

The direct route to
professional development
for accountants and
tax advisers

IFA **DIRECT.**[®]



A unique, modular way to continuing professional development

IFA DIRECT[®]

The IFA Direct programme consists of relevant, affordable and accessible study units which will enhance your professional reputation. By developing your knowledge and skills you will gain a broader and deeper understanding of key subjects relevant to accountants and tax advisers in, or supporting, small businesses.

IFA Direct is for you if you want to:

- achieve membership
- invest in professional development
- gain a practising certificate (UK members only)

Membership

The Institute of Financial Accountants is a full member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), the global accounting standard-setter and regulator.

Membership delivers enhanced professional recognition and career prospects that comes with being able to call yourself a member of the Institute of Financial Accountants. In addition, Intermediate (IFA) and Associate (AFA) members will receive dual membership of the Institute of Public Accountants (Australia) and be able to use the designatory letters IFA AIPA or AFA MIPA.

Continuing professional development

Investing in relevant and regular CPD is an important way to stay abreast of new developments and best practice in a fast-changing environment. It can boost your motivation and improve the quality of your work and the service you provide.

Gain a practising certificate

For UK-based Associate (AFA) members, holding a practising certificate means you can offer accountancy services to the general public and can do more than with many other associations and professional bodies. You'll be able to undertake charity independent examinations and be eligible to apply for a CAA ATOL licence. And a wide range of banks and building societies accept reports signed by our practising members.

Find out more at ifa.org.uk/ifadirect
or call our Education Team now on +44 (0)20 3567 5999

IFA DIRECT[®]

Simion Barcari tells us how IFA Direct has raised the profile of his business

Describe your background

I had worked in the accountancy sector for about four years in the UK prior to my bookkeeping role abroad. In the UK I had initially started work at a chartered accountancy practice in London as an accountant's assistant. Now I am running my own accountancy firm.

Where is your firm based?

Our firm Acctlon Tax Ltd. is based in Ilford, London.

What type of business is the practice engaged in?

My business provides a complex range of accountancy services starting from bookkeeping and finishing with the preparation and submission of annual accounts and corporation tax returns, and tax advice. The business is small, but I work hard, and it is continuously growing. The IFA membership has significantly added value to my business considering the support received from the team and the recognition I get from being an Associate Financial Accountant (AFA MIPA) member.

What do you find challenging/rewarding within the sector?

It is very challenging to differentiate yourself and attract new customers in the accountancy sector. However, if you manage to do that, the job becomes rewarding.

How did you hear about IFA Direct?

I heard about IFA Direct from one of my ex-colleagues and after some research I realised that the IFA could help me become a qualified financial accountant fast, considering that I was eligible for a good number of exemptions based on my other qualifications.

What made you want to study on the IFA Direct programme?

IFA Direct was the option that I felt would help me in achieving my goal. It provided an effective and easy approach to learning by offering all the necessary study materials which were condensed and relevant for what I needed.



Which units did you study?

I studied:
Level 4 Personal Taxation
Level 5 Business Taxation
Level 7 Corporate Reporting for Strategic Business - Advanced
Level 7 Taxation for Business and Individuals

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IFA DIRECT®

Aaron Sewell

is studying towards gaining
Associate Financial Accountant
membership

Describe your background

I started my career journey aged 14 doing work experience at my father's accountancy firm and decided to join on a permanent basis a year later. I have been working at the practice for nearly 10 years now at different sites in the UK and I'm currently based at our head office in St Asaph. I completed the tax units for my Associate Tax Adviser (ATA) membership and I have nearly finished the remainder of my studies which will help me achieve the Associate Financial Accountant (AFA MIPA) membership grade.

Where is your firm based?

Our firm Tax Driven Accountants is based in North Wales.

What type of business does the practice engage in?

The firm provides various accountancy and tax services for small businesses and taxpayers from our 40 offices across the UK. I mainly check tax returns and accounts to see if the work has been completed to an excellent standard and if the client has paid any fees to us. I also make sure documents are filed and verify if anti-money laundering checks have been adhered to.

What do you find challenging/rewarding within the sector?

The smooth running of all 40 offices is extremely rewarding, however, clients who bring their work in last minute with a tight deadline can make work challenging. Thankfully, this is not very often.

How did you hear about IFA Direct?

I heard about IFA Direct through my father who is an IFA member.

What made you want to study on the IFA Direct programme?

I discovered after completing my tax adviser units that it was a natural progression to continue studying on the IFA Direct programme and I would avoid getting into circa £50,000 student debt. I liked the flexibility of being able to study at my own pace and the firm pays for it which is an added bonus. I am hoping to receive a promotion and pay rise by the end of the programme when I would become a newly qualified accountant.

Which units are you studying?

I am studying:
Level 4 Financial Accounting 1
Level 4 Financial Accounting 2
Level 4 Budgetary Control
Level 4 Cost and Management Accounting
Level 4 Business Environment
Level 4 Law for Accounting
Level 5 Financial Reporting
Level 5 Financial Management
Level 5 Financial and Management Control
Level 5 Assurance
Level 7 Corporate Reporting for Strategic Business – Advanced



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IFA DIRECT.

14 units, three routes to membership

IFA Direct is administered in partnership with ATHE, a global awarding organisation regulated by Ofqual.

The programme comprises 14 flexible study units which are delivered online through a network of ATHE recognised centres.

You can study more than one unit at a time over a 4-6 week period and as they run continuously you can roll off one unit straight on to another meaning you never have to wait before starting a new subject. At the end of each unit you will complete a final assessment set by your centre.



IFA Direct units	Unit level	Intermediate Financial Accountant IFA AIPA route	Associate Tax Adviser ATA route (UK only)	Associate Financial Accountant AFA MIPA route
Financial Accounting 1	4	✔	✔	✔
Financial Accounting 2	4	✔	✔	✔
Budgetary Control	4	✔		✔
Cost and Management Accounting	4	✔		✔
Personal Taxation	4	✔	✔	✔
Business Environment	4	✔	✔	✔
Law for Accounting	4	✔	✔	✔
Financial Reporting	5			✔
Financial Management	5			✔
Financial and Management Control	5			✔
Business Taxation	5		✔	✔
Assurance	5			✔
Corporate Reporting for Strategic Business - Advanced	7			✔
Taxation for Business and Individuals	7		✔	✔

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IFA DIRECT.

An affordable programme of online study with comprehensive support

Support at every step

IFA Direct is designed so that you can easily study around other commitments. It gives you the full support of an expert academic adviser and online materials which are available 24 hours a day, 7 days week.

ATHE Centre network

You decide which ATHE centre you would prefer to study at. Details of the available ATHE recognised centres can be found on the IFA's website at ifa.org.uk/ifadirect.

Programme guidance

Your chosen centre will provide an individual 'roll-on roll-off' learning plan and will support and guide you throughout your studies. There is no need to worry about arranging your assessment either. Your centre will do that for you and answer any questions you may have.

Tutorial support

Throughout your study you'll receive online tutorial support from an expert academic adviser.

Active learning

Units incorporate online lectures and resources, personalised learning plans, videos, e-books, and presentations all delivered through the centre's secure online portal.

Technical resources

Access to the IFA's online technical resources and Financial Accountant magazine.

Recognition

Receive an ATHE Ofqual regulated certificate and transferable credits on completion of each unit.

Eligibility to apply for membership or, if applicable, a practising certificate on successful completion of your units.

CPD

All units count towards your annual verifiable CPD requirement.

Ofqual regulated qualification

You can also decide to complete the full Ofqual regulated qualification.

ATHE Level 4 Extended Diploma in Accounting
ATHE Level 5 Extended Diploma in Accounting
ATHE Level 7 Extended Diploma in Accounting and Finance

Completion of Level 4 can lead to membership at IFA AIPA grade. Completion of Levels 4, 5 and 7 can lead to membership at AFA MIPA grade.

Fees

IFA Direct units represent excellent value for money. For details please see the website www.ifa.org.uk/ifadirect.

Applying for IFA Direct

Find out more about your direct route to investing in your future at ifa.org.uk/ifadirect, call +44 (0)20 3567 5999 or email education@ifa.org.uk.

Whether you want to learn new skills, improve existing ones, or achieve IFA membership, our Education Team will recommend a route tailored specifically for you based upon your previous qualifications.

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IFA DIRECT®

'What if I'm not ready for IFA Direct?'

For those not ready for IFA Direct, the ATHE Level 3 Diploma in Accounting is a pathway to joining our online education programme and gaining membership. Once you've completed IFA Direct you can study the ATHE Level 7 Extended Diploma in Accounting and Finance which provides a progression route to the University of Bolton's MSc in Accountancy and Financial Management (online).

ATHE Level 3 Diploma in Accounting

Six mandatory study units are delivered either in the classroom, via distance or blended learning. They develop the essential understanding and skills needed to provide awareness of the accountancy and tax regulatory environment, the operational requirements for the accounting and finance function and what is expected of a professional accountant.

- Introduction to Accounting
- Introduction to Accounting Principles
- Financial Accounting Applications
- Introduction to Management Accounting
- Introduction to Cost Accounting Techniques
- Ethical, Social and Political Issues in Accounting Practice



'I've completed IFA Direct, what can I do now?'

MSc in Accountancy and Financial Management (online)

The ATHE Level 7 Extended Diploma in Accounting and Finance provides a progression route to the University of Bolton's MSc in Accountancy and Financial Management (online).

The route is suitable for IFA Associate grade members who, having studied the IFA Direct education programme, want to top up to an MSc (pathway 1) and those who have not studied IFA Direct wishing to further their recognition, knowledge and skills (pathway 2).

Units	Pathway 1	Pathway 2
Corporate Reporting for Strategic Business – Advanced		✓
Core Financial Management – Advanced	✓	✓
Management for Strategic Performance – Advanced	✓	✓
Taxation for Business and Individuals		✓
Audit and Compliance – Advanced	✓	✓



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IFA DIRECT.®

The Institute of Financial Accountants

Established in 1916, the Institute of Financial Accountants is an internationally recognised professional accountancy membership body and a full member of IFAC, the global accounting standard-setter and regulator.

The Institute is part of the Institute of Public Accountants (IPA) of Australia Group, the world's largest SME- focused accountancy group, with 49,000 members and students in 100 countries.

ATHE

ATHE is a global awarding organisation regulated by Ofqual and other UK and international regulators.

ATHE work with over 230 centres in 50 countries to complement a strong brand presence in the UK.



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