

# Accelerated Route FAQ

## What is the accelerated route?

The accelerated route is a study option to obtain full Chartered Public Finance Accountant (CPFA) status in just two years instead of the standard three years.

## Who is the accelerated route aimed at?

The accelerated route is aimed at senior professionals whose remit has a heavy strategic and finance content who do not currently hold a professional accountancy qualification.

## How will it benefit me?

You will gain a recognised professional accountancy qualification that gives you increased authority and standing in financial matters, membership of a professional body and access to technical experts, member support and continuing professional development. While studying via the accelerated route, you have access to our dedicated, qualified trainers and the opportunity to network with your peers inside and outside the classroom.

## How will it benefit my employer?

Your employer will gain a qualified accountant who has access to the wealth of information and knowledge that CIPFA provides to its members, and the confidence that comes from holding a professional qualification. In addition, your employer will benefit from your wider network of senior finance professionals garnered from your studies. You will spend less time out of the office than if you were studying via the standard route.

## What are the entry requirements?

You should be in a senior position in your organisation with a heavy strategic and finance element to your role and have held this position for a minimum of two years.

## What is the course content?

You will study six core modules, progressing from our early Certificate stage to our final Strategic stage:

- Management Accounting and Audit and Assurance
- Company Financial Reporting
- Public Service Financial Reporting
- Taxation and Corporate Governance and Law
- Financial Management and Business Change Management
- Strategic Public Finance and Strategic Case Study

## How is the course structured?

The course is a mixture of self-study and face-to-face classroom teaching at our Mansell Street offices in London. Face-to-face delivery is normally in two-day blocks. Each study block is supplemented by additional materials for self-study, and we assess your performance through progress tests and mock exams. There is a strong element of self-study and the course demands a significant degree of commitment and time.



## What support is offered during the programme?

Our trainers are always happy to spend time with students during the teaching day to answer questions and will make themselves available at the end of the teaching day. Our trainers can also be contacted by email outside of teaching days. We also have a designated member of the training team who is responsible for managing the Accelerated Route programme and he is the first point of contact for queries throughout the students' time with us.

## What benefits do you offer CIPFA students?

In addition to their subject knowledge and teaching skills, our trainers are able to bring in their experiences of working in the public services to add nuance and insight to their classes. We have a thriving CIPFA student network that represents the interests of our students and runs events tailored to meet students' development needs.

As a registered CIPFA student, you will benefit from our Student Day at our annual National Conference. The Student Day is free of charge and runs a programme tailored for student needs. Students can also access our technical enquiry service, which provides specialist technical guidance for CIPFA members and registered students on standards of professional practice, statements of best practice, ethical concerns and related technical enquiries. We also have many sources of advice and guidance on our website for students to access.

## How much does it cost?

The full cost of the Accelerated Route programme is £8,999 +VAT, payable in advance. This covers the cost of tuition, assessment, exam entry and materials.

## Will my employer meet the costs?

You will need to discuss with your employer, but we expect that the introduction of the apprentice levy may enable your employer to access these funds for the CIPFA training programme.

## When does the 2018 programme start?

The next cohort is scheduled to start in July 2018.

## What are the 2018 exam dates?

AA/MA exam is on 5 September and CFR is on 6 December 2018. Please refer to the course timetable for full details of modules and exam dates: [www.cipfa.org/acceleratedPQ](http://www.cipfa.org/acceleratedPQ)

## How do I sit the exam?

All our exams are sat online, using the Calibrand e-assessment system. Students are given a unique login and the opportunity to practise using the system before sitting their progress tests, mock exams and final exams. Currently, the final strategic stage remains paper-based.

## Can I resit an exam?

You can resit exams at the next scheduled sitting which is normally six months, although for some modules, this may be three months.

## Do I have to complete the programme in two years?

You can take longer, but we may suggest you move to the standard three-year PQ course of study if this suits your circumstances better.

## How do I register?

Visit [www.cipfa.org/acceleratedPQ](http://www.cipfa.org/acceleratedPQ) to submit a short online registration form. We will then send you an application form with details of the application process. All applicants must supply their current CV as part of their application. Once you have submitted your application, it is reviewed by our Training Delivery Managers who will assess whether you meet the criteria for the course and, if you do, we will conduct a telephone interview with you before making the final decision to offer you a place.

## I need more details about the accelerated route, who should I speak to?

Please visit [www.cipfa.org/acceleratedPQ](http://www.cipfa.org/acceleratedPQ) for further information. You or your employer is also welcome to discuss the programme in more detail with our Training Delivery Manager. Please contact us at [customerservices@cipfa.org](mailto:customerservices@cipfa.org) or call **020 7543 5600**.



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