The Flying Start Degree Programme
Henley Business School at the University of Reading

Start your degree
Start your career
Realise your potential

BA Accounting and Business (NN41)
Welcome
This short booklet will tell you everything you need to know about the degree programme and what it can do for your career in business

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Henley Business School received 4,155 undergraduate applications for 2015/16
What you need to know
10 reasons for choosing this degree programme

A world-class degree:
As well as enjoying a traditional university experience, you’ll gain a BA in Accounting and Business from Henley Business School, ranked top ten overall for Accounting and Finance in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2016.

An award-winning campus:
A fifth Green Flag Award in 2015 – the UK’s benchmark for parks and green spaces – recognised the beauty and exceptional standards of our campus. No wonder it’s home to some of the country’s most satisfied students.

Support network:
You’ll join a supportive community and become part of a thriving student population. You’ll also build strong working relationships with friendly, approachable lecturers – themselves ICAEW Chartered Accountants who have worked in practice – to bring accountancy to life for you.

An active social life:
With over 100 student-led clubs, societies and organisations to pick and choose from at the University of Reading, you’re sure to find something that will help you relax and unwind after a hard day’s study.

Work with PwC:
PwC has been voted employer of choice by students in The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers survey for 12 consecutive years, and voted the UK’s Accountancy Employer of Choice for 17 years. You’ll also have structured paid work placements with PwC as part of the programme.
Job offer: Most graduates who follow this type of programme with PwC get a job offer at the end. So you’re not just working towards an exceptional qualification – you’re joining a profession.

Globally recognised qualification: The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) is a world-leading professional membership organisation that promotes, develops and supports over 146,000 Chartered Accountants worldwide.

Career progression: Join PwC and you’ll be two years ahead of its traditional graduates, becoming a fully qualified ICAEW Chartered Accountant with the salary to match, just over a year after graduation.

Paid work experience: While your friends are looking for internships during the summer, you’ll have your holidays free to do with as you want – knowing you have paid work placements with one of the world’s leading professional services organisations lined up during term time.

Business network: PwC has over 195,000 people across 157 countries, so the relationships you build will be invaluable in your future accounting career.
Get your career off to a flying start
An innovative degree for students who want to become ICAEW Chartered Accountants

What it is
The BA Accounting and Business degree (NN41) is an exciting and challenging four-year programme that gives you the benefit of going to university, getting paid work experience and fast-tracking your career. The programme is based at Henley Business School at the University of Reading, and has been developed in partnership with PwC, the UK’s leading professional services organisation, and the ICAEW. Together, we offer an exceptional blend of academic excellence, professional accreditation and real practical experience – which will help you towards a graduate job offer from PwC.

What you’ll get
You’ll get a fantastic university experience as a full-time student for four years, making new friends, having new experiences and generally enjoying university life. You’ll also benefit from paid work experience and training with PwC. With an impressive FTSE 100 client list, PwC is one of the best places to start a career as a trainee ICAEW Chartered Accountant.
The Flying Start Degree Programme

Where you could go

Throughout your paid work placements with PwC, you’ll apply what you’ve learned in lectures and workshops to real clients and real situations. If you impress while you’re there, and graduate with a 2:1 degree, PwC is likely to offer you a permanent job. Pass just three more ICAEW examinations, and you could be a fully qualified Chartered Accountant just a year after graduating. That will make you part of a profession that will give you a serious competitive edge wherever you take your career.

What you’ll learn

At Henley Business School you’ll learn relevant and current accounting and business skills from lecturers who are experts in their field and experienced practising accountants. You’ll study modules that will exempt you from 12 of the 15 ICAEW professional examinations. In addition, paid work placements in PwC’s Assurance practice are built into the programme, which means you’ll get to apply your knowledge in the workplace and continually develop through practical work experience over the four years.

97* of the world’s 100 global leading brands employ ICAEW Chartered Accountants

*Includes parent companies

Source: ICAEW member data at January 2016, Interbrand Best Global Brands 2015
Who we are
Three inspirational organisations coming together to create something special

“We are proud to be working with PwC and ICAEW in this innovative collaboration. It confirms the commitment of all partners to providing the best educational experience for, and development of, talented people, and it builds on our existing successful and longstanding relationships.”
Professor Gavin Brooks, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)

Henley Business School at the University of Reading
We’re one of Europe’s leading business schools, educating students from age 18 right through to senior executive level. Our reputation is endorsed by triple accreditation from the UK, Europe and US accrediting bodies, placing us among the top 1% of business schools in the world.

Our undergraduate programmes are ranked among the best in the UK, with a strong reputation for student support and development. You’ll have access to state-of-the-art learning resources and facilities, and will be taught by an award-winning team of accounting lecturers and tutors.

As a campus university, we offer the ideal environment for reflection, learning and development, and entertainment. Our Whiteknights campus has been awarded Green Flag status and named one of the best open spaces in the UK (a great fit for the ICAEW, whose Chartered Accountants are employed by every one of the Best Global Green brands). And all this is less than 30 minutes by train from London.
ICA EW

We are a world-leading professional membership organisation that promotes, develops and supports over 146,000 ICAEW Chartered Accountants worldwide. We provide qualifications and professional development, share our knowledge, insight and technical expertise, and protect the quality and integrity of the accountancy and finance profession.

Our ICAEW Chartered Accountancy qualification, the ACA, is one of the most advanced learning and professional development programmes available. It has integrated components which give an in-depth understanding across accountancy, finance and business. Together we help build the technical knowledge, professional skills and practical experience to perform to the highest level.

PwC

We believe your career is just that; yours. You choose it. You live it. You make it happen. To get the best from it, you need the best opportunities. That’s why opportunities are at the heart of a career with us. Opportunities to grow as an individual, to build lasting relationships and make an impact in a place where people, quality and value mean everything.

We have a vision of where we want to be as a professional services organisation, and we need the best of the next generation of talent, like you, to make it happen. You’ll be learning from the best in their field to understand the way we work with our clients. That’s why the Flying Start degree programme will help you start your career much earlier than you might think possible.
Why study Accounting and Business at Henley Business School?

One of the most respected business schools in the world

82 FTSE 100 companies have at least one ICAEW Chartered Accountant on their Board

Source: ICAEW member data at January 2015, FTSE 350 data at December 2014
Henley Business School’s reputation

Henley Business School is proud to be ranked among Europe’s top business schools by the Financial Times and we’re one of only 57 business schools in the world to hold triple accredited status, placing us in the top 1% of business schools globally. We’re ranked number one in the UK for accounting and finance (Guardian University Guide 2015) and overall student satisfaction was between 94-100% for accounting and finance in the National Student Survey 2015.

Award-winning lecturers

You’ll be taught by award-winning, engaging lecturers who are passionate about their subject. Their wealth of professional experience and innovative teaching methods will inspire you, enhance your learning experience and bring the subjects of accountancy and business to life.

Commercial insight

All our lecturers are ICAEW Chartered Accountants and have worked in practice and/or industry before. As a result, you’ll have access to an unparalleled depth and breadth of industry knowledge and practical experience to help you on your path to a successful career in accountancy.

Supportive study environment

When you study accounting at Henley Business School you’ll join a supportive community. Not only do you benefit from our fantastic campus and state-of-the-art business school, you’ll also build strong working relationships with our approachable lecturers. They’re genuinely interested in you as an individual, and in helping you become part of a thriving and dynamic student population.

Professional accreditation

Our BA Accounting and Business programme gives you exemptions from 12 out of the 15 ICAEW professional examinations. We’re one of only a handful of higher education institutions to offer this level of accreditation on a degree programme.

Paid work placements

The guaranteed work placements with PwC and the full-time graduate job offer if you achieve a first or a 2:1 degree provide amazing career opportunities.
Year by year
All about the degree programme

This is one of the fastest degree routes to becoming an ICAEW Chartered Accountant in the UK. Aside from gaining extensive business knowledge and practical experience, you can expect to leave university with:
• A degree in Accounting and Business from the University of Reading.
• Associated Chartered Accountant (ACA) qualification well under way.
• A full-time job offer with PwC, if you impress.

Year 1 (university)
• Full-time study at university.
• Take part in ‘welcome week’ – a chance to settle in.
• Meet new friends, join clubs and find the best places to eat and drink.
• Work alongside other students towards your degree.
• Study modules in Accounting, Assurance, Business & Finance, and Law.
• Expect 8-10 hours of face-to-face teaching each week during term time.

Year 2 (university and work placement 1)
• Build and broaden your technical knowledge by studying modules including Financial Accounting, Audit and Assurance, Principles of Tax and Management Information in the first term.
• Join PwC as an Associate for 14 weeks during the spring term for your first paid work placement.
• Return to university for the summer term teaching and exams.
• Finish the year with a well-earned summer break.
Year 3 (university and work placement 2)

- Complete your second 14-week work placement at PwC in the spring term.
- In the summer term, return to university for revision and exams before the summer break.

Year 4 (university and work placement 3)

- During your final year, you’ll study Business Tax Planning, Business Strategy for Accountants and Contemporary Issues in Accounting in the first term, building on the professional and practical knowledge you’ve already gained.
- Start your final 16-week work placement at PwC, at the same level as a graduate in their second year of work.
- See a difference in the level of responsibility – you may even get some team-leading experience.

After graduation (full-time work)

- Perform well on your work placements, achieve a 2:1 or above, and you’ll receive a graduate job offer one level up from where most graduates start.
- You’ll be a year away from being a qualified ICAEW Chartered Accountant – only five years after starting university.
- Compared to most other graduates, you’ll be qualifying a year earlier.
- Expect a fantastic career with PwC ahead of you.

You’ll be paid a competitive salary while you’re on work placement. For more information about the financial package for this degree, visit henley.ac.uk/flyingstart

Chelsea, year 4 student
“On the Flying Start degree programme at Henley Business School, motivated and hard-working students thrive and achieve, with support from professionally qualified accounting staff. The powerful combination of university and professional experience is an excellent foundation for your future career.” Ronita Ram, Programme Director
“Because the course is so close-knit, I’ve made many good friends and connections. And the feeling of community not only includes classmates, but lecturers and representatives from PwC as well. Knowing I’ll have the support of this community right through my PwC career and beyond makes me much more confident about working in a business environment.”
Charlotte, BA Accounting and Business, current student, year 4

“I applied for the BA Accounting and Business programme because of the excellent links with industry and PwC, and also because of the beautiful campus at Reading. The exam accreditations are another bonus – you’re on a fast-track to the ICAEW ACA qualification, giving you an advantage over other students studying a traditional accounting degree. As year groups are relatively small compared to other degree programmes, there’s a strong sense of community among the students and staff at the business school too.”
Rachel, BA Accounting and Business, current student, year 4

“I strongly believed that this course was an ideal start to my career in the business world. The opportunity to experience student life whilst also gaining professional real-life experience was one which I couldn’t refuse! From day one, lectures, tutorials and all other university work is focused towards the progression through our ICAEW qualification. Lecturers are knowledgeable, experienced and approachable; making learning both interesting and fun. As a campus, the University of Reading covers all my needs; sport, social and study, all within walking distance of student halls.”
James, BA Accounting and Business, current student, year 3

“From about the age of 13 I knew I wanted to be an accountant, and back home there was a PwC office not too far from where I lived. I did my research and realised I wanted to work in this profession. When I came across the BA Accounting and Business programme at the University of Reading, I knew it was the best opportunity. Now I’m here, it’s a wonderful experience meeting people from all over the world who share similar aspirations and are hard working. If you’re a student and want to become a chartered accountant, I believe this programme is for you.”
Olivia, BA Accounting and Business, current student, year 3
All about PwC
A paid work placement that will transform your future

PwC has topped The Times Top 100 Graduate Employer of Choice for Accounting for 17 consecutive years

PwC’s More London Office
The Flying Start Degree Programme is one of the best ways to develop your understanding of business and accounting, as it’s made up of two parts: study and work experience.

Paid work placements
Your paid work placements are spread across years 2, 3 and 4. They’re built into your academic year, so the summer is yours to enjoy. Every step of the way you’ll be supported by a network of staff from both the Business School and PwC. You’ll earn a competitive salary, and may have some of your living costs supplemented as well as paying reduced university fees.

You’ll join one of PwC’s Assurance teams, where you could be working on external audits. Because you’ll be working on real client work, PwC will spend some time putting you through their own technical training. The expert guidance, strategy and advice they offer their clients are all down to the people who work there. So they take their development very seriously. After all, it’s their collective skills and knowledge that are the strength behind PwC’s success.

You’ll complete all three of your paid work placements with PwC in years 2, 3 and 4 and you’re likely to be based in an office with a number of other students from the programme, so you’ll build very strong networks and make lasting friendships as part of a wider group. You’ll work with some truly inspiring people, learn from them and, in turn, share your own insights – all contributing to the growth and success of your career and the organisation as a whole.

Job offer
It’s important you’re flexible about the office you’ll be working in, because, if you do well across the three work placements, you could get a job offer to work there full-time – and start straight after your final university summer holidays. You’ll be fast-tracked onto PwC’s graduate training programme two years ahead of graduates coming from other degrees. Having responsibility early on will be hard work and may feel challenging at times, but it’s incredibly rewarding if you put the time and effort in, particularly if you secure a job offer with them. Not only that, you’ll be able to qualify as an ICAEW Chartered Accountant around 13 months after you join as a graduate, as your practical experience will be recognised by the ICAEW and will speed up your ICAEW professional membership.

100% of graduates who completed this type of programme with PwC received a job offer at the end.

Start your career with PwC.
Take the opportunity of a lifetime
How to apply
Four clear steps to securing your place

1. Do your research
   You’ll be supported and encouraged every step of the way in your application, but you’ll also be thoroughly challenged. So it’s vital you know your facts about the programme, PwC and ICAEW before you apply. You can find out everything you need to know at pwc.com/uk/flyingstart, henley.ac.uk/flyingstart and icaew.com/careers. Even better, come along to our open days to meet us and ask questions in person.

2. Apply
   Complete the standard UCAS application form, specifying University of Reading’s BA Accounting and Business (NN41). You’ll need AAB grades from three A-levels or equivalent (excluding General Studies) plus an A in GCSE Maths and a B or above in GCSE English. If you meet the entry requirements, you’ll be sent a supplementary application form. Visit the University of Reading website for more information about our competencies as we’ll look for examples of these in your application form.
You'll find out if you've been offered a place on the programme at the end of the assessment day. You'll then need to accept the offer via UCAS.

Assessment Day
Submit a strong supplementary form and you'll be invited to an assessment day run jointly by PwC and the Henley Business School. We'll send you lots of guidance to help you prepare beforehand. On the day, you'll take part in a group exercise, an individual interview and complete a psychometric test. You'll be able to take a look around, speak to students and staff at Henley Business School and meet members of the PwC team.

Offer
You'll find out if you've been offered a place on the programme at the end of the assessment day. You'll then need to accept the offer via UCAS.

Take the opportunity of a lifetime

Henley Business School is ranked among Europe’s top business schools by The Financial Times.
To find out more:

You can email us at ugaccounting@henley.ac.uk
or visit any of our websites:

pwc.com/uk/flyingstart
henley.ac.uk/flyingstart
icaew.com/careers