Chartered accountants work at firms from the 'Big Four', to mid-tier firms, to thousands of smaller firms. They serve multiple clients, providing audit, advisory, and risk assurance services.

Management accountants are different; they usually are employed by an organisation directly and work to analyse, plan for and secure the organisation’s financial future.

Work experience is vital: internships/placements will help give you access to the full range of graduate employers. Many of the larger firms offer competitive, funded, summer internships – apply to them from the autumn of your penultimate year.

Graduate training schemes will advertise places from the autumn of your final year – apply early to the most competitive. They accept applicants from most degrees, and fund an accountancy qualification while you work. If you’re doing a degree including accountancy (through Henley Business School, for example) you might have some exemptions for some these courses.

The 'Big Four' firms are the largest globally and all run graduate schemes. Deloitte, EY, KPMG and PwC all have an office in Reading.

Mid-tier firms have an international client base, are smaller, and serve middle-market companies. Most have established graduate schemes. Mid-tier firms names Accountancy Age’s list of firms with offices in Reading include Grant Thornton, BDO, RSM (formerly Baker Tilly) and Moore Stephens.

Smaller boutique or regional firms (e.g. Wilkins Kennedy in Reading) may have a graduate scheme. The smallest, local or ‘high street’ firms, are less likely to have an established training programme.

Key Resources

Accountancy Age
News and statistics about the sector, top employer, and jobs

eFinancial Careers
Jobs, advice and news across the finance sector

Inside Careers
Advice, information, jobs, internships

Prospects
Official UK graduate advice site

TargetJobs
Great graduate advice site, with news, graduate schemes, internships and more

Access this page and more industries at reading.ac.uk/careers/resources
Milkround

ICAEW
Professional body for chartered accountancy – University Student Scheme costs c. £20 but gives access to free Excel training and good discounts on Certificate in Finance and Banking (required for those wishing to train in China and Indonesia applicants, and for everyone else an optional way of showing motivation if you have low work experience otherwise) ICAEW offers the ACA qualification

ACCA Global
Another professional body – offering the ACCA qualification.

CIMA Global
Professional body for management accountants – advice, information and qualifications

You may also be interested in...

• Banking, Investment and Insurance
• Business, Management and Consultancy
• Government and Public Administration
• Legal Services and Intellectual Property