

Career Profile: Chartered Management Accountant

Management accountants look to the future with the purpose of influencing and shaping strategies to develop the potential of the business. They assess the unique business environment using essential practical skills in management accounting, business management and financial management.

The information provided by management accountants is usually confidential and used by management, instead of being publicly reported. It tends to be forward-looking rather than historical, and makes extensive use of management information systems and internal controls, rather than complying with accounting standards. The emphasis is on providing information for more effective decision-making within an organization.

Education Requirements

National Senior Certificate (NSC)

For a career in accounting students are advised to select Mathematics and English and to add to this a selection from the designated subjects. These are subjects that are particularly suitable for tertiary study.

Bachelor Degree

A three year degree programme that focuses on developing knowledge and skills for entry into careers in tourism.

Offered at:

- [North-West University](#)¹ (Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences - Potchefstroom Campus)
- [University of Johannesburg](#)² (Department of Accountancy)
- [University of Pretoria](#)³ (Department of Accounting)
- [University of the Witwatersrand](#)⁴ (School of Accountancy)
- [University of Venda](#)⁵ (Department of Accounting and Auditing)
- [UNISA](#)⁶ (College of Economic and Management Sciences)

¹ http://www.puk.ac.za/fakulteite/ekon/srw/index_e.html

² <http://www.uj.ac.za/Default.aspx?alias=staging.uj.ac.za/accounting>

³ <http://web.up.ac.za/default.asp?ipkCategoryID=42>

⁴ <http://web.wits.ac.za/Academic/CLM/Accountancy/>

⁵ http://www.univen.ac.za/management_sciences/dep_manage_account_audit.html

⁶ <http://www.unisa.ac.za/Default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=32>

North-West University

BCom (Chartered Accountancy), (Financial Accountancy), (Forensic Accountancy) or (Management Accountancy), BCom (Hons) (Chartered Accountancy), (Financial Accountancy), (Forensic Accountancy) or (Management Accountancy)

University of Johannesburg

BCom (Accounting), BCom (Hons) Accounting

University of Pretoria

BCom (Accounting Sciences), BCom (Financial Management Sciences), BCom (Hons)

University of the Witwatersrand

Bachelor of Accounting Science Degree (BAccSc) (CA Programme), Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) Degree, Management Accounting & Finance IV (Honours in Accounting)

UNISA

Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) Degree, Honours Bachelor of Accounting Science (General), Diploma/BTech Degree

Management Accounting places particular emphasis on combining theory and practice and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) sets its own criteria for granting professional status. In addition to gaining a degree, guided practice is required.

There are a number of companies that employ CIMA students, support them through their training and have attained CIMA training status. They include: Anglo American Platinum; Coca-Cola Fortune (Pty) Ltd; Department of Finance and Economic Development; HSBC Bank plc; Impala Platinum Ltd; JP Morgan Chase; Nestle SA (Pty) Ltd; Siemens Ltd; South African Broadcasting Corporation; Standard Bank; Toyota SA Motors (Pty) Ltd; Unilever SA (Pty) Ltd; Volkswagen SA.

Admission requirements

As admission requirements vary from one institution to another, find out what the specific requirements are by checking on the website and contacting the university if you have any queries.

Possible Employers

- Companies and organizations in commerce and all kinds of industries
- Public sector institutions (government at national, provincial and local levels)
- Registered firms of practising chartered management accountants
- Own practice (broad experience and capital is required)
- Partnership with other chartered management accountants

Find out more

Find out more about accounting management, bursaries and jobs:

- [University of Stellenbosch](#)⁷ describes the role of management accountants and the pathway to becoming an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Management Accounting (CIMA).
- Extract from a thesis giving an historical overview of [management accounting](#)⁸ and making some challenging suggestions to improve the relevance of education for management accounting.
- Diagram of the [CIMA qualification structure](#).⁹
- [Official CIMA magazine](#).¹⁰

⁷ <http://academic.sun.ac.za/accounting/cima.html>

⁸ <http://upetd.up.ac.za/thesis/available/etd-04132005-143800/unrestricted/03chapter3.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.cimaglobal.com/cps/rde/xchg/SID-0AAAC544-067B5141/live/root.xsl/1244.htm>

¹⁰ <http://www.cimaglobal.com/cps/rde/xchg/live/root.xsl/1673.htm>

Are you suited to this career?

This quick quiz can help you to identify whether you are suited for this occupation.

QUIZ	YES	NO
Are you committed to working in a business environment?		
Do you have an above average ability in mathematics?		
Do you have physical and mental stamina and perseverance?		
Would you describe yourself as having a lively and active mind?		
Do you think and communicate clearly, both verbally and in writing?		
Are you able to make sound judgements based on the information provided?		
Are you able to work accurately?		
Can you analyse, compare and interpret facts and figures quickly?		
Are you able to work under pressure?		
Would you describe yourself as a person of integrity?		

If you have mainly yes answers it may be an indication that this is an occupation to consider.