

ASPIRING ACCOUNTANT PROGRAMME

PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING QUALIFICATION FOR NON-ACCOUNTING GRADUATES

THE Aspiring Accountant Programme (AAP) is a foundation course to provide students from non-accounting disciplines the preparatory accounting course as a first step to train and qualify as chartered accountants.

A fully-funded six-week accounting foundation course is followed by a training contract to complete a professional accounting qualification through the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) or The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW) while working in a leading professional services firm.

The participating firms include BDO, Deloitte, EY, KPMG and PwC. Applicants enjoy full-time employment and time off to complete additional classes and exams to obtain professional accounting qualifications.

THE EMPLOYERS' PERSPECTIVE

Amy Chua, assistant manager, talent acquisition of KPMG says "KPMG chose to participate in the AAP in support of the Government's Economic Transformation Programme (ETP). We feel that the AAP is a good initiative which provides opportunities for non-accounting graduates to train and qualify as Chartered Accountants. We will provide the necessary practical work experience, monetary support and study leave to these graduates in

completing their professional accounting qualification."

With regard the qualities that KPMG looks for in non-accounting graduates, Chua explains, "We basically look for non-accounting graduates who are genuinely interested in business and commercial issues, highly numerate, and have the drive to succeed.

These graduates will undergo our comprehensive training and development programmes and also gain practical work experience which will provide them with the necessary skills and knowledge to complete their professional accounting qualification."

Tan Gim May, Degree in Science (Computational Mathematics) KPMG, Corporate Tax

Before joining AAP, Tan Gim May, was at a loss as to whether to pursue a Masters or work in a bank as a salesperson.

"Most people don't really know what their future goals are, including me. Some people enrol in university involuntarily", she said.

Having majored in Computational Mathematics, her passion for mathematics spurred her on a path to become an accountant.

UPSKILLING

Nur Melissa Ismail, Degree in Finance EY, Assurance (Energy)

Nur Melissa had completed her training in AAP and is now employed in EY, shared that the main challenge was commitment. Catching up with an unfamiliar subject within six weeks was a major undertaking. However, with "good and competent lecturers at Sunway University", she managed to make it.

Nur Melissa and Tan are grateful for this opportunity to train in leading professional services organisations while acquiring new skills.

Programme commencement January and July/August, twice a year

Interested applicants may apply via email (including a detailed resume) to upskilling@talentcorp.com.my



PATHWAY FOR NON-ACCOUNTING GRADUATES

1 APPLICATION

Get in touch with or meet representatives from BDO, Deloitte, EY, KPMG and PwC at career fairs to find out more. Send your application to upskilling@talentcorp.com.my and please quote reference number *AA2014 in your cover letter.

2 YOU ARE SELECTED

Selections are based on the following criteria:

1. Any degree discipline excluding Accounting/Finance
2. Have a minimum of 2nd upper degree result
3. Leadership and active involvement in extra-curricular activities
4. A strong command of English

3 PROGRAMME COMMENCES

You will go through a fully-funded six-week accounting foundation course with Sunway TES which aims to provide you with the following:

1. Knowledge and understanding of financial statements
2. Basic auditing knowledge and skills

4 PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING QUALIFICATION

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be offered a training contract with leading professional services firms such as BDO, Deloitte, EY, KPMG and PwC. You will be pursuing and completing your professional accounting qualification via ACCA or ICAEW while working.

GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY MANAGEMENT SCHEME



ALTHOUGH some may graduate with a clear goal in mind, many undergraduates come out to the working world unprepared, uncertain of their options or requiring career guidance.

In addition, the current job market may pose significant challenges for graduates with degrees which are not in high demand.

The main thrust of the Graduate Employability Management Scheme (GEMS) is to enhance graduate employability with the aim to reduce talent shortages in the key areas of economy.

GEMS 2.0 provides graduates with sector-specific training and exposure in Oil, Gas and Energy, Electrical and Electronics, ICT, Telecommunications, Biotechnology, FMCG, Hospitality, SME-focused/Entrepreneurship

OBJECTIVES OF GEMS

Provide unemployed graduates with career opportunities and job exposure

The programme is divided into three segments:

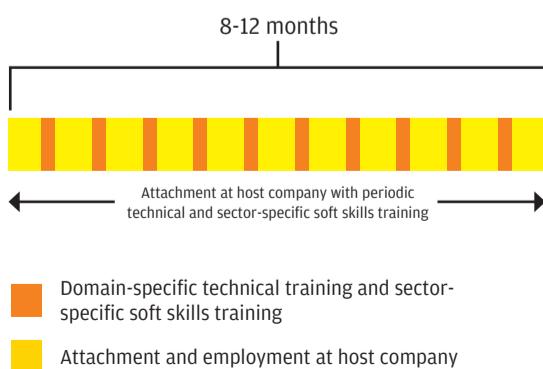
- 1 Segment 1 for those with technical degrees in Engineering, Science and Technology
- 2 Segment 2 for those planning to work in the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), Hospitality, or Shared/Support Services industries
- 3 Segment 3 for SMEs and entrepreneurs.

Applicants who are selected will be provided placement at host companies and training (lasting eight to 12 months) for employment in the host company.

EQUIPS UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES WITH INDUSTRY-RELEVANT SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE VIA A PLACE-AND-TRAIN METHODOLOGY



SECTOR-FOCUSED AND DEMAND-DRIVEN WITH LEADING EMPLOYERS FROM KEY SECTORS



A degree is not enough to secure an entry-level position in the corporate world. Employers look for good interpersonal skills and confidence when they speak to graduates.

GEMS attempts to address this problem by inculcating students with traits employers find desirable.



"We notice that GEMS candidates always have better communication skills, show self confidence during the interview and most importantly, prepare for the interview" - **Jamalia Ibrahim, deputy general manager of Group HR from host company, QSR Brands (M) Holdings**

“For graduates who do not meet market expectations, on-the-job training through GEMS allows us to support the development of young graduates.” - **Shukri Razak, managing director of Metal & Metal (M) Sdn Bhd**

The company has trained many fresh graduates to manage the operation of restaurants around Malaysia.

She said the willingness to take challenges, ability to work independently, interpersonal skills and creative thinking, in addition to the ability to adjust themselves within a team and leading the team to run a restaurant are desirable traits of a future manager.

There is an opportunity to prove oneself.

From the graduate's perspective, GEMS offers a chance for them to prove their worth to an organisation.

"The most challenging part of being a job seeker is when there are offers for me to choose from but I have little confidence that

I can perform to their expectations", said Inani Husna, a Sports Science major who joined QSR with the help of GEMS.

Mohd Shahrizal Mohd Dom, who trained with Pawatech Sdn Bhd under the GEMS programme agreed, adding that it has become harder for graduates to find jobs in fields related to their degrees due to the over-supply of graduates.

Both participants were grateful that GEMS provided a viable pathway for their talents to be noticed.

A final word of advice from Inani: "Give yourself a chance to test the waters. Don't ever make your degree a limitation that prevents you from trying and exploring something new or different".

For more information and updates on Upskilling and GEMS, please visit www.talentcorp.com.my or www.mygemportal.com.my

You may also email us at upskilling@talentcorp.com.my

Please do follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GraduateEmployabilityManagementScheme and Twitter www.twitter.com/gemsmalaysia