The Flying Start Degree Programme at Newcastle University

Start your degree
Start your career
Realise your potential

BA (Honours) Business Accounting and Finance, NN14–N21
Welcome
This short booklet will give you everything you need to know about the programme and what it can do for your career in business

Awarded 100% for student satisfaction, National Student Survey 2013, 2014 & 2015
The degree programme and financial package

At a glance

For more information about the financial package for this degree, visit ncl.ac.uk/flyingstart
The BA (Honours) Business Accounting and Finance degree programme (NN14–N21) is a collaboration between Newcastle University, PwC, and ICAEW (Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales). The degree programme has been running for over 14 years, making it the most established degree that combines academic study, integrated professional work placements and progress towards the ICAEW Chartered Accountancy qualification, the ACA.

The degree programme’s unique structure enables you to put classroom theory into commercial practice during your work placement and then relate your practical experience back to your studies. It’s delivered by a team of professionals from the University and PwC, who are dedicated to the success of the degree. It’s designed to equip you with a range of business skills that will help you gain a degree, progress towards a professional qualification and get paid work experience in the business world – all of which will help you towards receiving a full-time graduate offer with PwC.

We offer a great financial package to support your time on the degree:

- Paid work placements with a competitive starting salary
- Reduced tuition fees in years 2, 3 and 4
- Relocation assistance as well as accommodation which is sourced and paid for by PwC if needed for each work placement period
- Many of the learning materials are provided free of charge
- Use of a laptop throughout your work placements
- Technical skills training during your work placement

So if your sights are set on a career in finance, it makes sense to start early. Whilst many other degrees tackle business, accounting and finance, none can prepare you for your chosen profession as well as the Flying Start degree programme.

ncl.ac.uk/flyingstart
Get your career off to a flying start
An innovative degree for students who want to become accountants

Study in a Triple Accredited Business School (EQUIS, AMBA, AACSB)
What you’ll be doing
This prestigious degree programme is specially designed to allow you to develop your understanding of business, both in the university classroom and on your work placement with PwC. Unlike a traditional sandwich course, you really do get the best of both work and university life. In years 2-4 you’ll complete integrated work placements lasting 4-5 months at one of PwC’s offices to experience the link between theory and practice. This means you get to apply what you’ve learnt at university each year and take on increasing responsibility through client work. With this blended approach, you’ll feel yourself developing and gaining valuable professional skills without missing out on university life.

On campus
An experienced team of lecturers will guide you through the degree programme. They will use their own experience of working in business and combine this with teaching methods designed to make the subject come alive. The first year will introduce you to key issues including accounting, business and finance. Years 2 and 3 will focus on the technical and professional aspects, including working towards becoming an ICAEW Chartered Accountant. The final year will develop your skills in discussing and analysing contemporary business issues. Visit our website for more information on the modules that you will study: ncl.ac.uk/flyingstart

On paid work placement
After joining PwC’s Assurance team you’ll work on client projects and may even have the opportunity to experience a new city. PwC’s work placement lasts between 4 and 5 months, during the second, third and fourth years of your degree. Opportunities exist across their UK offices and during your first year, we’ll work with you to decide on a location where you’ll complete all three work placements. If you receive a graduate job offer upon successfully graduating from the programme, this will be in the office where you’ve completed your work placements, meaning you’ll start on day one in familiar surroundings with a strong support network behind you.

You’ll experience a range of clients, develop new skills and gain a broad knowledge of business issues, helping you to put all you’ve learnt at university into practice. The work placements are recognised as practical experience by ICAEW, so they also accelerate your progress to membership of ICAEW, and qualifying as an ICAEW Chartered Accountant.

You’ll be supported by a network that includes staff from the University and PwC, including a dedicated People Manager, and support from previous graduates from the degree programme who will know exactly how you’re feeling. Before you start each work placement you’ll receive an induction and dedicated training, so you’ll be fully up to speed on what you’ll be doing. You’ll also receive a laptop which is yours to keep for the duration of each work placement.
Who we are
Three inspirational organisations coming together to create something special

Newcastle University
At Newcastle University Business School, we believe that business is shaped by the desire to think differently and the will to transform the status quo. Our thinking, combined with a first-class reputation for academic excellence, high graduate employability and student experience ensures that we are a first-choice destination for students from across the world. We are part of Newcastle University, a Russell Group University with a proud history of over 180 years.

“We are proud to be a partner with PwC and ICAEW in offering this highly innovative degree programme, which has been running successfully for over 14 years.”

Simon Pallett, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Newcastle University
ncl.ac.uk
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.

“We’ve benefitted from some truly outstanding talent through our partnership with Newcastle University and ICAEW, and many of the graduates from the degree programme are forging great careers with our organisation.”

Gaenor Bagley, Head of People, PwC
pwc.com/uk/careers

ICAEW

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 knowledge, skills and experience to perform to the highest level.

“Graduates have an excellent foundation on which to build a career in Chartered Accountancy and through this dynamic and innovative degree are enabled to take an accelerated route to qualify as an ICAEW Chartered Accountant.”

Shaun Robertson, Director, Qualifications, ICAEW
icaew.com/careers

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
Why study at Newcastle University?
One of the most respected business schools in the world

Newcastle is in the top 1% of universities in the world

Source: QS World University Rankings 2015/16
The Flying Start Degree Programme

Bold ambition

Being a triple-accredited Business School demonstrates our commitment to quality and highlights our international credibility. Play your part in a community that is eager to challenge, shape and redefine the future of international enterprise. We'll enhance your skills and understanding, enabling you to develop your influential career in global business.

Global networks

International business is built on networks and communities. You'll be part of a dynamic community that unites opportunities, people and cultures – a growing influence on a global scale. With campuses in Newcastle and London, you'll capitalise on our well-established connections with business and industry and have access to a wide network of international alumni and partners. Wherever you go, our distinctive spirit and reputation will precede you.

Vibrant energy

From a city steeped in innovation and regeneration, we inherit a vibrant energy and bold purpose. Throughout your study, you'll be encouraged to push the boundaries of knowledge and enquiry. Your determination and ambition will thrive as you live, work and study in Newcastle, one of the UK's favourite student cities.

Challenge convention

Our Flying Start degree programme has been celebrating success for 14 years. The programme was the first to bring together a top university, leading employer and professional membership organisation to offer students a great career opportunity whilst allowing a traditional university experience. We were delighted to celebrate this success with our graduates and current students in spring 2013 with a showcase event to share experiences and mark our 10-year milestone.
Year by year

All about the degree programme

Year 1 (university)

- Live away from home, develop your independence and make new friends
- Enjoy student life and start your studies
- Meet your personal tutor
- Take part in PwC workshops, and work in small groups to support each other’s development
- Take your first ICAEW ACA examinations
- Discover an extensive range of clubs and societies, and become a student rep
- Work with PwC to decide on your work placement location

Year 2 (university and work placement 1)

- Work with audit clients and develop a network at PwC
- You’ll be provided with a laptop to use throughout your work placement
- Meet your work placement Buddy and People Manager
- Your accommodation or home living costs will be paid for
- Focus on ICAEW ACA modules, and link study to work placements
- There will be the potential to work on away jobs
Year 3 (university and work placement 2)
As work placement 1 plus:
- Take on more challenging roles and greater responsibility within a client audit environment
- Focus on ICAEW ACA modules
- Complete ICAEW ACA Professional Level exams
- Become a Buddy for a work placement 1 student

Year 4 (university and work placement 3)
As work placement 2 plus:
- Longer work placements mean you’ll get involved in audit planning
- Coach junior colleagues – this will help you to step up into a leadership role
- Start a research project on a subject of your choice
- Study modules which will help to prepare you for the ICAEW Advanced Level exams
- Take the opportunity to gain a graduate job offer with PwC
- Help to organise the unmissable annual student ball
- Graduation

After graduation (full-time work)
- If you receive a job offer, join PwC on a graduate programme, 2 years ahead of traditional graduates
- Begin leading your own team
- Complete the ICAEW ACA Advanced Level and remaining technical work experience
- Become an Office Champion, supporting new students on work placements
- Engage in extra-curricular activities, such as volunteering in the community or joining a sports team
- Just over a year after graduation, you could become a fully qualified ICAEW Chartered Accountant
- Post-qualification, there’s also potential for secondments overseas and to other parts of PwC’s business
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.

Start your career with PwC. Take the opportunity of a lifetime

100% of graduates who completed this type of programme with PwC received a job offer at the end.
Life in Newcastle
A world-class university in one of the UK’s liveliest cities

More about Newcastle
Newcastle offers something for everyone. It’s a vibrant, cost-effective and thriving student-friendly city, attracting over 50,000 students each year. It’s the cosmopolitan capital of the North East, with an international reputation for our superb nightlife, that offers a warm welcome, world-class music, arts, shopping and sport right in the city centre.

Our city-centre campus and Business School means most places are within walking distance, or you can hop on the Metro, with stops throughout the city and the coast – perfect for summer day trips to the beach. Your determination and ambition will thrive as you live, work and study in Newcastle, one of the UK’s favourite student cities.

We’re 6th in the UK for student satisfaction among comparator universities

Source: National Student Survey 2015
Cutting-edge facilities and support

Situated within a £50 million development, the Business School provides cutting-edge facilities and is the centre point for a valuable network of regional, national and international thought leaders, alumni and leading professionals.

The University has invested in outstanding facilities and IT services to support your learning, and has ambitious plans to spend in excess of £200 million more investment over the next three years.

Highly rated Students’ Union
(Top 20 in National Student Survey 2015)

From Freshers’ Week to your graduation, from a morning coffee to the night bus home, Newcastle University Students’ Union (NUSU) caters for all your needs.

NUSU provides opportunities, activities and services that centre around you; designed to make sure you get the most out of university life. Run by students, for students, it's the hub of social life on campus, with over 200 clubs and societies, and endless opportunities to make friends and experience new activities.

At Newcastle, this all takes place under one roof, in our beautiful Students’ Union Building. It’s the centre of student social life and is at the heart of the campus. So whether you want to try a new sport, start a society, volunteer in the community or just grab a snack and relax on the lawn with friends, head down to the Students’ Union.
Meet our people

The key benefits of the programme were the exposure I gained to PwC, ICAEW and the real work experience, as well as the opportunity to complete 12 out of the 15 ACA exams. Six years after graduating, it has certainly met my expectations. I’ve also managed to develop a wide, global network of people I met through the programme which meant my career was given a flying start.

I qualified at the age of 23 and have since gone on to work with a number of clients in different industries. Academically, I particularly enjoyed working closely with the teaching team as it was clear that they really cared about each student’s development and always had time to help us.

In 2015, I completed a 15-month secondment as the Newcastle Flying Start Programme Manager here at PwC – travelling full circle! The role enabled me to learn much more about the programme whilst giving something back and contributing my own experience to support the continued development of our next cohort of young professionals.

Claire

Joined PwC: 2010
PwC, Manager, Assurance
Being a very small programme, the degree has a tighter community than other courses, giving it a very engaging and friendly feel. I’m a student-staff representative which means I act as one of the voices for my contemporaries to the course directors.

As a born and bred northern lad, Newcastle University was an obvious choice for me and I love studying in such a student-focused city.

The work placements provide so many opportunities and the degree offers the potential of employment straight from graduation. On my first client, where I was working in a small and friendly team, I was coached and learnt an immense amount in a short space of time.

All my placement jobs have been very different – from what the client does, to the team I was working for – no two jobs have been the same! I feel that I’ll be in a very strong position at the end of my degree.

Ed
Second year student
Business, Accounting and Finance degree
Following my offer to study at Newcastle University, I had no doubt in accepting my place. The University is an esteemed member of the Russell Group with a reputation for academic prestige and a myriad of different programmes. I also think the city is vibrant and student-friendly and a great place to study.

The programme is both rigorous and rewarding. It’s very well structured and we started preparing for placements soon after the beginning of the first term at university which was great. The programme not only gives you a head start academically but also develops your professional conduct via workshops and events with PwC and ICAEW.

There are so many social aspects to life in Newcastle. The University has many clubs and societies which you can join and explore; while the city has a vast array of nightclubs, restaurants, pubs and other events which make for a fun evening. It’s hard to be bored in Newcastle as there is so much to see and do!
At 23 I was a fully qualified ICAEW Chartered Accountant, with a degree from a fantastic university and at the same point many of my friends hadn’t even started thinking about what sort of career they wanted.

A highlight of my career with PwC has been the fantastic teams I worked with on a variety of different clients; from a marketing company to a law firm and even a construction company. Every team I worked with had extremely bright and conscientious team members as well as being fun and friendly.

Since graduating I kept in contact with the University, then started helping with the assessment days, always knowing that I wanted to stay involved in the programme in some way. So in 2015 when the role came up to be the Newcastle Flying Start Programme Manager, I jumped at the opportunity to get involved full-time in the Flying Start world again. Being able to meet all the students, support them through their placements at PwC and help give them the key skills they need to be the best cohort of young professionals is another highlight of my role!
What you need to know
10 reasons for choosing this degree programme

Celebrating success:
We were the first university to develop this type of programme and have over 14 years’ experience in bringing together the expertise of Newcastle University, PwC and ICAEW. Our tried and tested approach has seen around 300 students go on to successful careers with PwC.

Professional qualification:
In as little as 13 months after graduation, you can be a fully qualified ICAEW Chartered Accountant. This means it’ll take you around 5 years in total to qualify, which is one of the fastest routes to qualification available in the UK.

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. There’s no better place to learn your trade as an accountant.

Strong community:
You’ll be able to learn and develop with a group of like-minded students and have support from the students in the years above. You’ll experience a close-knit community and a buzzing social life with highlights including the annual ‘BAF’ (Business Accounting and Finance) ball, organised by students themselves.

Student experience:
You’ll get the experience of being a student in Newcastle, one of the UK’s most lively and exciting student cities, as well as getting the opportunity to experience life in another city on a work placement.
Graduate opportunities:

There’s the opportunity to fast-track your career once you graduate by taking advantage of PwC’s excellent development opportunities. Lots of past students have worked abroad or in other parts of the business within a couple of years of graduating.

Quality teaching and learning:

You’ll experience interactive teaching sessions led by lecturers who are qualified accountants with business experience – they have been in your shoes and so are well placed to give you the best possible preparation for a career in business.

Support network:

There’ll be dedicated support from a professional team and successful graduates on campus and on your work placement. You’ll have a dedicated People Manager at PwC, as well as a Buddy in the year above and an ‘Office Champion’ – a recently qualified graduate.

Commercial awareness:

You’ll focus on developing commercial understanding through the taught degree and practical experience on your work placement, seeing progression in your work placement role each year as you take on increasing responsibility.

Best of both worlds:

You’ll get a well-rounded student experience and, as you only spend 4–5 months on work placement each year, you won’t miss out. There’s a huge range of extra-curricular opportunities at Newcastle University for you to get involved in – choose from over 140 societies, an outstanding sporting scene, or becoming a student rep.
After you graduate
Further your career with PwC

100% of graduates from this degree are now in employment or further study

Source: Destination of leavers from Higher Education 2014
Where you could go

A very high proportion of our students go on to further their careers with PwC on graduating. So while you’re not obliged to join PwC, it’s reassuring to know that the degree programme provides you with the opportunity to progress to employment with the UK’s top employer of choice.

The ICAEW Certificate and Professional Level modules that you’ll undertake give you the opportunity to be much closer to qualifying as an ICAEW Chartered Accountant compared with other UK graduates.

So if you join PwC, within about a year, you can fully qualify as an ICAEW Chartered Accountant. This is one of the fastest qualification routes available in the UK.

The design, content and structure of the degree programme is specifically tailored to the needs of aspiring Chartered Accountants and the feedback from our graduates is that you take much of what you learn while you’re at Newcastle University forward into the early stages of your career.

We’re delighted that so many of our graduates are still involved with the degree programme by coaching new students on work placement, acting as PwC People Managers, helping at Assessment Centres and delivering work placement training. There’s always a friendly face to welcome you and a network that extends across the globe.

All of this adds to the evidence that this degree at Newcastle University really does provide the best possible start to your professional career.
How to apply

Four clear steps to securing your place

Do your research

We're looking for people from a variety of backgrounds who have the personal qualities to succeed on the degree programme. We consider each application individually, taking into account past performance and potential to develop.

Apply

Complete the standard UCAS application form, specifying Newcastle University's BA (Honours) Business Accounting and Finance (NN14–N21). In terms of entry qualifications, we look for AAB at A-level (excluding General Studies). Grade A for GCSE Maths and Grade B for GCSE English are also required. If you’re studying for other qualifications, you’ll need similar levels of achievement.

Reasonable expenses are reimbursed, so it’s well worth taking time to see Newcastle University and the city.
Offer
You’ll find out if you’ve been offered a place on the programme soon after the assessment event. You’ll then need to accept the offer via UCAS.

Take the opportunity of a lifetime

Combined Open Day and Assessment Event
Selected applicants will be invited to a combined open day and assessment event. The open day allows you to meet staff and current students and have a look around campus. The assessment event will give you the opportunity to meet colleagues from PwC and the University and to showcase your achievements.
To find out more:
ncl.ac.uk/flyingstart
pwc.com/uk/flyingstart
icaew.com/careers

Alternatively we would be happy to talk to you informally:
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Tel: +44 191 208 1535 (International)
Email: flyingstart@ncl.ac.uk

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Each member firm is a separate legal entity. Please see pwc.com/structure for further details.