

A SPECIAL FEATURE BY SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY

School of
Accountancy

BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR YOUR FUTURE

Preparing Accounting Professionals for the Future

The accounting industry is evolving rapidly. Advancements in technology have pushed the boundaries of accounting roles and expectations. The once tedious tasks of bookkeeping and data processing can now be completed efficiently with technology. Accounting professionals will be expected to harness technologies to evaluate data and derive meaningful insights for their organisation. The question is, are they ready to meet this expectation?

The spread of digital technologies has been identified as one main driver for change over the next decade, and that this will impact the accounting profession. To gain deeper insights into the skill-sets that future accountants should possess, SMU School of Accountancy conducted a series of focus group discussions with senior level industry practitioners in 2017. The findings indicated a shortage of accounting professionals with both accounting expertise and relevant technology skills. The conclusion is data and analytics will be a core requirement for the accounting profession. This echoed the report of The Committee on the Future Economy for Singapore's Working Group on Legal and Accounting Services in 2017. The Committee recommended that in order to build a pipeline of future-ready professionals, institutes of higher learning should emphasise cross-disciplinary and practice-oriented elements, and more importantly, infuse technology into the accounting curriculum.

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The future is in big data. Audit and assurance professionals, today and in the future, need to develop a mental dexterity in data analytics to drive an audit with purpose and provide greater value to clients. Data analytics tools are an essential component of our audits as they help us visualise and marry diverse data-sets together to form a complete picture for risk assessment and create a tailored audit plan for our clients. At Deloitte, we are investing heavily in audit technology to support our clients and equip our professionals with the necessary skills to be ready for the audit of the future.”

Asian Audit & Assurance Partner with Deloitte Singapore, Haridas leverages on technology such as audit analytics and applies sound accounting knowledge to draw meaningful analyses from available data.



Mr Kanagasabai Haridas

Audit & Assurance Partner
Deloitte Singapore
SMU Bachelor of Accountancy
Graduate 2005

Launch of Second Major in Accounting Data and Analytics

SMU School of Accountancy has developed the Second Major in Accounting Data and Analytics, which is the first-of-its-kind in Singapore. Designed in consultation with industry stakeholders, which include the Big Four accounting firms and major banks, the programme covers skill-sets that employers now look for which include programming, accounting application, data management and data visualisation.



The Second Major in Accounting Data and Analytics is divided into three key thrusts:

Data Technology Courses

Impart core technological skills needed

- Accounting Information Systems
- Data Management
- Data Modelling and Visualisation
- Statistical Programming
- Introduction to Programming

Accounting Application Courses

Teach students to apply their skills in accounting context

- Forecasting and Financial Analysis
- Analytics for Value Investing
- Analytics for Financial Instruments
- Audit Analytics
- Information System Governance and Assurance

Accounting Analytics Capstone (SMU-X)

enables students to test their knowledge in a real-life setting

Compulsory SMU-X Course focusing on experiential learning. Student groups examine accounting processes and apply data-driven analytics to deliver practical solutions for companies.



SMU School of Accountancy graduates are prepared to take the lead in the accounting profession



Visit admissions.smu.edu.sg for more information

For enquiries on the Bachelor of Accountancy programme, please contact us at: accountancy@smu.edu.sg • (65) 6828 0632 • accountancy.smu.edu.sg