

CIPFA

The Chartered Institute of
Public Finance & Accountancy

your progression
starts here

The natural choice for AAT members

aat





“The breadth of the CIPFA Professional Qualification provides a broad base of knowledge, essential to be a finance manager and leader in the future.”

Jon Thompson MAAT CPFA
Head of the Government Finance Profession &
Director General Finance, Ministry of Defence

Contents

AAT to CIPFA	3
About the qualification	4
Case study	6
Getting started	7

AAT to CIPFA

Moving on to gain a chartered accountancy qualification will build on your existing skills and improve your knowledge making you more marketable as an employee, and enhancing your earning potential and career prospects.

About CIPFA

CIPFA, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, is the professional body for people in public finance.

Our 14,000 members work throughout the public services, in national audit agencies, in major accountancy firms, and in other organisations where money needs to be effectively and efficiently managed.

Being the only chartered body to specialise in public finance, the CIPFA Professional Qualification is the natural choice for those looking to build on their AAT qualification to become a fully qualified Chartered Accountant.

CIPFA is a sponsoring body of AAT, enabling the two bodies to work closely together to ensure the transition from AAT to CIPFA is as smooth and straightforward as possible.

AAT exemptions

The CIPFA Professional Qualification represents a fresh and exciting challenge for AAT students. We know how much effort has gone into securing your AAT qualification, and we can provide you with specific advice and guidance on the exemptions that may apply to you to help maximise your existing success.

Being an AAT full member (technician or diploma) entitles you to two CIPFA exemptions; **Financial Accounting (FA)** and **Management Accounting (MA)**. You may also be eligible to apply for an exemption from the **Taxation (T)** paper upon successful completion of the relevant AAT Tax modules. This would leave you with ten papers – all of which could be completed within two years.

The Initial Professional Development Scheme (IPDS) is a portfolio that demonstrates work-based experience and activities. As an AAT member, you are exempt from 200 days of the required 400.

about the qualification

CIPFA's Professional Qualification has been developed with extensive consultation with employers, members, students and academics to ensure it is the most robust financial management qualification for today's public services.

Whether you work in local or central government, health, charities, or work in the private sector, the CIPFA Professional Qualification will assist you in achieving your career aspirations.

It has been designed to equip you with skills that will take you far beyond financial management accountancy.

Benefits of studying CIPFA

With public services now accounting for over 40% of the global economy and overwhelming demand for CIPFA members, there has never been a better time to study CIPFA.

CIPFA members benefit from the following:

- A broad range of transferable skills in accountancy, audit, tax, business, strategy, leadership and much more.
- Excellent employment opportunities – CIPFA is the qualification of choice for roles relating to public finance.
- The potential to reach the very top in management – CIPFA members often work at the highest level, with almost 80% of our members working in

senior roles either managerial level or above. Many AAT members have gone on to become CIPFA qualified and then on to leadership positions within their organisations.

- Increased job satisfaction – due to their involvement in public money, CIPFA members are respected by stakeholders for their high technical and ethical standards and professional integrity.

Methods of study for the CIPFA Professional Qualification

Studying for CIPFA is flexible and designed to suit your needs, lifestyle and work commitments. The range of study options to choose from includes:

- Student Learning Centre – study guides, discussion forums, self-assessment tools, and more. This makes distance learning easy due to being entirely online.
- Added value course provision – choose to supplement your studies with day or block release courses at one of a range of providers across the UK.

“We believe CIPFA qualified accountants have better skills in strategic financial planning and financial management.”

Jon Roberts CPFA, Partner Grant Thornton

- Revision courses – most course providers offer intensive revision courses which are open to all students to attend and can help make all the difference in preparing for exam success.
- Mock exams – to test how you are progressing through the module, mock exams can be sat at home, work or in class and submitted for marking and feedback.
- Workshops – a number of workshops are run across the country and can be used to interact with peers and tutors face-to-face.
- Ask the Tutor service – a telephone and email helpline service that helps you get the answers you need to academic questions.

We know that becoming qualified is your ultimate goal so you'll be pleased to know that CIPFA students have the quickest route through to qualification of all the accountancy bodies, and with your AAT certificate already in hand, you're off to a flying start.

The CIPFA syllabus

Certificate Level

- Financial Accounting
- Management Accounting
- Financial Reporting
- Financial Management Systems and Techniques

Diploma Level

- Audit and Assurance
- Leadership and Management
- Accounting for Decision Making
- Governance and Public Policy
- Financial and Performance Reporting
- Public Finance
- Taxation

Final Test of Professional Competence

- Strategic Business Management
- Finance and Management Case Study
- Initial Professional Development Scheme (IPDS)

Work based experience gathered throughout the period of study

(Full CIPFA Membership achieved on completion)

*highlighted modules show exemptions available to AAT students

case study

Nathan Elvery

Name: Nathan Elvery

Job title: Director of Finance and Resources

Employer: London Borough of Croydon

Nathan Elvery chose to go straight into the public services with his first job at Crawley Borough Council. The Council supported him through the AAT qualification, which provided him with a solid grounding in finance; before he made the natural choice and went on to undertake the CIPFA Professional Qualification.

Now at the London Borough of Croydon, he is the youngest Financial Director in London's 33 councils. He is both the Financial Advisor and statutory Chief Finance Officer and is responsible for managing the financial activities of the council, in addition to the planning, development and leadership of the council's financial, procurement, facilities, assets and major project management services. Prior to this, Nathan was Assistant Director for finance and business management with Westminster City Council.

Nathan believes that the CIPFA Professional Qualification provides graduates with a unique insight to the financial world of public services, which will enable them to become successful financial managers. He says: "Local government is full of opportunities for young, dynamic and ambitious individuals who can demonstrate they will not only develop as an accountant but improve themselves at the same time."



getting started

To get started, you will need to register as a student on the Student Learning Centre (SLC). Remember to select the exemptions you are entitled to upon registration.

Many employers offer significant support for students whilst they are studying, seeing it as valuable training for their employees' career development. It is common to offer time off to study and cover some if not all of the costs of the qualification.

Detailed and dedicated advice just for AAT graduates can be found on the Student Learning Centre once you have enrolled. This has been designed to ensure you have the best support to help you initially with the transition and then on an ongoing basis through to full CIPFA membership.

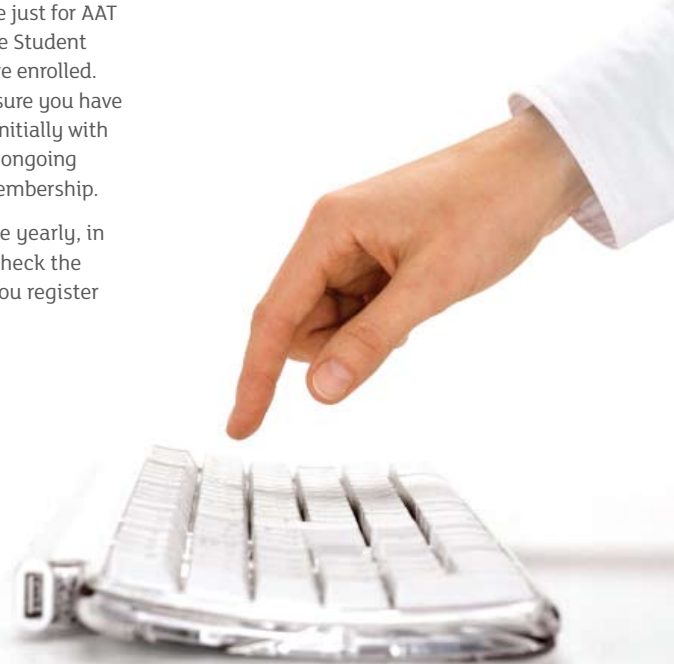
There are exam sessions twice yearly, in June and December. Please check the dates online to ensure that you register

Should you have any queries, please contact our Student Recruitment team:

t 020 7543 5656

e students@cipfa.org.uk

www.cipfa.org.uk/aat





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