Online Master of Professional Accounting

Be the brains behind the business

CPA Australia and CA accredited
Globally relevant and recognised
Online, on-the-go learning
Accelerated, flexible and supportive
Upskill and diversify to meet global demand
An Online Master of Professional Accounting (MPA) is a solid investment. Masters graduates, on average, earn $20,000 more per year† than their Bachelor counterparts. Worldwide, and in a post-GFC climate, more and more organisations are cutting costs and increasing efficiency by employing accountants with broad skills. Accounting is no longer simply a numbers game, it’s also about commercial know-how, lateral thinking, exercising professional judgement and communicating complex information with clarity.

Invest in your career — upskill and diversify your capabilities with an Online Master of Professional Accounting from Southern Cross University.

Why choose Southern Cross University for your Master of Professional Accounting?

Accredited for success. CPA Australia and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA) have accredited our course. This means by completing an MPA with us you’ll satisfy all CPA Foundation units, be eligible to become a CPA Associate, and be well on your way to becoming a fully-fledged Certified Practising Accountant. You’ll also qualify for entry into the CA Chartered Accountants Program.

Convenient and flexible. Online on-the-go learning helps you meet the demands of your busy and mobile lifestyle. Six teaching periods per year mean you can start when you want. And, with advanced standing, you could complete your degree in as few as two years — one seven-week study block at a time†.
† May take longer depending on the amount of advanced standing received.

Relevant and practical. You will go way beyond formulas. Strengthen your leadership, problem solving and communication skills by completing practical assessment activities relevant to your current workplace challenges.

Stimulating. The business of numbers fascinates us. Our course materials are designed to be challenging, intellectually invigorating, and immediately applicable to the global marketplace. As your skills and understanding grow, so will your enthusiasm and interest.

Supportive. As soon as you enrol, you will be assigned your own Student Success Advisor. Your advisor stays with you through the entire course, and will help you source everything you need to excel in your course.

Collaborative. Throughout your program, you will have the opportunity to grow your professional network with fellow students from various industries and backgrounds.

*Graduate Careers Australia
Consider the facts*

Industry growth is strong — 50,000 accounting job openings are expected in the lead up to 2018.

Accountants are astute — they’re more than twice as likely to have a postgraduate degree than those in other occupations.

Work wherever you want — 48.3% of accountants are employed in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, while just 10.1% work in Financial and Insurance Services.

* Department of Employment.

Career Opportunities
The career outcomes of a Master of Professional Accounting are as diverse as the businesses that need accountants. Where will your MPA take you?

Advisor/Consultant
Provide advice as an all-round expert in accounting, auditing, tax, finance and risk assessment as a consultant for local, state and federal government, publicly listed companies, private firms and the not-for-profit sector.

Certified Practising Accountants (CPA)
Highly regarded internationally, and with 150,000 peers working in 120 countries around the world, as a CPA you might guide policy, analyse and interpret financial and non-financial information, and advise companies on where they stand and where they’re headed.

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
Manage the financial risk, recordkeeping and reporting of large, local and global enterprises while supporting your CEO by leading the execution of change and growth strategies developed by your management team.

Environmental Accountant
Identify, measure and report on resource use and company impact on the environment. Forecast financial risk associated with breaches, and create and communicate mitigation plans (like the purchase of carbon credits).

Forensic Accountant
As a forensic accountant you’ll prepare accounting material suitable for use in a court of law. You might specialise in insurance or personal injury claims, fraud, construction, or royalty audits.

Financial Journalist
Broaden community understanding by explaining or examining policy, technology, trends and key players relating to global business, economic and financial issues, news and events.

Management Accountant
Your strategic approach to reporting, revenue recognition and processing, forecasting and system control will assist in creating and delivering business strategies.
Course summary

Master of Professional Accounting — Online

Study periods (entry points): February, April, June, August, October and December
Duration: From 2 years part-time†
Cost: $2220 per unit†

† May take longer depending on the amount of advanced standing received.
+ 2015 fees. Fees are subject to change. Plus $24 per unit Student Services Amenities Fees. Fees for domestic students. If you are planning to study in your own country outside of Australia, please contact us to discuss your fees.

Course structure
Our Master of Professional Accounting consists of compulsory units and elective core units. Depending on the units you choose, your electives could further broaden your understanding of accounting theory and practice, or hone your skills in a particular area — for example business and finance in the Asia Pacific.

Each unit runs for seven weeks, with six study periods per year. To gain an MPA you need to study all compulsory units plus two electives. If you have a relevant undergraduate degree or five years of relevant work experience, you could receive advanced standing and complete the program in just two years. In fact, with a relevant higher qualification, you could complete the program in under two years.

Find out more about Advanced Standing on page 6.

Part A — The compulsory units
- Accounting Information Systems and Processes
- Business Accounting
- Business and Corporation Law
- Company and Financial Reporting
- Contemporary Issues in Accounting Theory
- Economics and Quantitative Analysis
- Finance
- Managerial Accounting

Part B — The compulsory units
- Corporate Governance
- Industry Research Project (double weighted)
- Professional Auditing
- Project Management
- Taxation Law and Practice

Part C — The electives (choose two)
- Asia Pacific Business Environment
- Company Valuation
- Entrepreneurship and Marketing
- Financial Management of Asia Pacific Business
- Global Business
- Leading and Managing People
- Managing Information Systems
Unit descriptions

Accounting Information Systems and Processes — compulsory
Designed to prepare you for a career in business, this unit focuses on the relationships between business processes, information flows and information technology — how they interact and communicate with an organisation’s management. You’ll also explore the governance, control and security issues in business processes and within the information system.

Asia Pacific Business Environment — elective
Extend your ability to critically analyse the contemporary business environment in the Asia Pacific region. You’ll examine contemporary research on issues like firm structure and ownership, trade and investment, labour markets and employment regulation, intellectual property, ethics and governance, infrastructure development, environmental and social responsibility. The primary focus is the crucial nexus between business and government in the Asia Pacific region.

Business Accounting — compulsory
A little bit old school and a little bit new — learn accounting processes from recording transactions in journals and ledgers to preparing substantive financial statements. You’ll apply your knowledge in a real business setting, and develop your ability to exercise professional judgement and communicate information concerning business practices with key stakeholders.

Business and Corporation Law — compulsory
Scrutinise legal principles and the ways that society, the legislature and the judiciary affect the lawmaking process, enabling it to meet the changing needs of society today. You’ll be introduced to the legal system, business law, consumer law and company law and related matters. You’ll also study the law of negligence and examine corporation law with regard to formation, operation, administration, corporate governance and fundraising. The law relating to directors and management, members’ rights and financing of a corporation, the Corporations Act and relevant case law will be covered in detail.

Company and Financial Reporting — compulsory
Introduces the regulatory setting and the framework of financial reporting of companies listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, as well as specific techniques required to account for and report on transactions of corporate entities. In addition, you’ll review and evaluate the application of selected accounting standards in the financial reports.

Company Valuation — elective
Provides coverage of contemporary business and equity valuation approaches together with development of the tools to undertake valuations. Topics such as the quality of financial reports, financial analysis, prospective value analysis and forecasting and valuation in special circumstances such as during company takeovers or of companies operating in developing markets are emphasised.

Contemporary Issues in Accounting Theory — compulsory
Gain an introduction to the general nature of accounting theory and its function in relation to problems confronting the accounting profession. Accounting practices including accounting rules, principles and process are examined within the context of contemporary theoretical perspectives and socio-political behaviours of market participants.

Corporate Governance — compulsory
Takeovers, investors, excess, abuse of power and unethical practice. Explore how modern corporate governance has transformed the roles of shareholders, managers, and directors of publicly held companies, and develop skills in applying techniques for effective corporate governance.

Economics and Quantitative Analysis — compulsory
Focuses on aspects of microeconomics and macroeconomics of most relevance to managers. The main themes are the market system and what it can accomplish; limitations and failures of markets; government policies and other factors in the macroeconomic environment impacting on business; how issues and government policies with respect to the international economy impact on business. Quantitative analytic techniques for business and economics are introduced and applied.

Entrepreneurship and Marketing — elective
What are the realities of entrepreneurial decision making in the contemporary context? Learn core marketing concepts — like how to harness the creative potential of complex dynamics in a systemic approach that creates, grows and amplifies value throughout the system. You’ll explore strategy, entrepreneurship and marketing and develop a framework for understanding relevant theory and its application.
Unit descriptions

Finance — compulsory
Introduces key concepts, principles, tools, contemporary issues and context of finance and financial management in order to prepare you for participation in making investment and financing decisions. Topics covered include the time value of money, the risk and return trade-off, capital budgeting, working capital management and financing alternatives.

Financial Management of Asia Pacific Business — elective
Does the global financial market affect the finances of the Asia Pacific? This elective deals with how businesses comply with regulatory requirements, emerging issues, market participation, and how policy and integration impacts upon Asia Pacific countries. You’ll develop the capacity to understand the operation of global markets with particular emphasis on the Asia Pacific.

Global Business — elective
Examines the (additional) challenges confronting the global business manager. Firstly you’ll explore the vibrant and dynamic global business environment and the opportunities and threats posed by operating in a global environment; notably in political economy and culture. You’ll then turn to the development of global business strategy, addressing strategic management, entry strategies, organisational design and the functional areas of marketing, finance and human resource management.

Industry Research Project (double weighted) — compulsory
In this double weighted unit you’ll complete and present a substantial, independently directed industry project using evidence-based research, documented as a business report in a form suitable for presentation to a board or industry panel. This real world business related study and investigation can be inspired by, and potentially have an immediate and direct impact on, your current workplace.

Leading and Managing People — elective
Learn contemporary theories and practices of leadership and management in a global setting. Various leadership styles will be canvassed and applied reflexively in developing your own approach to leading and managing, as two separate but interrelated skill sets.

Managerial Accounting — compulsory
Survey the landscape of accounting systems that facilitate internal management planning, decision making and control. Learn to match costing systems with particular firms and industries. Analyse, present and interpret data to solve problems presented by, for example, departments, branches and the devolution of control, and study transfer pricing applicable to particular types of industrial activity undertaken.

Managing Information Systems — elective
Provides a managerial approach to the use of information and information systems in organisations. Be introduced to the use of information and information systems as a means of achieving competitive advantage and for improving efficiency and effectiveness in business processes and managerial decision-making. You’ll learn to manage information as one of the key resources of an organisation by planning, developing, implementing and evaluating information systems from a managerial perspective, taking into account social, ethical and global factors.

Professional Auditing — compulsory
Critically examine financial information for ethical, legal and quality control issues. Assess risk, establish testing controls, execute an audit and provide substantive balance sheets, income statements and audit reports.

Project Management — compulsory
Gain an oversight of the principles of project management and develop the skills to plan and manage projects with teams. Learn about the various phases and processes associated with a project life cycle, and explore how to practically apply project management in an organisational setting.

Taxation Law and Practice — compulsory
Income tax is currently the single most significant source of government revenue. Discover the principles of a good tax system (at state and federal level), and delve into the nitty gritty of Fringe Benefits Tax, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and state-based taxes.
Fees and Assistance
At just $2220 per unit*, the Southern Cross University Master of Professional Accounting is one of most affordable in Australia. What’s more, depending on your previous study or professional experience, you may receive up to eight units of advanced standing — significantly decreasing the cost of your degree, and enabling you to graduate sooner.

A FEE-HELP loan can pay for all or part of your fees*. You pay the loan back through the tax system once your income reaches a particular level.

For more information on fees and the FEE-HELP loan, call us on 1300 589 882.

* 2015 fees. Fees are subject to change. Plus $24 per unit Student Services Amenities Fees. Fees for domestic students. If you are planning to study in your own country outside of Australia, please contact us to discuss your fees.
# Australian citizens and Holders of Permanent Humanitarian visa, who are residing within Australia are eligible to access the FEE-HELP loan scheme.

Entry requirements
To qualify for entry into the Master of Professional Accounting, you must demonstrate your professional standing. You should either have a bachelor’s degree (or a similar qualification), or have other professional experience that we regard as equivalent to a degree. You must also be proficient in English.

Advanced standing
We calculate advanced standing (which will affect the duration of your degree and the number of units you’ll need to study) by looking at your particular education and experience.

This outline will give you a good idea of what you may need to study to get your Master of Professional Accounting.

You need to complete 16 units, meaning approximately 2.6 years of part-time study, if:
• Your undergraduate degree is not in accounting; or
• You have less than five years of relevant professional experience.

You need to complete 12 units, meaning approximately 2 years of part-time study, if:
• You have five years or more of relevant professional experience; or
• You majored in accounting as part of your Bachelor Degree; or
• You already have a Graduate Certificate in Accounting.

You need to complete 8 units, meaning approximately 1.2 years (14 months) of part-time study, if:
• You majored in accounting as part of your Bachelor Degree and received Second Class Honours or above; or
• You already have a Graduate Diploma in Accounting.

Examinations
CPA Australia and CA require exams to be invigilated. This means that you must be in attendance at an approved examination centre to sit your exams (one per unit). To find out more about the examination process please call us on 1300 589 882.

International Students
Southern Cross University welcomes international onshore students. This guide however is not intended for their use and they should not rely on this information. International onshore students should contact SCU International: intapps@scu.edu.au or +61 2 6620 3500.

Flexible graduation options
We know that plans change. That’s why we’ve built flexible graduation options into the Master of Professional Accounting. This means that if you need to exit early, if home or work demand your full attention, you could still receive a postgraduate qualification based on the units you’ve completed. And if you decide to return to the MPA at a later date, you’ll receive advanced standing towards your degree. It’s a win-win!

• Get a Master of Professional Accounting — complete all Part A and Part B units, and two units from Part C.
• Get a Graduate Diploma in Accounting — complete eight units from Part A.
• Get a Graduate Certificate in Accounting — complete four units from Part A.
The online experience

Our online course is designed to meet the demands of busy, mobile people — people who travel frequently, work abroad, and juggle multiple work, life and family commitments.

From the comfort of your home — or anywhere with an internet connection — you can access course content, assignments, quizzes, and collaborate, discuss and debate ideas with fellow students and lecturers.

Each unit has its own website to keep you focused. Weekly activities, readings and case studies are laid out with step-by-step instructions. As the weeks progress and your knowledge deepens, you’ll tackle increasingly sophisticated concepts, and employ critical analysis.

It’s an engaging, flexible, intuitive and interactive experience, designed to take you into the future with confidence.

Student success

As an online student at Southern Cross University, you can expect the same academic excellence, collaboration and support our on-campus students enjoy.

Our dedicated staff will work with you to identify the challenges you might face as a busy online learner. They will give you the tools and guidance to persevere, graduate and go on to make meaningful contributions in your field.

You’ll also have your own student success advisor, who will be your personal concierge from day one to graduation day. Your advisor can help you find extra resources or assistance whenever you need them.

How to apply

The online application process at Southern Cross University is convenient and easy. And an enrolment advisor is standing by to help you every step of the way.

Call 1300 589 882.

You’ll need:

- transcripts and certificates from any past studies
- your current CV
- if you speak English as a second language, evidence of your English language skills.

If you have all you need to get started, you can apply now at:

online.scu.edu.au/apply

1. This publication is a guide to Southern Cross University Online Master of Professional Accounting. The information set out in this publication is an expression of intent only and should not be taken as a firm offer or undertaking. The information contained in this publication is correct at time of release and the University reserves the right to make alterations to any information contained within this publication without notice. Copyright Southern Cross University May 2015.

2. SCU offers an on-campus Master of Professional Accounting, however the unit content may differ to this online version. Please refer to the Master of Professional Accounting Online via the SCU Online website - http://online.scu.edu.au/

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