, I spend a lot of my time out on site at clients' offices. The teams I work in are usually between three to eight people and you are rarely on your own. In audit, my job is to check a company's financial statements are accurate and a good reflection of the business. This might involve checking invoices, recalculating people's tax and NI or depreciation. There is sometimes more complex work where we use our knowledge to generate expectations of income or expense which is a very satisfying part of the job. I have more responsibilities now, so in addition to doing my own work I'm reviewing that of others and helping them.

I've also met lots of new people through work and classes, many of whom are now my good friends. There is a nice, friendly and social atmosphere which really adds to my enjoyment of my job, and the support during classes and exams has been fantastic.

To start CA training, individuals must hold an appropriate preliminary qualification. This is either an undergraduate degree from a UK university or a degree which has been formally recognised as being a UK equivalent. Students do not need to hold an accountancy degree. In fact the majority of current CA students have non-accountancy related degrees.

Students without a relevant degree will begin their CA training at Test of Competence (TC). The objective of TC is to provide CA students with basic concepts, knowledge and skills in core areas.

There are five subjects at TC:

- Business Law
- Business Management
- Finance
- Financial Accounting
- Principles of Auditing and Reporting

Although some of these module titles may seem daunting if you haven't studied them before, rest assured the CA qualification is taught in such a way that no prior knowledge is required.

On successful completion of TC you will move on to Test of Professional Skills (TPS) in the second year of the training contract then Test of Professional Expertise (TPE) in your third year.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

You can find more information online at [icas.org.uk/becomeaca](https://www.icas.org.uk/becomeaca)

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