Your opportunity awaits...
Flexible and mobile, your role as a finance professional can take you anywhere you want to go.

Set your own course wherever you’re heading
Great qualifications, determination and willingness to work hard to achieve success in the world of finance takes some in unexpected directions.

Making dreams a reality
“It should be about you and what makes you feel fulfilled in life.”

Need more information?
Visit our website at accaglobal.com
Flexible and mobile, your role as a finance professional can take you anywhere you want to go. 

Your opportunity awaits...

Every finance professional begins their career in the same place: with a vision of where they want to be and a hope that, one day, it will happen. Over the past 110 years ACCA has produced countless highly regarded accountants. While many have excelled in the world of finance, others have moved to other company roles such as CEO or COO.

So what are the secrets to achieving real success as a finance professional?

Develop a career plan

A career plan will help you keep your goals in sight and remind of you what’s important to you.

Lorraine Twist, operating director at Michael Page Finance, says: “A career plan will help you to stay focused on what you really want.”

“People who plan ahead are generally more likely to make good choices when establishing their careers and are rewarded with the opportunity to become successful quickly.”

Be innovative

Find your voice in the workplace and don’t be afraid to use it.

According to Phil Sheridan, managing director at Robert Half UK: “Accepting the status quo is a pitfall that some people fall into, leading to reduced self-motivation. Be innovative and think outside the box in regards to how things can be improved and what you can do to improve them.”

Become a good listener

Negotiating with others and advising clients and colleagues is at the heart of a good finance professional’s role.

There are ACCA courses and lots of online articles on our website which can explain how to boost your negotiating and influencing skills.
Anne-Marie Perkins, managing director at Hays Accountancy and Finance, says: “Learning the art of negotiating will always stand you in good stead in life, so it is a valuable skill to possess both personally and professionally.”

Keep thinking ahead

Develop a broad skillset so you’re set to take advantage of the next big opportunity. Sumathi Mohnani FCCA, has held diverse roles in multiple companies, the most recent being in the IT industry working for IBM India Private Limited.

She stresses the benefits of constantly developing skills: “Any worthwhile education today will require a heavy investment in terms of time and money. “Focus on selecting the roles where you have your core strengths, giving it your best efforts and making sure that you keep upgrading your skills so that you remain a valuable resource for the organisation with marketable skills.”

Stay in touch

Keeping up to date with industry developments and news is vital if you are to perform at your best and seize opportunities. Get to know the important people whose opinions matter, follow their social media accounts and engage with them. Go to conferences, attend careers’ fairs and check ACCA Careers’ Job Board regularly so you are on top of all the opportunities there are to progress your career.

“The ACCA Qualification gives me the ability to work in global organisations and operate from multiple countries. I can link to a global network of professionals which allows me to share my views and professional updates.”

Sumathi Mohnani, FCCA IBM India Private Limited
Apply yourself

There are lots of jobs out there, the trick is to find the one that’s perfect for you. Research so you thoroughly understand what’s required of the role you have chosen and make sure you’re confident that it is the right position for you.

Applying for jobs that don’t match your current skillset will just lead to disappointment and you’ll end up disheartened.

Stand out

Interviews can be intimidating and uncomfortable, and it can be hard to get your message across. Little things make a big difference. Rachel Ashe, online marketing specialist at Hays Ireland, says: “Your body language gives the interviewer a strong indication of how you would fit into a team. Avoid touching your face and hair as it distracts the interviewer; they might think you are not comfortable with the questions being asked.”

Speak out

Make a point of speaking out about your achievements outside of work, so future employers can see there’s more to you than your qualifications alone.

“Evidence of value added on their CVs will be a massive advantage, such as involvement in projects, joined committees and out-of-office interests,” says Nikki Turberville from Michael Page Financial Services.

Think big

There really is nothing to stop your dreams coming true – regardless of what stage you’re at now.

With an accounting career spanning 20 years, Prameela Elayadath may have been content to stay where she was.

After graduating, she worked for ten years helping a small cotton factory in southern India become a flourishing textile house and rising to be its senior accountant and internal auditor.
When she relocated to Kuwait with her family, a job as a financial analyst for a real estate firm kept her busy.

But it was a move to Dubai that re-ignited her passion to become the complete and well-rounded professional she knew she could be.

She was working as group accountant at Dubai Transport Company (Dutco) when she decided to focus on an ACCA professional qualification.

“I’m not sure whether it was the friendly workplace or the never-ending opportunities for growth, but it proved to be the perfect environment in which my career could flourish,” she says.

“I always had the feeling I was “half-baked” without an accounting qualification. I had regained my confidence.”

“I decided to register as an ACCA student – the ACCA Qualification was clearly respected globally and also covered every area of accountancy, not just finance, which made the decision even easier.”

It was the right choice. She went on to win the worldwide prize for P4, a significant achievement considering her busy life and senior role at Dutco, where she is now chief accountant.

“If you manage your time and resources wisely, and have a passion for what you are doing, you can easily handle challenging commitments,” she adds.

“The exams have greatly improved my confidence and have given me the opportunity to pursue my dreams.

“My long-term dream is to return home to India and set up my own accountancy institution, where I would have the opportunity to teach the next generation of professionals everything I have learnt in my career.”
Students should develop analytical thinking and gain practical experience in order to understand how academic knowledge is applied. Good communication and teamworking skills are also important.

Prameela Elayadath
ACCA Affiliate and ACCA Ambassador
When you become an ACCA qualified accountant you will be recognised globally and have the edge when compared with your peers.

Paurav Thakker, FCCA
Owner of PAT & Associates chartered accountants and the founding member of Yates Education, Gujarat, India
Everyone’s career path is different. Some people know exactly where they want to go right from the start, others might discover the career they want almost by accident. And sometimes that can take them to places they never thought possible...

**Plan ahead, build success**

There are so many different directions that your career as a finance professional can take you in. Deciding precisely where you want to go can feel overwhelming.

Nicholas Kirk, regional managing director at Page Personnel Finance, HR & Secretarial & Business Support, says: “When planning your future, it is important to take your long-term goals and ambitions into account. Where do you ultimately want to be in your career? What steps can you take today to get you closer to achieving that goal?”

“A career plan will help you to stay focused on what you really want and make sure that you are developing the right skills and experience to get you there.”

**Guiding the way**

Remember you’re not alone – every finance professional started somewhere. And it can really help to chat through with people who have been there, and done it. Robert Half managing director Phil Sheridan says: “Finding a mentor is important. Having someone you can turn to throughout your career to ask for advice, whether it’s navigating office politics or preparing for a career transition, will hold you in good stead.”

“Even the most senior professionals will typically have someone they turn to for guidance.”
A world of opportunity

For Paurav Thakker, FCCA, achieving his childhood dream of working in the world of finance meant staying focused and working hard. But it also opened the door to a wide range of experiences both in India and the UK.

Today he owns PAT & Associates chartered accountants and is a founding member of Yates Education in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. For him, there’s probably no better job in the world.

“Accountancy is an evergreen profession with a prominent academic aspect,” he says. “It provides people with the opportunity to work in a dynamic field.”

“Striving to be an educated and accomplished individual is at the root of Indian culture, and fulfilling my ambition of becoming an accountant has clearly pleased the people who care for me.”

He has worked in London with the world’s largest ACCA practice, and India with a range of reputable organisations, gaining invaluable experience in corporate training, accounting, finance and taxation at both operational and business development level.

But he points out that having the right globally recognised qualifications are key to a bright career.

“As an ACCA qualified accountant, you have the right set of skills to move forward and succeed. ACCA membership has provided me with invaluable benefits, such as being recognised as a professional accountant globally, as well as being able to share my experience, skills and knowledge proficiently.”

“It requires commitment, firm acuity of one’s future and the fruits will definitely be awarded monetarily and mentally as successfully fulfilling your goals will bring you the most satisfaction.”