

# What is ACCA Full Form: Course, Qualification, Syllabus, Fees & More

The ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) is one of the most prestigious and globally recognized professional qualifications in accounting that offers a wide range of career opportunities in finance and accounting. With members in over 180 countries, ACCA sets standards of excellence in the accounting and finance field. It is often compared with professional qualifications like CPA (Certified Public Accountant), CA (Chartered Accountant), and CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants). Each one of these various qualifications differs in its emphases, but ACCA certification is different from all the others. It is broadly based and has included the dual elements of financial and management accounting to make professionals versatile in different sectors.

## What is ACCA Full Form?

The **full form of ACCA is the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants**. It's a global body that provides training, support, and accreditation to accounting professionals. ACCA offers qualifications and certifications to individuals looking to pursue careers in accounting and related fields, ensuring they meet industry standards and requirements.

Category	Details
<b>Qualification</b>	<a href="#">Association of Chartered Certified Accountants</a> (ACCA)
<b>Eligibility</b>	10+2 or equivalent is the initial requirement for enrolling into the ACCA program. Graduates from commerce, finance, or related fields may receive exemptions for certain exams
<b>Levels</b>	3 (Applied Knowledge, Applied Skills, Strategic Professional)
<b>Number of Exams</b>	13 exams in total (some exemptions may apply based on prior qualifications)
<b>Exam Frequency</b>	Exams are conducted quarterly (March, June, September, December)
<b>Exam Format</b>	Computer-based exams for all levels
<b>Professional Development</b>	Continuous Professional Development (CPD) requirements to maintain ACCA membership. Access to global networking opportunities and career resources
<b>ACCA Membership Benefits</b>	Global recognition, enhanced career prospects, access to extensive resources and support, networking opportunities with professionals worldwide, and opportunities for further education
<b>ACCA Full Form in Commerce</b>	Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
<b>Duration of ACCA Course</b>	1 to 7 years
<b>ACCA Eligibility Criteria</b>	10+2 with a minimum of 65% aggregate in Maths/Accounts and English, and 50% in other subjects

Category	Details
ACCA Admission	10+2 or equivalent is the initial requirement for enrolling in the ACCA program. Graduates from commerce, finance, or related fields may receive exemptions for certain exams
ACCA Course Fees	INR 28,000 to INR 2,60,000
Total Exams/Papers in ACCA	13 (with the provision of exemption based on your previous qualification)
Average Salary	ACCA INR 3.5 to 4 LPA

## What is ACCA?

ACCA is one of the most prestigious accounting bodies in the world. Formed in 1904, it now has over 227,000 members and 544,000 future members worldwide. [ACCA qualification](#) equips you with essential skills in finance, management accounting, taxation, and more. ACCA can make you an all-around finance professional accountant.

### Global Recognition

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ACCA is recognized in over 180 countries. Thus, the qualification gives one leeway to work anywhere internationally without additional qualifications. Whatever your preference is, working in India, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Middle East, Africa, or wherever, the ACCA opens up many career opportunities worldwide.

### Comparison with Other Accounting Qualifications

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Compared to [ACCA vs. CA](#), CPA, or CIMA, the main difference distinguishing more of the scope of recognition and flexibility in ACCA. Whereas other certifications, such as CA and CPA, are region-bound in a way, the certification that is offered by ACCA is broader and thus internationally recognized. This qualification is very helpful for people looking to work in international positions or professions that require a global outlook.

## What is the ACCA Course Structure?

[ACCA exam structure](#) is based on three tiers, foundational level, applied knowledge, and applied skills. The course combines exams, ethics, and professional experience, ensuring a comprehensive path to becoming a globally recognized accounting professional. Here is the detailed information about all three tiers mentioned below.

### Foundation Level

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If the candidate doesn't have the minimum traditional academic entry, then the candidate can start with the ACCA foundation level to have basic knowledge and vision regarding accountancy and business. The foundation level is thus one of the ideal starts for a student who doesn't have any earlier education in accountancy.

## Applied Knowledge

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The Applied Knowledge Level part consists of three exams, **Business and Technology**, **Management Accounting**, and **Financial Accounting**. These three exams encompass the basics of accounting and finance. Thereby giving the candidate the relevant skills they require to enter the financial world.

## Applied Skills Level

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The Applied Skill level consists of six exams: **Corporate and Business Law**, **Performance Management**, **Taxation**, **Financial Reporting**, **Audit and Assurance**, and **Financial Management**. Every ACCA subject will go deeper into applied skills and accounting practices in the real world of business.

## Strategic Professional Level

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The professional level is considered equivalent to a master's degree. This level will be the Strategic Professional Level, where the candidate is supposed to undertake two compulsory exams and two options of their choice depending upon their interest.

- **Compulsory Exams:** Strategic Business Leader (SBL); Strategic Business Reporting (SBR)
- **Optional Exams:** You may choose from Advanced Financial Management (AFM), Advanced Performance Management (APM), Advanced Taxation (ATX), or Advanced Audit and Assurance (AAA).

# ACCA Syllabus

The [ACCA syllabus](#) is designed to help students with comprehensive knowledge and skills in accounting and finance. It covers a broad spectrum of topics, ranging from [financial management](#) to strategic business leadership, ensuring a well-rounded education that meets global industry standards.

ACCA Syllabus	Exam	Subjects	Description
	Business and Technology (BT)	and Business Technology	Introduction to business structure, and governance, and management, and the influence of technology on business operations.
Applied Knowledge	Management Accounting (MA)	Management Accounting	Basic management accounting principles include cost classification, behaviour, and examining financial statements.
	Financial Accounting (FA)	<a href="#">Financial Accounting</a>	Fundamentals of financial accounting, including double-entry bookkeeping and preparation of financial statements.
Applied Skills	Corporate Business Law (LW)	and Corporate Business Law	and Essential elements of business law, including contract law, corporate law, and employment law.

<b>Strategic Professional</b>	Performance Management (PM)	Performance Management	Management accounting techniques to support performance evaluation and <a href="#">decision-making</a> processes.
	Taxation (TX)	Taxation	Tax systems, computation of tax liabilities, and tax planning.
	Financial Reporting (FR)	Financial Reporting	Preparation of financial statements following <a href="#">international accounting standards</a> .
	Audit and Assurance (AA)	Audit and Assurance	Principles of auditing and the role of assurance engagements in governance and financial reporting.
	Financial Management (FM)	Financial Management	Key financial management principles include investment appraisal, business finance, and risk management.
	Essentials	Strategic Business Leader (SBL)	An integrated case study that combines governance, strategy, risk, and performance management.
	Strategic Business Reporting (SBR)	Strategic Business Reporting	Advanced financial reporting, including interpretation and analysis of financial statements for stakeholders.
	Options (choose 2 out of 4)	Advanced Financial Management (AFM)	Advanced financial management techniques, including investment appraisal, risk management, and business valuations.
	Advanced Performance Management (APM)	Advanced Performance Management	Advanced performance management techniques, strategic <a href="#">planning</a> , and control.
	Advanced Taxation (ATX)	Advanced Taxation	Advanced tax issues, including international taxation and tax planning strategies.
Advanced Audit and Assurance (AAA)	Advanced Audit and Assurance	Advanced auditing techniques, professional and ethical issues.	

## ACCA Course Duration

The [ACCA course](#) spans 2-3 years and includes 13 exams across fundamental and professional levels, focusing on core accounting practices, financial management, and ethical considerations.

Level	Number of Exams	Recommended Study Time per Exam	Total Study Duration	Typical Completion Time
<b>Applied Knowledge</b>	3	50-60 hours	150-180 hours	6-9 months
<b>Applied Skills</b>	6	70-80 hours	420-480 hours	12-18 months

Level	Number of Exams	Recommended Study Time per Exam	Total Study Duration	Typical Completion Time
<b>Strategic Professional</b>	4 (2 Essentials, 2 Options)	90-100 hours	360-400 hours	12-18 months
<b>Total</b>	13	210-240 hours	930-1060 hours	30-45 months (2.5-3.75 years)

## Entry Requirements for ACCA

ACCA entry requirements are the [eligibility criteria](#) such as educational requirements, exemptions, and work experience. Check out all these factors in detail to get a perfect idea of the entry requirements for the ACCA course.

### Educational Requirements

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Entry requirements for ACCA are pretty flexible. Those who had prior qualifications of secondary education could start the ACCA course directly from A-Levels or its equivalent. ACCA provides relevant exemptions in case one has an accountancy, business, and finance degree qualification.

### ACCA Exemptions

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[ACCA provides exemptions](#) to candidates with prior relevant qualifications or even work experience. This will significantly reduce the time spent on writing the minimum number of ACCA qualification examinations. Students hesitant to begin their career in accounting and finance, don't overlook checking your eligibility. Use our [ACCA exemption calculator](#) on the ACCA website to easily find out what you qualify for.

## ACCA Exemptions

Current Qualification	No. of EXEMPTIONS	No. of EXAMS TO BE TAKEN	Exams EXEMPTED
After 12 <sup>th</sup>	0	13 Exams	None
After Graduation	4	9 Exams	BT, MA, FA & LW
IPCC (Both Groups)	5	8 Exams	BT, MA, FA, TX & AA
B.Com + IPCC	6	7 Exams	BT, MA, FA, LW, TX & AA
CMA (USA)	7	6 Exams	BT, MA, FA, LW, PM, AA & FM
Chartered Accountant (After 2003)	9	4 Exams	BT, MA, FA, LW, PM, TX, FR, AA & FM

### Work Experience Requirement

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Also, to be qualified as a member of ACCA you must need to complete the PER or Practical Experience Requirement. This requires three years of relevant work experience. In this way, it ensures that the members of the ACCA have passed the exams and also have acquired practical accounting experience.

## Benefits of ACCA Qualification

Here are the benefits of ACCA qualification for students willing to choose this profession as their career. Let's take a look at them.

### Career Opportunities

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With the ACCA qualification, jobs are not in short supply. In demand anywhere, ACCA members can be found in different fields of practice: public practice, corporate finance, and government being financial accountants and financial analysts.

### Global Mobility

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Being an ACCA member enables individuals to work in more than 180 countries without needing an additional qualification. Hence making their path to international career opportunities easier.

## Networking Opportunities

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With ACCA membership, the [ACCA program](#) opens a world to several hundreds of thousands of finance professionals throughout the world. It is a great networking tool that will be helpful in career development by way of mentoring, collaboration, and growth in the career line.

## Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

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ACCA motivates lifelong learning. Members should undertake the CPD to maintain their relevant skills and knowledge in the business environment for healthy competition in this dynamic market.

## ACCA Exam Process

Understanding the [ACCA exam](#) process is crucial for the students to understand. This will help them to ace the examination and score better marks. You can check the detailed exam process for the ACCA syllabus by reading the points mentioned below.

### ACCA Exam Pattern

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The format of the ACCA exams consists of multiple-choice questions (MCQs), structured questions, and case studies, both for testing theoretical knowledge as well as practical application. ACCA offers four exam sessions each year: March, June, September, and December.

Category	Details
<b>Sections in Each Exam</b>	Each exam has two sections – Section A and Section B
<b>Section A</b>	Objective-type questions
<b>Section B</b>	Long pattern questions
<b>Marks per Module</b>	100 marks for each module
<b>Passing Criteria</b>	Must secure at least 50% to pass
<b>Negative Marking</b>	No negative markings for wrong answers

### ACCA Pass Rates and Grading

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[ACCA pass rates](#) differ from one level and subject to another, but generally, the exams are quite hard. In the exam, there is scaling whereby a candidate needs to achieve a minimum score to pass a certain exam.

### Frequency of Exams and Exam Centers

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ACCA exams are held in exam centers across the world. However, some next-level exams can even be taken remotely. This allows flexibility in managing work and study together.

### Tips to Pass ACCA Exams

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- Create a study schedule and stick to it.

- Use [ACCA-approved study materials](#) and past examination papers.
- ACCA study groups: join study groups to keep you supported and discussed.
- Mock Exams: take mock exams regularly this will tell you whether you are ready or not.

## ACCA Fees

Another major factor that every student must know is the ACCA annual subscription which includes registration fees, exam fees, study materials, and more. The course fees in India are around INR 1.8 lakhs. The first thing that you must do is register for the course with an initial fee of Rs. 7625. The next, step leads you to paying an annual subscription of Rs. 10,000. You have to pay every year till the completion of the course. Check out the estimated cost of the ACCA course details mentioned below.

### Registration Fees

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The [registration fee for the ACCA](#) qualification is about **INR 3,120** (or any other currency equivalent). It is a one-time payment to be made while registering with ACCA qualification.

**Annual subscription 2025:** An amount of INR 13,940 as an annual subscription fee is due each year to keep your student status active.

### Exam Fees

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Each level of the ACCA exams attracts its own set of [exam fees](#). These are the costs to be incurred for sitting for each exam and, therefore, tend to represent one of the most significant aspects of financial investment in the qualification.

- **Applied Knowledge exams:** INR 8,740, this fee is chargeable per exemption awarded.
- **Applied Skills exams:** You need to pay an amount of INR 11,550 per exam. You may have to pay exemption fees if you take exam exemptions. The exemption charges are different for different papers. You must contact a professional guide or coaching center to assist you with the course fees and other charges.

### Study Materials and Tuition

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Aside from ACCA course fees, ACCA students should also make a budget for study materials and tuition. This would include textbooks, online resources, and perhaps enrolling in tuition programs offered by ACCA-approved learning providers. Students can avail of [Plutus Education's ACCA Success Sprint - Financial Reporting](#) for the March 2025 exam for just INR 5,999 only.

### Total Cost Estimate

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The total cost of pursuing the ACCA qualification ranges from several hundred pounds to several thousand pounds. It depends on the location of the candidate, the mode of study adopted, and exemptions granted to the candidate. Normally, on average, the candidates pursuing the qualification may be prepared to invest a sufficient amount of money and time in pursuing the qualification.



## How to Study for ACCA?

Candidates must have a proper study plan or follow the preparation tips to study for the ACCA examination and score better marks. Moreover, you can follow the below-mentioned steps to ace the examination and get the best results.

### Study Methods

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Candidates can choose to study for the qualification either by [self-study](#) or by attending the classes of a learning provider. Each type of approach offers its strengths; with self-study, flexibility is an attractive option, while learning providers can offer structure and support.

### Recommended Study Materials

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There are a lot of study materials recommended to candidates in the form of [textbooks](#), online resources, and revision tools. Study materials are the only avenue in which candidates will learn the content and practice questions likely to arise in the examination.

### Time Management Tips

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Balancing work, life, and study can be tight, but effective time management will make it possible. Candidates are advised to prepare a study schedule that would give them opportunities for regular revision and breaks to avoid being burnt out.

### Study Strategies for the Exam

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Preparation for the ACCA examinations requires more than mere studying of course materials. Candidates can make use of mock exams, revision sessions, and study groups to reinforce knowledge that would better their chances.

## ACCA Salary Expectations

One of the key attractions of the ACCA qualification is the potential for high salaries across various roles and industries. Several factors influence these earnings, such as the sector you work in, additional qualifications, the size of the company, and your level of experience. ACCA professionals in various sectors like corporate finance, banking, or consulting often command higher salaries compared to those in non-profit or government sectors. The flexibility and global recognition of the ACCA qualification also provide the potential for international career growth, enabling professionals to tap into higher-paying opportunities abroad. Also, CA IPCC candidates get exemptions from 5 ACCA exams. Many CA candidates today pursue the course and get exemptions from 9 ACCA exams.

### Entry-Level Salaries

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In general, newly qualified members have relatively competitive starting salaries. [Entry-level salaries](#) typically range from **₹4–7 lakhs to ₹5–11 lakhs per year**. Although the starting salaries vary by region. In general, ACCA affiliates and members are usually paid more than their non-qualified peers in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

## Mid-Level Salaries

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Salary growth for ACCA members is typically observed to increase with the attainment of 3-5 years of work experience. [ACCA salary in India](#) for mid-senior level are typically around **₹11–14 lakhs per year**. Industries that pay the most in this category include public practice, corporate finance, and financial services.

## Salaries at the Senior Level

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Senior-level salaries can range from **₹15–25 lakhs to ₹19–30 lakhs** per year. It includes the Financial Controller, Finance Manager, and Chief Financial Officer, and the remunerations for such posts are significantly higher. These posts entail greater responsibilities and, in most instances, come with other perks and bonuses.

## Factors Influencing Salaries of ACCA

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Several factors can impact the salary of [ACCA professionals](#), and understanding these can help individuals maximize their earning potential:

- **Geographical Location:** There is a geographical difference in salaries. Higher salaries are paid in developed economies, such as the UK or the Middle East, compared to developing regions like India.
- **Industry Sector:** ACCA professionals usually get paid higher in the banking and corporate finance sectors than their counterparts in the non-profit or government sectors.
- **Relevant Experience:** Salaries grow definitely with experience. It is highly expected that high positions, such as that of Financial Controller or CFO, will draw considerably higher remuneration.
- **Role and Responsibilities:** Specialized roles in tax or financial management may draw even higher salaries, especially in a management capacity.
- **Additional Qualifications:** Additional qualifications, such as an [MBA or CFA](#), would add to the earning potential.
- **Company Size:** Larger companies, which automatically have more intricate finances, naturally pay better.
- **Performance and Promotion:** Good performance and career growth ensure promotion with increased pay over time.

These all combine to define the salary worth of ACCA, which considers growth opportunities across highly demanding industries and geographies.

## ACCA vs Other Certifications

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Here's a comparative table of ACCA salaries versus CFA, CA, and CMA:

Qualification	Entry Level Salary	Mid Level Salary	Senior Level Salary	Focus Area	Global Recognition
<b>ACCA</b> (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants)	₹8-12 lakhs	₹12-15 lakhs	₹20-25 lakhs more	Accounting & financial management	High (Global, 180+ countries)

Qualification	Entry Level Salary	Mid Level Salary	Senior Level Salary	Focus Area	Global Recognition
<b>CFA</b> (Chartered Financial Analyst)	₹8-10 lakhs	₹15-20 lakhs	₹25-30 lakhs more	Investment or management, portfolio analysis	High (Global, finance-focused)
<b>CA</b> (Chartered Accountant)	₹4-6 lakhs	₹8-12 lakhs	₹15-25 lakhs more	Taxation, or consulting	High (Strong in India)
<b>CMA</b> (Certified Management Accountant)	₹4-6 lakhs	₹10-12 lakhs	₹18-25 lakhs more	Cost management, or budgeting, financial planning	Medium (Primarily US and India)

## Career Path after ACCA

You must know the career path after doing the ACCA course, which is very important for the candidates to know and understand to get better opportunities in the future.

### Common Job Roles

ACCA members can be found in a multitude of job roles and industries. The most common ones include

- Financial Accountant
- Tax Specialist
- Financial Analyst
- Finance Manager

### Industry Specializations

The professionals associated with ACCA can practice the following areas:

- Audit and Assurance
- Taxation
- Financial Management
- Corporate Finance
- Future Trends and Scope

### Prospects and Trends for the Future

The accounting field is a fast-changing branch. This is evident through new trends coming up concerning technology, sustainability, and regulatory compliance. The ACCA global body regularly updates the students on industry changes. ACCA qualification puts career individuals in positions where they can leverage emerging opportunities and assume key leadership positions within the industry.

## ACCA vs CFA vs CMA

Based on your career goal in finance, choose ACCA, [CFA](#) or [CMA](#) as your preferred certification because:

- **ACCA** is perfect for those aiming for a career in accounting, and taxation, with international recognition across different sectors.
- **CFA** is preferred for investment analyst careers, for managing portfolios as well as an investment advisor or consultant, primarily based on intensive financial analysis along with ethics.
- **CMA** for those who target management accounting and corporate finance. It is more specific to financial planning, analysis, and decision support.

Particulars	ACCA	CFA	US CMA
<b>Signing Authority</b>	Authorized to sign accounting reports in many countries	Not authorized to sign audit reports	Not authorized to sign audit reports
<b>Recognition</b>	Globally recognized	Globally recognized	Recognized mainly in the US and internationally
<b>Duration</b>	3-4 years	1.5-4 years	6 months to 3 years
<b>Attempts</b>	Multiple attempts allowed	2-3 times per year	Multiple attempts allowed
<b>Course Structure</b>	13 exams, Ethics & Professional Skills module	3 levels (Level I, II, III)	2 parts (Part 1, Part 2)
<b>Eligibility</b>	10+2 qualification, 3 years of relevant work experience	Bachelor's degree equivalent, 4 years work experience	Bachelor's degree and 2 years of relevant work experience
<b>Registration Fee</b>	£89 one-time registration fee, £116 exam fees per paper	\$450 enrolment, exam fees: \$900-\$1,200 per level part	\$250 membership, \$415 per part for professionals
<b>Job Profile</b>	Financial Analyst, Accountant, Consultant	Financial Analyst, Portfolio Manager, Investment Banker	Accountant, Financial Analyst, Cost Accountant
<b>Passing Percentage</b>	40-50% overall	40-50% (varies by level)	45-50% per part
<b>No of Papers</b>	13 papers	3 levels (each level has one exam)	2 parts
<b>Work Experience</b>	3 years of relevant experience	4 years of professional work experience	2 years of relevant experience

## Conclusion

The ACCA qualification will be one of the strong tools that aspirants in accounting and finance are looking for for career advancement. Internationally recognized, with a far-reaching curriculum and manifold

career benefits, ACCA is a very good choice for a would-be accountant. Would you like a career in accounting? Start your ACCA today. Please visit the website for further details, or ring your local learning provider to get started.

## ACCA FAQs

### What is the ACCA Qualification for?

The ACCA qualification is ideal for those professionals who seek expertise in the field of accounting and finance. They will be able to work as a financial accountant, or financial analyst with the skills they acquire.

### Is ACCA Better than CA?

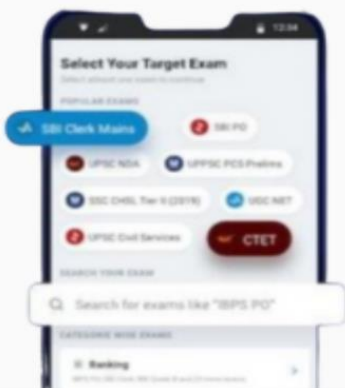
It depends upon the career orientation and geographical preferences of the readers. ACCA would offer a global perspective and much flexibility, while the CA generally is more focused on national standards and local practices.

### What does ACCA do?

ACCA provides expert professional certification with knowledge in accounting, finance, and management. It practically equips its members with knowledge and skills relevant to performing with excellence in qualifications to service in various finance roles and meet standards at an international level.

### What is ACCA Salary?

ACCA salaries vary by location and experience. Entry-level job opportunities are usually competitive, with big increases for mid-level and senior positions, such as financial controllers or CFOs.



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