

ACCA Exemptions: Qualifications, Benefits & Exemption Process

[ACCA](#) course gives insight into the field of accounting, finance, and auditing. The ACCA exemptions offer an opportunity for the enrolled students to accelerate their academic path of becoming qualified accountants. However, candidates need to evaluate their current eligibility and find out the likely impact on their knowledge base and career progression. Exemptions can save precious time for candidates as they maintain a strong knowledge of the ACCA syllabus to proceed in their future exams and professional roles.

What are the ACCA Exemptions?

An internationally renowned association for professional accountants, the [Association of Chartered Certified Accountants](#) (ACCA) provides highly certified professional qualifications. Prospective employers will be aware that you have the depth of company experience required of professional accountants once you earn your [ACCA certification](#). This suggests that you can work as an accountant anywhere in the world. National accountants are required to follow the particular certification guidelines that are stipulated by each nation. For most, nevertheless, an ACCA certification serves as a suitable substitute. It's one of the most comprehensive certifications in the world. About 320,000 people have earned it.

To get into the details, what you must know about ACCA exemptions is that they let you free from certain papers and tests. But this is only applicable when you meet certain requirements. The effort, time, and number of exams required to obtain certification are progressively decreased. The purpose of these exemptions is to recognize the candidates' prior knowledge and abilities.

ACCA Exemptions

The ACCA exemptions are the ones provided to the students who have certain prior qualifications. This helps the students to skip certain exams and accelerate their journey in the academic process of ACCA. It says that having a degree in finance can help you get exempt from some of the **13 exam papers**. Don't neglect to determine your eligibility if you aren't sure you want to pursue a career in accounting or finance. Using the [eligibility calculator](#) on the ACCA website, this is a simple process. Students who meet specific prerequisites in the past are eligible for ACCA exemptions. As a result, students can speed up their progress through the ACCA academic program and avoid some exams.

ACCA Exemptions

Current Qualification	No. of EXEMPTIONS	No. of EXAMS TO BE TAKEN	Exams EXEMPTED
After 12 th	0	13 Exams	None
After Graduation	4	9 Exams	BT, MA, FA & LW
IPCC (Both Groups)	5	8 Exams	BT, MA, FA, TX & AA
<u>B.Com</u> + 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

ACCA Exemptions for CA

Chartered Accountants (CAs) are eligible for a few exemptions when pursuing the [ACCA qualification](#), thanks to the considerable overlap in syllabus content between the two programs. Qualified CAs can receive exemptions for **up to nine papers**, primarily from the Applied Knowledge and Applied Skills levels of the ACCA curriculum. These exemptions not only reduce the number of exams but also reduce the time and efforts needed to acquire the prestigious ACCA designations.

ACCA Exemptions for CA Inter

Candidates who have completed the [CA Inter](#) (intermediate) level are eligible for exemptions in **up to five papers** within the ACCA qualification. These exemptions typically cover subjects from the Applied Knowledge level and select papers from the Applied Skills level. This streamlined pathway allows CA Inter candidates to bypass foundational topics they have already mastered, enabling them to focus on advanced concepts and professional-level studies. By reducing the total number of exams required, this exemption policy not only saves time but also recognizes the prior knowledge and expertise gained through the CA Intermediate curriculum.

ACCA Exemptions for BCom

Graduates from BCom programs are eligible for large-scale exemptions in the ACCA qualification, depending on the subjects studied during the undergraduate program. Students can claim an exemption for **up to nine exams**. Therefore reduce the number of exams to be passed in total. These exemptions

cover the Applied Knowledge level in full and can include papers at the Applied Skills level, like Financial Reporting or Management Accounting. It means B.Com graduates are recognized for prior learning and get a head start in their ACCA qualification. It saves them time and effort as they focus on more advanced modules of relevance to their career.

ACCA Exemptions After BBA

The BBA graduates will receive an **exemption for one paper** at the Applied Knowledge level of the ACCA. [BBA and ACCA](#) are different in their core subjects and syllabus which is why you get only one exemption.

ACCA Exemptions for MBA

MBA graduates may be given various exemptions to specific ACCA papers by their specializations. Thus streamlining their route to ACCA certification. Traditionally, these exemptions are accorded for Applied Knowledge level subjects, such as Business Technology, Management Accounting, and Financial Accounting, which fit directly into most ACCA standard curricula. In addition, exemptions may also be awarded at the Applied Skills level for MBA graduates who have undertaken advanced studies in relevant areas that include Financial Management, Corporate and Business Law, or Performance Management. The number of exemptions is **dependent upon the nature of the MBA curriculum** and whether it covers accounting and finance principles.

CPA Exemptions for ACCA

ACCA members may be eligible for exemptions from certain parts of the [CPA program](#), depending on the U.S. state's requirements. While there is no universal exemption policy, several states recognize ACCA qualifications and offer credits toward the 150-hour education requirement. However, ACCA members typically still need to pass all four CPA exams, as **exemptions for these are rare**. To qualify, ACCA members must have a bachelor's degree or equivalent and meet the specific credit hour requirements in accounting and business. ACCA membership demonstrates a strong accounting foundation, which may simplify meeting [CPA eligibility](#) criteria.

ACCA Exemptions for CMA

CMA aspirants with an ACCA qualification are often eligible for significant exemptions in the CMA program. ACCA membership reflects expertise in financial reporting, management accounting, and business strategy, areas that overlap with the [CMA syllabus](#). While **no exemptions** are provided for the CMA exams themselves, ACCA members typically meet the educational and work experience prerequisites required to enroll. This alignment allows ACCA-qualified professionals to pursue CMA certification more efficiently, leveraging their existing knowledge in strategic management and financial accounting to prepare for CMA's two-part exam structure.

CFA After ACCA Exemptions

ACCA qualification **does not grant direct exemptions** for the [CFA program](#), as the CFA Institute mandates that all candidates pass each of the three levels of the CFA exam. However, ACCA members benefit from a strong accounting and financial analysis background, which provides a significant advantage in understanding CFA topics such as financial reporting, corporate finance, and investment analysis. ACCA professionals often find it easier to navigate the CFA curriculum and can complete the program faster due to their existing expertise, especially in areas like ethics, portfolio management, and financial analysis.

CIMA Exemptions for ACCA

ACCA-qualified professionals are eligible for substantial exemptions when pursuing [CIMA certification](#). Typically, ACCA members are exempted from **up to 9 out of the 16 exams** in the CIMA qualification pathway. These exemptions cover subjects at the Operational and Management levels, reflecting ACCA's comprehensive coverage of financial and management accounting. ACCA members can enter directly into the Strategic level, significantly shortening the time needed to achieve the CGMA designation. The overlapping focus on financial reporting, business strategy, and management principles makes ACCA a strong foundation for advancing into CIMA's strategic and leadership-oriented syllabus.

ACCA Exemptions Process

The process of ACCA exemption application is very important to be known by the students to figure out how to go through the process. The process needs to be followed step by step for a smooth journey.

1. **Research and Check Eligibility:** Based on your previous qualifications the candidate can check on the exemptions they can avail.
2. **Register with ACCA:** If you're not yet registered as an ACCA student, you'll need to do this before you can apply for exemptions. You can register online on the [ACCA website](#). Complete the student registration form.
3. **Prepare Supporting Documents:** Gather all relevant documentation, such as academic transcripts, certificates, and detailed syllabi of the courses you've completed if these are required. Make sure these documents are certified copies. Non-English documents need official translations.
4. **Submit Your Application:** Log in to your MyACCA account. Then go to the 'My Qualification' section and select 'Manage My Exemptions'. Thereafter upload the required supporting documents. Also ensure that all documentation is clear, complete, and legible to avoid delays.
5. **Pay the Exemptions Fee:** For availing the exemption in the ACCA course, there are certain fees to be paid which is compulsory to be paid which is to be paid online via your MyACCA account.
6. **Wait for Confirmation:** Once your application is submitted, ACCA will review your documents and assess your eligibility for exemptions. This process can take a few weeks, so be patient.
7. **Seek Further Assistance if Needed:** For seeking any assistance related to ACCA exemptions, one can mail or connect through the helpline center.

Students can also check exemption eligibility with our [ACCA exemption calculator](#) now.

Tips for a Smooth Application Process of ACCA Exemptions

The below-mentioned tips if followed will make the process of ACCA exemption smoother.

1. **Double-Check Entry Requirements:** Ensure you meet all the criteria before submitting your application.
2. **Certified Documents:** Documents must be stamped and signed by an authorized person (like a university official or notary public).
3. **Timely Submission:** Apply for exemptions as soon as possible after your registration after going through the eligibility stated, to ensure that you can plan your studies accordingly.
4. **Keep Copies:** It is advisable to keep all the submitted copies handy for cross-verification.
5. **Follow-up:** If you don't hear back within the expected timeframe, contact ACCA to check on the status of your application.

ACCA Exemptions FAQs

When can I apply for ACCA exemptions?

You should apply for exemptions when you first register as a student with ACCA.

Where am I likely to get exemptions?

The exemptions are dependent on the level and the corresponding subjects as well. For eg. in the applied knowledge level, one can skip basic subjects like Business and Technology, Management Accounting, and Financial Accounting.

What documents do I need to submit with my application for exemptions?

You must upload official proof of completed or partially completed qualifications, including certificates and transcripts, for exemption assessment. Non-English documents must be officially translated, stamped, and signed by the translator, along with the original language copies.

How do I apply for ACCA exemptions?

After finding out the eligibility criteria, the students need to log in to the official portal and submit the necessary documents after paying registration fees.

Why do I have to pay for exemptions?

ACCA strive to make their globally recognized qualification accessible by maintaining competitive fees and a fair pricing model. Exemption fees support rigorous assessments and accreditation, ensuring students can begin their ACCA journey at the appropriate level and stay in demand worldwide.

