



Staff Companion Guide to Accounting Careers



About

Developed in partnership with Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ), this Staff Companion Guide to Accounting Careers is for Career Practitioners/Advisers, Teachers, and other school staff helping students to explore study and career options, whereas **The Guide to Accounting Careers** is written for students.

In this Companion Guide, you'll find:

- [Key Messages about accounting careers](#)
- [Student, teacher, classroom, and school-wide resources](#)

Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand

CA ANZ is the professional body for Chartered Accountants in both countries. They developed the Chartered Accountants Program and are the education provider for accountants who want to become Chartered Accountants. As an education provider, they offer unique benefits like FEE-HELP student loans and TEQSA accreditation. As part of the Global Accounting Alliance (GAA), CA ANZ connects members to a network of 1.8 million professionals in 180 countries, ensuring graduates' qualifications are globally recognised for a thriving international career.



DISCLAIMER

The details provided in this guide are accurate at the time of publication but subject to change without warning. Refer to relevant websites for updated details.

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This document is intended to provide general information and is not legal, financial or professional advice. This document does not take into account your particular circumstances or needs. You should not act or rely solely on any statement, view or opinion expressed in this document and should make your own inquiries and seek further professional guidance before making any decisions.

Key Messages

Introduction

While outdated stereotypes may portray accounting as compliance-focused and repetitive, it's essential to adopt a more accurate and modern perspective. Accounting is a trusted profession, frequently undervalued for its creativity and potential for social impact. Communicating the following key messages with students is crucial to preparing the next generation of accountants to be flexible, forward-thinking, and equipped to meet the dynamic demands of business. By ensuring students understand these messages, we empower them to make informed career decisions and view accounting as a field where innovative ideas flourish and individual talents shine.

Accounting can turn students' passions into careers

Accounting can open doors to just about any industry students are interested in. While they aren't in the spotlight, financial experts are the backbone of successful businesses and are behind every athlete, business, brand, and game that students love.

Accountants are employed in all types of businesses across all types of industries

Accountants are vital in businesses from tech, travel, fashion, retail, sports, charity, government and more. Accountants can run their own businesses and even work in education fields.

“Accounting is the language of business.”

Accounting is more than just numbers and spreadsheets

Successful accountants have strengths in problem-solving, critical and creative thinking, and communication and collaboration skills, as they often work in teams. Their work involves using their business skills to help companies or clients reach goals such as saving money, identifying opportunities for growth, measuring impact, and making success plans.

Key Messages

“All Chartered Accountants are accountants, but not all accountants are Chartered Accountants.”

Accountants have great job security and earning potential

Accountants are at the heart of every business, so they are always in demand. With great financial security, graduate salaries start at around \$55,000. Experience accountants can earn upwards of \$150k depending on their specialisation ([Hays Salary Guide FY23/24](#)) and can work almost anywhere in the world.

Accountants can access career progression and international opportunities by becoming a professional accountant

The minimum qualification to practice as an accountant is typically a Bachelor of Accounting. A Chartered Accountant is an accountant who has achieved a higher level of expertise and is accredited by a professional body. They have completed an extra qualification and have more in-depth knowledge and skills in areas like auditing, taxation, and analysis. Their status is internationally recognised, making their qualifications highly desirable and portable.

Tertiary accounting courses do not usually require prerequisites

Few tertiary accounting courses require prerequisites but students are encouraged to study Accounting, Business/Enterprise Studies, Economics, English and Maths to provide a strong foundation for an accounting degree.

There are many pathways into the accounting profession

The most straightforward way to become an accountant is to study commerce or accounting at university. Students may continue study to become a Chartered Accountant which increases their earning potential with a globally recognised designation. Other business degrees or VET courses also provide a good foundation, however students may need to pursue additional study to ensure they have the core accounting principles before they can begin a Chartered Accounting course. See the pathways map (also in the student guide) on the next page for further information.

Resources

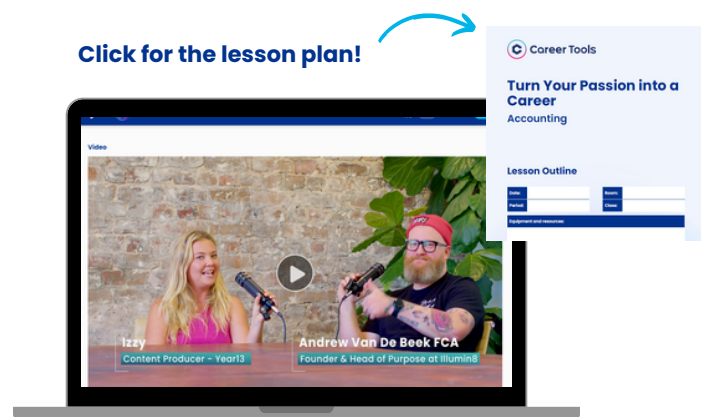
Business Class

Students can discover how accountants use their strategic knowhow, business skills, and cutting-edge technology to help their customers achieve their goals, to see things from a different angle, and to even change the world in the [Year13 X CA ANZ Business Class Academy!](#)



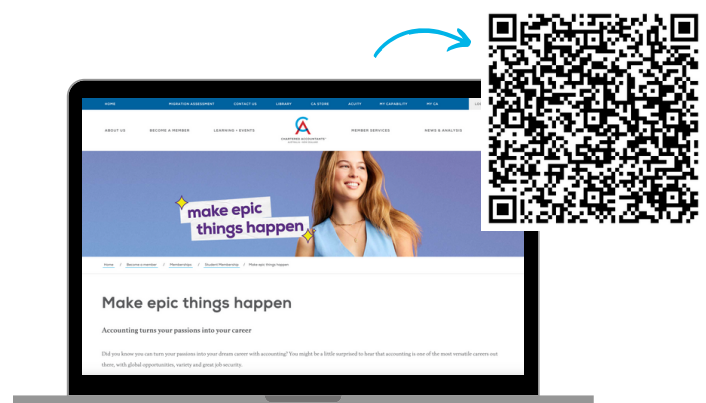
Turn Your Passion Into A Career

In this short webinar that was part of the 2023 Year13 Expo, Andrew, Founder of Illumin8 and a Chartered Accountant, discusses how accounting can change lives for the better. The Year 9-12 business, accounting, or work skills lesson plan is ready to use or adapt.



Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand website

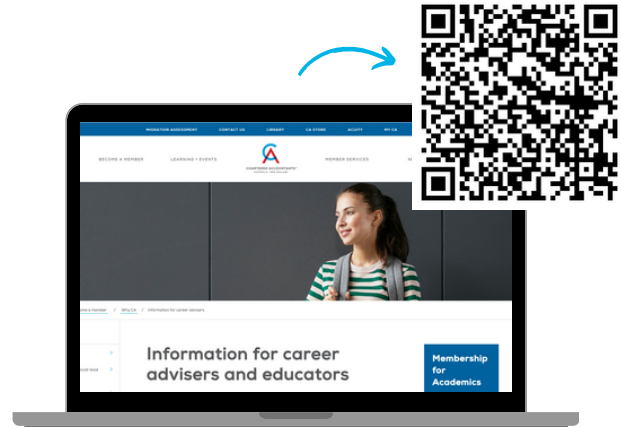
Students can visit the CA ANZ website to find courses, learn about accounting specialisations, the benefits of becoming a Chartered Accountant, and the pathways that can get them there. Encourage students to sign up to access internships, networking events, and tailored monthly newsletters.



Resources

Visit the **CA ANZ Epic Future** page

You will find posters, career cards, and a PowerPoint presentation to support your conversations with students about diverse and interesting careers in accounting. These resources are updated and added to regularly, and you can also keep up-to-date with the latest insights by [signing up to the CA ANZ Educators newsletter](#).



Invite a Chartered Accountant to your classroom

To use these resources with students and to speak about their own industry experiences.

Contact: careers.national@caanz.com

Contact a CA ANZ Accounting Student Representative

Your students can have their accounting career questions answered by a CA ANZ Accounting Student Representative who can assist them with their industry insights. [Contact a Student Representative here.](#)

Get Hands-On

Involve students in school-based or local entrepreneurial programs to give them hands-on experience and a taste of the business world!

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