



CIMA

Chartered Institute of
Management Accountants

I'M THINKING
BOARD

NOT
BORED

Real life stories

AAT route to CIMA

CGMA 
Chartered Global Management Accountant

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CIMA

AAT ROUTE TO CIMA



Want to accelerate your career?

Whether you're still studying AAT or you've progressed to membership it's important to think about what you want to achieve next. Discover the breadth of roles available to you with the CIMA qualification. CIMA members and students work in a variety of roles, in many different organisations, and some of them have shared their experiences with us.



"I'M THE PERSON
WHO ALWAYS
DIVIDES THE BILL"

You're thinking
like a management
accountant already



SOPHIE DAWSON ACMA, CGMA

Sophie joined Rolls-Royce on the Accounting Technician Programme in September 2009, after completing her A levels.

Education
AAT Level 4

Role
Assistant Accountant,
Rolls-Royce

Why CIMA?

I wanted to increase my knowledge of management accounting and gain a better understanding of business. In Rolls-Royce the CIMA qualification is highly regarded so it will help me develop my career. Also, as Rolls-Royce is a global organisation, the CGMA designation may help to secure an international role within the company.

How did you find studying CIMA after AAT?

AAT gave me a great grounding in the basics of accounting. CIMA then explores some concepts studied in AAT at a deeper level.

How long after you completed your AAT studies did you study CIMA?

I started tuition for CIMA one month from having passed my final AAT exams. I would recommend starting CIMA straight away in order to build upon the knowledge learnt at AAT while it's still fresh in the mind.

What advice would you give to anyone thinking of studying the CIMA qualification after AAT?

CIMA is a great career path to follow after AAT as areas of both financial and management accounting are covered in the qualification. I believe that this makes for a well rounded person who will be able to add value in a variety of areas. Becoming a Chartered Global Management Accountant will help to provide a great platform on which to build a successful career in business and finance.

Is there anything unusual about your role?

While working at Rolls-Royce I was given the opportunity to visit Uganda. Rolls-Royce supported me in allowing me to take additional leave for my charity work. In Uganda, five others and I renovated a building to be used as an orphanage for children who were living in the slums.

'CIMA is a great career path to follow after AAT.'



ALISTAIR TAYLOR ACMA, CGMA

Alistair originally landed a job at ITV in sales ledger while studying AAT. Studying CIMA gave him the skills and confidence to progress onto the role of management accountant.

Education
AAT Level 4

Role
Management Accountant, ITV

Why did you choose to study CIMA after AAT?

I completed my AAT and felt I could be a bookkeeper but I wanted to know more. I wanted to become a management accountant and CIMA was the best route. Also, CIMA and ITV are partnered, and my director recommended CIMA to me.

How did you find it?

AAT is a very broad introduction to accounting knowledge. I struggled slightly with the enterprise papers due to not completing the CIMA certificate level first, but I was definitely ahead of the class on financial and performance papers. I personally think AAT helped me a great deal with my CIMA studies.

How long after you completed your AAT studies did you study CIMA?

I did it straight away as everything was still fresh in my head. This was vital for me as I wasn't at that time in an accountancy role where I could apply what I learnt. I personally think it is a good idea to continue straight away so you don't get out of the studying mindset.

Tell us about your role at ITV.

My current role has a lot of complex calculations and I also do the statutory accounts for ITV2 and ITV Digital. I feel as though I can exercise my numerical skills on a daily basis but then have to be up to scratch on accounting standards due to the importance of doing such large company accounts.

How has studying CIMA helped your career?

I would not be where I am today without CIMA, it has opened a lot of doors for me. There are plenty of CIMA members in positions that you wouldn't usually associate with an accountancy qualification. I feel I will always be able to find a job with my CIMA qualification.

Tell us something about yourself that would surprise us.

Studying CIMA put me on par with degree level students. Therefore I was eligible to play for Manchester University's ice hockey team!

'AAT helped me a great deal with my CIMA studies.'



AMJAD HUSSAIN ACMA, CGMA

After his A levels Amjad decided to do the AAT qualification which proved invaluable in helping him to understand the basics of finance and management accounting.

Education
AAT Level 4

Role
Reporting Analyst,
Severn Trent Water Ltd

What did you find appealing about CIMA?

The syllabus seemed broader and allowed me to understand and interpret the issues behind the numbers. This helped me to contextualise my role within overall business strategy and the decision making process.

What are your key responsibilities in your current role?

In my current role I am responsible for the delivery of financial and performance information to a variety of stakeholders. The role encompasses providing commentary and insight into business performance across all three levels of the organisation (strategic, tactical and operational). I am also involved in providing inputs into the management and control of operating costs, for medium to long-term business plans.

What is the most exciting project you have worked on recently?

As the CIMA qualification is highly regarded within Severn Trent Water, the decision was taken to form a study panel to actively

support all current CIMA students. I was asked to join the group in achieving its broad remit with the goal of attaining CIMA Quality Partner status. We have succeeded and Severn Trent Water has also been granted CIMA CPD accreditation status.

What value do you think CIMA people can add in the current economic climate?

In today's current economic downturn it is vital that finance staff play an added-value role in driving improvements across the business. The days of simply producing the numbers is not enough. Accountants need to analyse, advise and recommend appropriate courses of action for non-finance colleagues and managers in order for them to meet their challenges in controlling costs and maximising revenue.

'CIMA offered more of an opportunity to think outside the box.'



MYRA GEATER ACMA, CGMA

Myra had children quite young so didn't have the opportunity to go to university. When her children started school she joined a local firm that supported her through the AAT qualification before moving on to work for Vodafone.

Education
HNC in Business and
Finance and AAT Level 4

Role
Europe Management Information
Business Partner, Vodafone

Why did you choose to study CIMA?

After I gained my AAT qualification, I needed a new challenge. Vodafone gave me the chance to work for them and study CIMA.

How do the skills you've gained from the CIMA qualification help you in your job?

One of the skills I use a lot is picking out the key points from a raft of information and prioritising them. It's particularly helpful when I'm meeting with my manager as obviously he doesn't want to have to wade through a load of detail to get to what's important. But in fact I need to prioritise almost daily. I'm constantly faced with fresh challenges and need to decide which are urgent and which can wait.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

I love meeting people. I work in head office and we have contact with our offices around the world so I'm constantly liaising with

different people and different departments. Now my children are older I would love to make the most of the fact that Vodafone is an international company and go overseas for a year or 18 months to experience another culture.

Can you describe some of the challenges in studying for your qualification?

It's really tough. You have to be very disciplined. When my kids were at school, I studied. And when my friends were going out, I studied. You have to find the dedication to study and see that the outcome will be worth it.

What advice would you give to someone thinking of studying for the CIMA qualification?

Don't think about it, just do it.

'I made time to study while bringing up a family.'

**Find out more about the varied jobs
CIMA members and students do, and
discover where CIMA can take you:**



www.cimaglobal.com/cimastories



**Interested in the AAT route to CIMA?
Find out how to get started:**



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