



What's Next?

Stay ahead of the curve with ACCA's CPD

ACCA's CPD programme can help you focus on key areas during the economic downturn, as Luke Brockie explains

Organisations are responding to the uncertainty by developing and enhancing their existing business model to help them ride out the storm. This is a key concept that ACCA members can adopt. In short, it's absolutely vital to be proactive when thinking about your skills set. You will want to be able to demonstrate that you can add value to your employer, not only through your existing expertise, but also by developing the appropriate knowledge and skills needed in this economic climate. Focusing on your CPD will help you plan ahead and ensure that not only your organisation, but also your own career, comes out of this downturn strongly.

What types of learning should you consider?

ACCA's *Insights* research piece: *A Changing Profession: the evolution of accounting roles, skills and career aspirations*, found that technically specialised roles are increasingly common, driving the need for technical skills. It also found, however, that accounting roles are also becoming much more strategic and central to business performance. Consequently, management skills and business awareness are also critically

important for finance professionals, across all sectors, to develop.

Technical knowledge

While your current role will largely dictate the range of technical knowledge you hold, it is nonetheless worth noting that, in the future, ACCA's research has found it likely that there will be skills shortages in the finance profession in areas such as risk management; corporate governance; and financial analysis. Organisations are likely to be focused on employing staff into these areas in the medium term. It's certainly something to bear in mind if you are considering re-skilling to move into a new area of business.

Business and management skills

The research also found that there is a perceived gap between the management skills organisations need and the skills both employees and external candidates hold. The main management skills gaps are in:

- communication;
- analysis;
- leadership;
- time management;
- team building; and,
- presentations.

ACCA Ireland's CPD programme of events includes a full series of technical and management courses. You can choose between the following:

- short seminars focusing on a single topic (2 CPD units) held from 6-8pm;
- technical workshops (4 or 7 CPD units) 2-6pm or full day;
- corporate sector courses (7 CPD units) full day; and,
- mid-week or Saturday CPD conferences for practitioners (7 CPD units).

Courses provide the opportunity for members to increase their knowledge base and also to network with fellow professionals.

For further details see www.accaglobal.com/ireland/members/events or contact the members' team at 01 4988 900.

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CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ACCA is running a wide range of events for members throughout the country during April and May. Members and guests are welcome to attend all events.

The range of full-day courses in the next quarter includes:

- Strategy and Business Planning – Dublin 14 May
- Time Management – Belfast 23 April
- Performance Management – Galway 28 May

Practitioner conferences will be held in Limerick on 25 April; Belfast on 9 May; and Dublin on 23 May. Topics include: efficient file completion; improving staff performance; and landlord/tenant law. Financial Services Network presents 'IFRS in a Hurry' on 28 April with Aidan Clifford, ACCA Ireland. The course is aimed at members and guests working in the financial and corporate sectors. Stan McCarthy, CEO, Kerry Group plc will address the Business Leaders' Forum in Cork on 30 April and Ann Heraty, MD CPL Ltd., will be the guest speaker in Dublin on 21 May.

Full details of all courses and events are listed below and at www.accaglobal.com/ireland/members/events

We look forward to welcoming you to ACCA events.

Luke Brockie

Head of members' services

ATHLONE

20 May 18.00 – 20.00

Munster/Connaught Members' Network
The Law on Dismissals
Deirdre McHugh, 353 Management & Legal Training Services
Radisson SAS, Athlone

BELFAST

23 April 09.00 – 17.00

Corporate Sector
Time Management
Tony Bray, Aquarius
Radisson SAS, Belfast

29 April 18.00 – 20.00

Ulster Members' Network
Economic Update
Michael Smyth, University of Ulster
Radisson SAS, Belfast

23 May 09.30 – 16.00

Practitioners Network, Conference 2
Various Speakers
Radisson SAS, Belfast

CARLOW

7 April 18.00 – 20.00

Leinster Members' Network
The PRSI Implications of Family Employment
Brendan Casey, Dept of Social & Family Affairs
Dolmen Hotel, Carlow

CORK

2 April 14.00 – 18.00

Practitioners Network
Buying, Selling and Retiring a Family Business
John Doris, Meridian Business Advisors
Michael Smith, Farrell Smith Taxation
Clarion Hotel, Cork

22 April 18.00 – 20.00

Munster/Connaught Members' Network
The Law on Dismissals
Deirdre McHugh, 353 Management & Legal Training Services
Clarion Hotel, Cork

30 April 07.30 – 09.00

Business Leaders' Forum
Business Breakfast
Stan McCarthy, CEO, Kerry Group plc
Clarion Hotel, Cork

DUBLIN

2 April 18.00 – 20.00

Leinster Members' Network
The Art of Selling
John McCormack, Sales Institute of Ireland
Radisson SAS Royal Hotel, Dublin

7 April 14.00 – 18.00

Practitioners Network
Buying, Selling and Retiring a Family Business
John Doris, Meridian Business Advisors
Michael Smith, Farrell Smith Taxation
Burlington Hotel, Dublin

7 April 17.30 – 19.30

Financial Services Network
Hedge Funds
Ian Headon, Northern Trust
Clarion Hotel, IFSC

21 April 09.00 – 17.00

Corporate Sector
Taxation – Annual Overview
Paul Murphy, Institute of Tax
Radisson SAS Royal Hotel, Dublin

23 April 18.00 – 20.00

Leinster Members' Network
Revenue Audit
Derek Andrews, Grant Thornton
Radisson SAS Royal Hotel, Dublin

23 April 16.00 – 18.00

Public Sector
UK Health Service – Fact Vs Fiction
Dean Westcott, West Essex Primary Care
Trust
Radisson SAS Royal Hotel, Dublin

28 April 17.30 – 19.30

Financial Services Network
IFRS in a Hurry
Aidan Clifford, ACCA Ireland
Clarion Hotel, IFSC

9 May 9.30 – 16.00

Practitioners Network
Conference 2
Various Speakers
Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel, Killiney

13 May 09.30 – 16.00

Public Sector/IPA
Speakers to be confirmed
IPA, Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4

14 May 09.00 – 17.00

Corporate Sector
Strategy/Business Planning
John Doris, Meridian Business Advisors
Limited
Radisson SAS Royal Hotel, Dublin

15 May 14.00

ACCA Ireland AGM
9 Leeson Park, Dublin

21 May 07.30 – 09.00

Business Leaders' Forum
Business Breakfast
Ann Heraty, Chief Executive, CPL
Four Seasons Hotel, Dublin

27 May 18.00 – 20.00

Leinster Members' Network
The Conflict Positive Organisation
Helen Cahill
Radisson SAS Royal Hotel, Dublin

4 June 09.00 – 17.00

Corporate Sector
Stress Management
Prof. Hubert McDermott, NUI Galway
Radisson SAS Royal Hotel, Dublin

DUNDALK**30 April 18.00 – 20.00**

Leinster Members' Network
Cross-Border Business
Padraig Irwin, Patrick J Irwin & Co
Crowne Plaza, Dundalk

6 May 14.00 – 18.00

Practitioners Network
Buying, Selling and Retiring a Family Business
John Doris, Meridian Business Advisors
Michael Smith, Farrell Smith Taxation
Crowne Plaza, Dundalk

ENNISCORTHY**8 April 18.00 – 20.00**

Leinster Members' Network
Accounting Standards
Aidan Clifford, ACCA Ireland
Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy

GALWAY**1 April 18.00 – 20.00**

Munster/Connaught Members' Network
Insolvency and Corporate Recovery
Brian McEnery, Horwath Bastow Charleton
Menlo Park Hotel, Galway

26 May 18.00 – 20.00

Munster/Connaught Members' Network
Company Law
Dermot Madden, ODCE
Menlo Park Hotel, Galway

29 May 09.00 – 17.00

Corporate Sector
Performance Management in Effective Teams
An Coppens, Professional Training
Menlo Park Hotel, Galway

LETTERKENNY**13 May 14.00 – 18.00**

Practitioners Network
Buying, Selling and Retiring a Family Business
John Doris, Meridian Business Advisors
Michael Smith, Farrell Smith Taxation
Radisson SAS, Letterkenny

LIMAVADY**19 May 18.00 – 20.00**

Ulster Members' Network
Preparing a Business Plan
Terry Harmer, NLC Training
Radisson SAS, Limavady

LIMERICK**25 April 09.30 – 16.00**

Practitioners Network
Conference 2
Various Speakers
Strand Hotel, Limerick

MEATH**8 May**

ACCA Ireland
Annual Golf Outing
Headfort Golf Club, Kells, Co Meath

NAAS**29 April 14.00 – 18.00**

Practitioners Network
Buying, Selling and Retiring a Family Business
John Doris, Meridian Business Advisors
Michael Smith, Farrell Smith Taxation
Osprey Hotel, Naas

SLIGO**21 April 18.00 – 20.00**

Munster/Connaught Members' Network
Cross-Border Business
Padraig Irwin, Patrick J Irwin & Co
Radisson SAS, Sligo

21 May 18.00 – 20.00

Munster/Connaught Members' Network
Company Law
Sharon Sheehan, Dublin Business School
Radisson SAS, Sligo

TRALEE**16 April 18.00 – 20.00**

Munster/Connaught Members' Network
The IFRS Story—A Summary to Date
Aidan Clifford, ACCA Ireland
Institute of Technology, Tralee

WATERFORD**28 April 18.00 – 20.00**

Munster/Connaught Members' Network
Cashflow Issues
Mai Walsh, AIB Business Banking
Tower Hotel, Waterford