

# MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING

Opens up a world of opportunity



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S I N G A P O R E M A N A G E M E N T U N I V E R S I T Y



# About SMU MPA



The accounting sector in Singapore is undergoing a major transformation to realise its aim of becoming a leading global accountancy hub for Asia-Pacific by 2020 (Final Report of the Committee to Develop the Accounting Sector, April 2010). To achieve this vision, one of the major initiatives being implemented is the creation of new pathways to facilitate entry of degree holders from non-accountancy disciplines.

Introduced in 2006, the SMU MPA has been providing this pathway to new exciting career opportunities in the accountancy sector, both in professional services and corporate accounting. It has received regulatory, academic and professional accreditations from Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA), Singapore Accountancy Commission (SAC), Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA), CPA Australia, Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia (ICAA), Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)

and AACSB International (AACSB). These recognitions offer an accelerated pathway for MPA graduates to satisfy the membership requirements of these global professional bodies, and to qualify for the CPA or chartered accountant status. Such recognition gives SMU MPA graduates international mobility and a strong competitive edge over other graduates.

The newly revised MPA curriculum provides candidates with strong business fundamentals, technical skills for various accounting functions and professional accounting services. The programme can be completed in one year on a full-time basis, or over two years on a part-time basis.

Leveraging the unique SMU pedagogy, faculty and state-of-the-art city campus, the SMU MPA's professional recognition equips you with the necessary and relevant skill sets for today's competitive global business world.



# Message from the Dean



“In today’s complex business environment, knowledge of accounting is, more than ever, essential for anyone who aspires to move up the corporate ladder.”

Since its launch in 2006, the SMU Master of Professional Accounting (MPA) programme has offered a pathway for non-accountancy degree holders to enter the accountancy sector. This pathway is now embraced as part of CDAS' (Committee to Develop the Accounting Sector) recommendations to grow the Singapore accountancy sector to be the accountancy hub for Asia-Pacific.

If you are looking for opportunities for personal development, career advancement, or even a new career in the accountancy sector, there is no skill set more valuable than an accounting qualification. In today's complex business environment, knowledge of accounting is, more than ever, essential for anyone who aspires to move up the corporate ladder. Accountancy, and its related fields such as taxation, consulting, corporate governance and risk management, is the cornerstone of an economic system.

The MPA programme is Singapore's most recognised graduate qualification in accounting with eight accreditations from regulatory, professional and academic bodies. The programme opens new opportunities for all its graduates, both locally and overseas. Our graduates have started new careers in professional accounting services, advanced their accounting and finance careers, and lead finance functions in their organisations.

Whilst you can certainly use the MPA as a pathway to enter the accounting sector, the programme is, first and foremost, a graduate degree. Designed for students to develop technical knowledge and competencies to succeed, they can excel in whichever career and profession they choose. We don't just equip our MPA graduates with the necessary knowledge to be competent accounting professionals. We develop them to be versatile and adaptable business leaders with the right skills, motivation and mindset.

The MPA is taught by highly qualified SMU faculty, as well as industry professionals, bringing a unique combination of academic rigour and first-hand industry knowledge. With its central city campus location, you will find switching between working and learning a breeze.

Yours truly,

**Professor Pang Yang Hoong**  
Vice Provost (Undergraduate Programme) and  
Dean (School of Accountancy)  
Singapore Management University



# Why SMU MPA?



## BEYOND THE NEW SINGAPORE QUALIFYING PROGRAMME (SQP)

Offered by SMU School of Accountancy, the MPA is listed in the Singapore's Accountants Act (Cap. 2) as a recognised qualification for entry into the accountancy sector. With the new SQP in place by June 2013, graduates of all recognised accounting programmes must sit for a number of professional examinations and meet practical experience requirements in order to advance to a CPA status. This is the common practice in other developed countries. After completing the SMU MPA, you can choose to sit for the new SQP, Australia's CPA or chartered qualification, UK's CA qualification, or CIMA's new CGMA qualification.

## AN ESTABLISHED TRACK RECORD

SMU MPA is the most established and recognised programme in Singapore to prepare non-accounting graduates for entry into the accounting sector and for career advancement in accounting and finance functions. MPA graduates work in the professional accounting services, finance, or corporate accounting sectors. Many also use their accounting knowledge and training for personal development and career advancement opportunities.

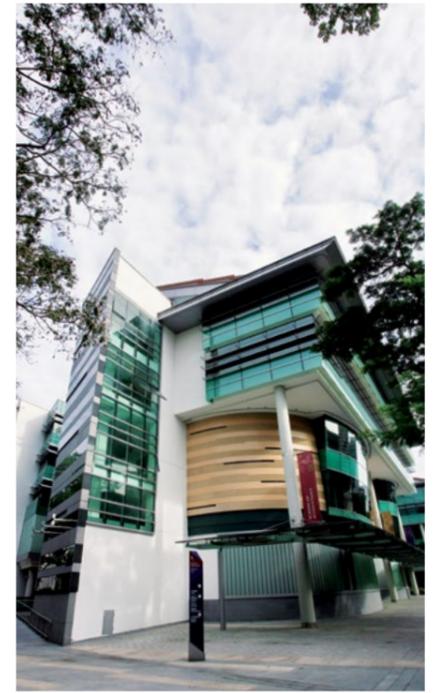
## WORLD-CLASS FACULTY

SMU MPA is taught in collaboration with senior faculty members selected from more than 300 faculty across SMU's six schools.

Our team of distinguished SMU faculty has been handpicked to promote excellence in teaching and research at SMU. Besides some of the best academics and educators in their specialised fields, SMU also taps on industry practitioners for their specific expertise and management experience, offering its candidates both academic rigour and industry insights.



# The SMU Advantage



## INTERACTIVE PEDAGOGY

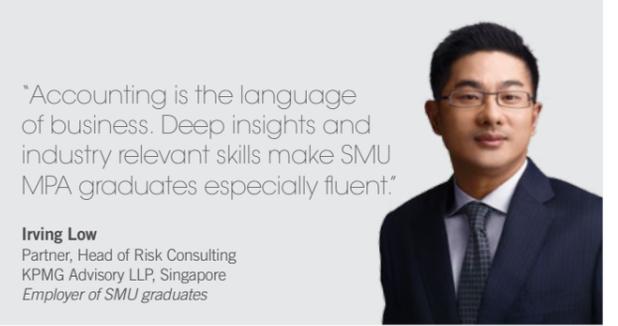
SMU's distinctive seminar style learning emphasises classroom interaction which stimulates critical thinking in students. With our small class sizes, you are an active participant in your own learning progress, not just passive recipients of knowledge dictated from textbooks. Our hallmark pedagogy of interactive seminars, presentations and project-based assessments develop graduates who are proactive, analytical, creative, articulate and adaptable.

## CITY CAMPUS

Singapore is located at the crossroads of Asia, boasting a rich multicultural society of Chinese, Malays, Indians and Eurasians who live together harmoniously. Singapore is also a reputable financial centre, a key regional trading centre and an ideal location for investment. SMU has become an integral part of the central business district of Singapore, similar to many of the world's great urban universities in city centres such as New York and London. Situated at the very heart of Singapore's civic, cultural and business district, SMU has especially close working relationships with the business community, as well as the neighbouring cultural institutions. The campus is surrounded by museums, theatres, educational institutes, art galleries, cafés and restaurants.

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SMU provides an unmatched connection to the business community of Singapore and Asia. It has actively engaged the business community as recruiters, board members, donors, research partners and guest lecturers. The location in the city centre of Singapore helps facilitate these close relationships. In addition, the Office of Postgraduate and Professional Programmes (PGPP) has dedicated career service officers for postgraduate students. It also offers workshops and seminars to help you sharpen your professional appeal to campus recruiters.





# The MPA Curriculum

The SMU MPA is designed to be industry and profession-centric. We achieve this by designing and building our programme upon three curriculum pillars required by the industry, profession and employers: Business Fundamentals, Accounting Core and Professional Services.

Business Fundamentals provides knowledge that is essential for today's managers and senior executives to understand the big picture of complex businesses. This is taught through Economics & Statistics, Financial Management and Management & Strategy.

For aspiring accountants, general managers, and business leaders who require a strong knowledge of the accounting functions, the Accounting Core provides this coverage via these six subjects:

Financial Accounting, Management Accounting, Corporate Reporting & Financial Analysis, Accounting Information Systems, Advanced Financial Accounting and Legal Environment of Business.

The Professional Services pillar gives aspiring accountants and business leaders a competitive advantage by exposing them to the important professional functions such as Audit & Assurance, Taxation, and Corporate Advisory.

The SMU Postgraduate Professional Development Series brings together postgraduate students from all SMU Masters programmes in a series of seminars designed to develop your network, horizons and professional skills that are vital to your success.

BUSINESS FUNDAMENTALS	ACCOUNTING CORE		PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
Economics & Statistics	Financial Accounting	Management Accounting	Audit & Assurance
Financial Management	Corporate Reporting & Financial Analysis	Accounting Information Systems	Taxation
Management & Strategy	Advanced Financial Accounting	Legal Environment of Business	Corporate Advisory
<b>SMU POSTGRADUATE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES</b>			

# Course Delivery

The SMU MPA is available in part-time and full-time candidature. Part-time candidates will complete the programme over two years, taking two modules per term. Full-time candidates complete the programme in one year, taking four modules per term.

Candidates may use the 3-month extended break between December and February to gain a firsthand experience working in the accounting industry. Internships are optional and subject to the employers' assessment of your suitability.

TERM	PART-TIME YEAR 1	PART-TIME YEAR 2
<b>Term 1</b> (May–Aug)	Financial Accounting Economics & Statistics	Management Accounting Management & Strategy
<b>Term 2</b> (Aug–Dec)	Accounting Information Systems Financial Management	Corporate Reporting & Financial Analysis Corporate Advisory
<b>Term Break</b> (Dec–Feb)	Internship (Optional)	
<b>Term 3</b> (Feb–May)	Legal Environment of Business Taxation	Advanced Financial Accounting Audit & Assurance

# Application

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates should have a good professional track record, proven academic ability in an undergraduate degree and strong GMAT score. They should also articulate how they intend to use their accounting skills and knowledge in expanding their career opportunities.

Copies of the following supporting documents should be forwarded to the Graduate Programmes and Professional Development Office:

- Identification documents
- Degree scroll and academic transcripts
- Curriculum vitae
- Official GMAT score
- TOEFL/IELTS (For graduates of non-English programmes)

An official translation would be required for all documents which are not in English. Candidates may be invited for an interview as part of the admission process.

## APPLY ONLINE

Applications to the SMU MPA will open in November and close in February. Classes will commence in May.

Apply online at [www.smu.edu.sg/mpa/apply-online](http://www.smu.edu.sg/mpa/apply-online).

## PROGRAMME FEES

Application	S\$50
Registration	S\$400 (Local)
	S\$500 (International)
Tuition*	S\$36,000

\* Tuition fees are locked in once the student enters the programme. The Singapore Management University reserves the right to alter tuition fees for new incoming cohorts when required.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

We welcome international graduate students to apply for our full-time programme. Students may be required to take an intensive communication workshop before commencing the programme.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

For more information about admissions, fees, and the application process, visit [www.smu.edu.sg/mpa](http://www.smu.edu.sg/mpa).

# FAQ

### Am I eligible for the programme?

Candidates who have a good professional record, a strong university degree in any discipline, and are able to demonstrate a genuine interest and commitment in the programme are encouraged to apply.

### I do not have a degree, but I have other professional accounting training qualifications. Can I apply for the programme?

As a requirement of our programme accreditation with professional accounting bodies, we only accept candidates who have undergraduate degrees.

### I do not have working experience. Can I apply for the programme?

Work experience would be advantageous but it is not a requirement.

### Is there a programme fee reduction if I receive some exemptions?

No, the tuition fee is the same regardless of the number of exemptions granted.

### Will I become a Certified Public Accountant or Chartered Accountant after I graduate?

You will need to apply to a professional accounting body for membership. The rule for advancement to CPA or CA status may differ from one professional body to another. In general, you would need to complete a set of examinations (which you may be partially exempted from) and meet practical experience requirement. Candidates are encouraged to contact the various professional accounting bodies directly regarding qualifying requirements.

### How many intakes do you have in a year?

There is only one intake every May for the programme.

### Is GMAT required?

GMAT is a compulsory requirement for admission into the programme. The validity of a GMAT score is five years. Although there is no minimum score, we consider scores above 600 to be competitive. SMU's GMAT institutional code for MPA is F8D-3B-56.