

Qualification	AAT	ACCA Professional	CIMA Certificate	CIMA Professional
Previous Qualifications	None required	Accountancy / Finance degree or AAT qualification	None required	Accountancy / Finance degree or AAT qualification
Qualification Structure	3 qualifications – 16 computer based exams (exemptions may be available)	3 levels – up to 12 exams (exemptions may be available)	1 level – 4 exams	3 levels – up to 12 exams (exemptions may be available)
Funding Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Apprenticeship</li> <li>– Advanced Learning Loan (age: 24+)</li> <li>– Interest Free Payment Plan</li> </ul>	Interest Free Payment Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Higher Apprenticeship</li> <li>– Interest Free Payment Plan</li> </ul>	Interest Free Payment Plan
Average time to complete	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years (most students take 3-4 exams per year)	12-18 months	3 to 4 years (most students take 3-4 exams per year)
Typical starting jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Professional Accounting Technician</li> <li>– Senior Bookkeeper</li> <li>– VAT Accountant</li> <li>– Tax Supervisor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Auditor</li> <li>– Financial Accountant</li> <li>– Finance Manager</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Assistant Finance Manager</li> <li>– Assistant Accountant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Management Accountant</li> <li>– Business Analyst</li> <li>– Finance Manager</li> <li>– Financial Controller</li> </ul>
Typical UK starting salaries once qualified	£18,400 growing to £37,000 with experience	£40,000 growing with experience	£18,400 growing to £37,000 with experience	£32,294 growing to £61,816 with experience