

Business leaders of the future

A CAREER in management accounting is a great way to get to the heart of business.

Financial literacy is increasingly becoming one of the key skills required to reach the top of the business ladder and chartered management accountants are well equipped to become the business leaders of the future.

Unlike other types of accountants, finance professionals who have qualified with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) are uniquely trained to add value to an organisation and help drive it towards greater success.

Today, you will find chartered management accountants among the world's top business leaders.

These include global bank HSBC group finance director Douglas Flint; Nedbank Private Bank in South Africa managing director Alfred Ramosedi; Barclays Capital Singapore finance director Deepesh Lad; and Dialog Telekom in Sri Lanka group chief commercial officer Tirana Rangala.

In Malaysia, the Minister of Federal Territories, Datuk Raja Nong Chik Datuk Raja Zainal Abidin, is a CIMA member.

Many people are attracted to management accountancy because it's forward-looking.

Chartered management accountants are geared towards analysing performance, assessing business possibilities, grasping opportunities and shaping the future.

Finance is central to the operations of any organisation and the skills acquired by chartered management accountants enable them to work at the core of an organisation and understand its broader dynamics from a financial perspective.

Another attraction is career flexibility – opportunities can be found in a variety of roles. The qualification also provides an excellent financial foundation for anyone wanting to start up business ventures.

So what does it take to become a chartered management accountant? To excel in any financial management role, specific talents are needed.

Excellent communication skills are essential. A management accountant's function is not only to interpret complex data but also to discuss it clearly with finance and non-finance professionals alike.

It is also essential that prospective management accountants are comfortable dealing with uncertain, qualitative or future-oriented information.

Management accountants choose the solutions to their technical problems from a range

One of the aspects of the CIMA qualification employers most value is the strong focus on ethics, which runs through its training and programme.

of academic or commercial approaches.

In brief, it's an attractive career for problem-solvers who enjoy combining leadership with strong analytical skills.

One of the aspects of the CIMA qualification employers most value is the strong focus on ethics, which runs through its training and programme.

The institute is committed to upholding the highest ethical and professional standards to maintain public confidence in management accountancy and its role in corporate accountability and transparency.

This is enshrined in the institute's code of ethics and ethical support services.

The current global shortage of skilled accounting and finance professionals and the fact that businesses are increasingly turning to finance professionals to guide them

through a financial crisis means that management accountancy is one of the few professions to be experiencing increased demand for its services.

Over the past few decades, the finance function has become a very different entity.

The shifting management agenda, developments in information technology and the drive towards shared services and outsourcing has seen a dramatic reduction in the size of the average finance team.

The demand for more varied and detailed information is also increasing.

Companies need finance people who are adept not only at evaluating current business activity but in modelling the future.

CIMA members are business partners who can use financial information to add strategic value to a company's decision-making process.

With 183,000 students and members in 168 countries, CIMA provides the opportunity to become part of a global network of movers and shakers.

A professional qualification in management accountancy carries a mark of prestige around the world.

• For details, visit www.cimaglobal.com or call 03-7723 0230.