

News release

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ACCA and IAAER launch international education research call

A global invitation for research proposals to advance the field of accounting education has been launched jointly by the International Association for Accounting Education and Research (IAAER) and ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants).

Up to five research grants of \$25,000, funded by ACCA, the world's largest and fastest-growing global professional accountancy body, will be awarded under the programme, which aims to support the work of the International Accounting Education Standards Board (IAESB). The IAESB is the independent accounting education standard-setting board operating under the auspices of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), the representative body for the global accountancy profession.

Professor Gary Sundem, IAAER Vice President Education and Chair of the grant program advisory committee said: "Funding decisions will be made on the potential of the research to provide valuable input to IFAC member organisations and to the task of advancing accounting education worldwide. Research that helps to develop a better understanding of the current state of accounting education in various countries and the obstacles to the implementation of international standards would be welcomed."

Possible research issues might include:

- The variation in delivery of accounting education and training, including practical experience requirements, across jurisdictions;
- The impact of socio-economic and political environments on the delivery of accounting education and training;
- Comparison of competences in pre- and post-qualification accounting education and training;
- The role of accounting education and training in areas such as ethics, IT and finance; and
- The role of universities versus professional organisations in providing accounting education and training.



Clare Minchington, ACCA – Managing Director, Learning & Technical Policy said:
“ACCA is glad to work with the IAAER and to finance this research call for many reasons. As a professional body, we have a Royal Charter obligation to further the public interest and to advance the cause of accounting education. And as a global organisation, and a staunch supporter of IFAC, we want to ensure that international standards are implemented successfully in all countries. This initiative also complements ACCA’s own well-established research programme, which is delivering projects that develop thinking in accounting and financial management. And finally, having launched our new Professional Qualification in 2007, we are always keen to be at the forefront of educational progress.”

Deadline for proposal submissions is 31 March 2008. Funded projects will be showcased at events involving representatives from IFAC’s IAESB and renowned accounting education researchers.

Henry Saville, IAESB Chair, said: “IAESB has just issued its 2007-2009 Strategic and Operational Plan and one of the main points of focus of that plan is the measurable implementation of International Education Standards. We have a key role to play in helping all member bodies and stakeholders develop high quality accounting education programmes as well as enhancing the level of competence of accountants worldwide and promoting a strong ethical culture. We look forward to this research call bringing forward fresh thinking and ideas to help us do this.”

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Notes to editors:

1. About ACCA

ACCA is the largest and fastest-growing professional global accountancy body and has some 296,000 students and 115,000 members in 170 countries.

2. About the IAESB and IFAC

The IAESB, an independent standard-setting board within IFAC, develops standards and guidance on prequalification education, training, and continuing professional education and development for all members of the accountancy profession. The Public Interest Oversight Board oversees the activities of the IAESB and, as one element of that oversight, establishes the criteria for its due process and working procedures.

Founded in 1977, IFAC is the global organization for the accountancy profession dedicated to serving the public interest by strengthening the profession and contributing to the development of strong international economies. IFAC is comprised of 155 members and associates in 118 countries, representing more than 2.5 million accountants in public practice, education, government service, industry and commerce. In addition to setting international education standards through the IAESB, IFAC, through its independent standard-setting boards, sets standards on ethics, auditing and assurance, and public sector accounting. It also issues guidance to encourage high quality performance by professional accountants in business.