

ACCOUNTING

PROFESSIONAL YEAR PROGRAM

(ACCOUNTING PYP)

Frequently Asked Questions

This document outlines the most common questions about the Accounting Professional Year Program (Accounting PYP) by current and perspective participants.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why should I undertake the Accounting Professional Year Program (Accounting PYP)?

A: Successfully completing the Accounting PYP will help you:

- Learn about the Australian business culture and environment
- Understand how to seek and obtain employment in the Australian job market
- Provide valuable workplace experience
- Introduce you to the benefits and advantages of networking
- Improve your confidence, communication and writing skills
- Apply what you have learnt in a real and relevant workplace environment
- Gain a competitive edge over other international graduates because of the additional skills and experience gained from the Program
- Potentially gain an extra five points towards obtaining permanent residency

Q: Will the Accounting PYP help me get a job in the Accounting profession?

A: Completing the Accounting PYP will put you ahead of students who graduated from university with you by developing the employability skills Australian employers are seeking. You will gain these skills through face to face classwork and also an internship. The aim of the Program is to develop skills to make you more employable, and there have been situations where participants have been hired by their host company after completing their internship.

Q: Am I eligible to enrol in the Accounting PYP?

A: The Accounting PYP is an option for overseas students who have obtained an Australian accounting degree qualification. To be eligible to enrol in the Accounting PYP you must meet the following requirements:

- Completed one or more Accounting related degrees as a result of at least two years* full time study with an Australian university. The degree/s must be on the approved list of courses for international students (CRICOS)
- Have a current Academic or General IELTS score of 6.0 or above in each band, or the equivalent score from Pearsons, TOEFL iBT or Cambridge Advanced English
- Hold a 485 visa (or other appropriate visa with full work and study rights) with a validity of at least 12 months
- Undertake a pre-enrolment interview with the authorised Provider to ensure course suitability and viability

* Two Academic Years is defined as being at least 92 weeks according to the CRICOS registration of full time study

Q: Do I have to have an Australian Accounting degree?

A: Yes. To be eligible to enrol in the Accounting PYP, you must have an accounting degree that you have obtained as a result of at least two years study with an Australian university.

The primary aim of the Program is to develop employability skills of international graduates from Australian universities.

Q: What documents are required to start the enrolment process?

A: Each Accounting PYP Provider will have their own enrolment process, as a minimum you will be asked to present the following documents as well as attend a pre-enrolment interview:

- Your university completion letter
- Your university academic transcript
- IELTS test result score of a 6.0 or above in each band, or the equivalent score from Pearsons, TOEFL iBT or Cambridge Advanced English
- Appropriate and valid visa
- Your passport

Q: Which Accounting PYP Provider should I choose?

A: It is up to you to decide which Provider will be a good fit for you. Some things to consider when choosing a Provider are:

- The range of host employers offered for your internship
- Reputation of the Provider
- Additional Programs on offer (e.g. English language or accounting packages)
- Recommendations from students and recent graduates
- Employment outcomes of recent graduates
- What support can they offer you
- Cost and quality of the Program

Q: Can I enrol in a PY Program while completing my Bachelors/Master degree?

A: No. Concurrent study is not allowed. If you are on a student visa it is a breach of the conditions of this visa to undertake a Professional Year Program while completing the initial course of study that the visa was granted for. The Accounting PYP is considered a full time course and completing two courses of study simultaneously can devalue one or both courses. You may, however enrol in the Program once you have completed your primary studies and can provide evidence of having applied for a bridging visa to a 485 visa.

Q: Do you recognise prior learning?

A: No. There is no allowance for recognition of prior learning.

Q: Can I complete the Program in less than 44 weeks?

A: No. The duration of the Program has been determined by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). Professional Year programs that run less than this do not meet the guidelines.

Q: What is the attendance requirement for the Program?

A: Participants are required to attend 100% of classes. Failure to attend classes may result in you being required to complete the subject again and your graduation being delayed.

Q: Can I take leave from the Program?

A: It depends on how long the leave is. Any breaks taken may result in delaying your graduation. Please check with your Provider during the enrolment process when your graduation will be so that you can ensure you're able to complete the Program prior to your visas expiry.

Q: Can I complete my classwork from home?

A: No. There may be some research, essays etc that you will be asked to complete outside of the classroom, but the majority of work must be completed within the classroom as the purpose of the Program is for participants to learn and interact in a face to face situation.

Q: Do I need to disclose reasons why I may not be able to complete the course in the time allocated?

A: Yes. If for any reason you think you may not be able to graduate with your cohort, or you become aware of circumstances that may prevent you from graduating while studying the course you must inform your Provider as soon as possible and make alternative arrangements with them.

Q: Can I complete my internship either before the classwork or whilst I'm attending classes?

A: No. You must complete the classwork prior to doing the internship. The Program is designed to provide participants with the skills and understanding of how to behave in the Australian workplace, and what is expected of them by an employer so that they may get the most out of the internship and have the best chance of securing full time work once graduated.

Q: Do I have to source my own internship?

A: No. Your Provider will arrange an internship for you with a suitable host employer. However, if you are already employed in a relevant accounting role your Provider and employer may agree for you to continue your internship with them. It is suggested that you discuss this possibility during your pre-enrolment interview. The appropriate checks and site visits must be conducted by your Provider before approval can be granted. In some cases participants may source their own internship, but the Provider must approve the company and tasks that you'll be completing.

Q: I have concerns/complaints about my Accounting PYP Provider – who can I contact?

A: If you have concerns or complaints about:

- Your trainer or the content of the course you should speak with a senior person within the provider organisation.
- The quality of your internship you should speak to the internship officer or a senior staff member at your Provider.
- The overall quality of the Program or your treatment during the course by your Provider you may email: info@accountingpyp.com.au
- The behaviour of your migration agent please contact the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA). Contact details can be found on their website: www.mara.gov.au