Accountant

What is an Accountant?

Accountants analyse, report and give advice on the financial dealings of organisations and individuals, and advice on associated record-keeping and compliance requirements.

Roles of an Accountant

Auditors in the government sector, examine the records of departments, statutory and local authorities, and government-owned companies to see if they are efficient and effective in providing services to the community.

In the private sector, auditors work with a range of clients from small businesses to large international firms, including banks, insurance companies and retailers.

Budget accountants work with the development and maintenance of budgeting systems. This involves monitoring budgets and comparing them with actual costs and revenues related to the area they work.

Finance managers prepare reports for management, summarising the business' financial position in areas of income expenses, capital usage and cash flows, and assist with the preparation of strategic plans, budgets and financial forecasts.

Career Opportunities

Accountants work in diverse environments ranging from sporting organisations to retail outlets, government organisations, finance companies, banks and building societies, real estate firms, taxation consultancies, community service organisations and accounting firms.

Qualifications Required

To become an accountant it is usual to study a degree at university with a major in accounting. To get into these courses a pass in the HSC/ACT Year 12 is required. Prerequisite subjects, or assumed knowledge, in one or more of mathematics and English are normally required.

Supervision Required

A comprehensive orientation program is provided for all new staff members with ongoing support.

Personal skills required of an Accountant

- Good communication skills
- Good presentation skills
- Good organisational ability
- Able to build rapport with clients
- Able to analyse and solve problems
- Discretion when dealing with confidential information
- Professional and ethical