

## V. Accounting and Auditing Training

This chapter describes accounting and auditing education and training. It is structured as follows:

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### 1. Introduction

There are 11 State-owned universities, which provide full-time education in accounting in Viet Nam. The main accounting education authority is the Hanoi University of Finance and Accountancy, where the annual intake of accountancy students numbers between 700 to 1,000. There are six privately owned universities providing full-time education in accounting. Statistics are not available for total accountancy student enrolments nor are statistics available for total accountants required. This chapter outlines the entrance requirements, postgraduate training institutions, and provides some detail of the subjects covered.

### 2. Institutional Training Establishments

Generally, the Bachelor of Accounting Degree courses follow a curriculum which includes mainly accounting topics such as basics, business management, financial, management, computerization and auditing; economic subjects such as micro, macro, environment, international and political; history of Viet Nam Communist Party, commercial law, mathematics, taxation, etc.

There are 11 State-owned universities providing full-time education in accounting:

- Hanoi University of Finance and Accountancy
- National Economics University
- Commercial University
- Ho Chi Minh City Economics University

- Da Nang University of Economics & Management
- University of Agriculture and Forestry (Thai Nguyen University)
- Center for Training and Researching Banking Science
- Hue University
- Marine Products University
- University of Construction
- University of Transport and Communication

There are no statistics available on total student numbers nor annual total intake of accountancy students. However, for the Hanoi University of Finance and Accountancy, which is the largest training institute for accountants, it is estimated that the accountancy student intake per year is approximately 700 to 1,000. The head of the Accounting Policy Department advises that accounting training has been established in Viet Nam for approximately 30 years and he estimates that the total number of accounting students in training would approximate 7,000 to 8,000 each year in all universities and colleges. There are no statistics on the total number of current accountants or future requirements in Viet Nam.

There are six privately-owned universities providing full-time education in accounting:

- Dong Do University
- Phuong Dong University
- Hanoi Open University
- Hai Phong University
- Hong Duc University
- Van Lang University

The State gives some assistance to the Hanoi Open University. Most of the private universities have a shared ownership between teachers, professors and scientists doing research. There is no foreign ownership. Institutions that have postgraduate training in accounting include:

- Hanoi University of Finance and Accountancy
- National Economics University
- Financial Research Institute
- Ho Chi Minh City Economics University
- Center for Training and Researching Banking Science
- Commercial University

Specialized accountancy training is conducted for various industries, i.e., construction, commerce, banking, etc.

The language used at training institutions is Vietnamese.

### **3. Entry Requirements**

The minimum level of general education standards required for entry in the accountancy degree courses at universities and certificate courses at colleges, after graduating from High School, are:

- Post High School (including two years mainly on accounting subjects)
- Higher School/ College (three years) or
- Bachelor in Accounting (four years) followed by
- Master in Accounting (two years + thesis)
- Doctor in Accounting (four years + thesis).

After completing high school accounting students are required to sit for entrance examinations. The students with the best results are accepted for university and the rest of the students who pass are accepted for college. Students who complete the college certificate may then continue with the final year at university provided they complete two years' accounting work experience and pass a qualifying exam.

### **4. Viet Nam Accounting Association**

There is no link with the VAA regarding the monitoring and quality of accountancy courses.

### **5. Professional Accountant**

In Viet Nam there is no recognition given to accountants who attain an above average status which is attained either by undertaking additional courses of study or through a high standard of work experience. In some countries, these accountants are recognized by the society granting them "Senior" or "Fellow" status.

It is intended to submit to the Prime Minister for approval of the title "Professional Accountant" in recognition of higher qualifications and work experience. After approval of this scheme, additional training courses will be established for candidates who have graduated from accounting universities and have the necessary work experience to qualify for the status of "Professional Accountant".

The "Professional Accountant" Certificate will be equivalent to the "Financial Auditor Certificate" and applicants will be required to have three years' experience and pass exams. The status of "Professional

Accountant” will be available to all suitably qualified accountants in the public and private sectors. The issuance process is likely to be the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance.

## **6. Public Sector Accountancy Training**

Continuing professional education (CPE) is encouraged in the public service and it may be necessary for promotional reasons. There are three levels for accountants and auditors in the public service:

- Senior Expert
- Key Expert
- Expert

In order to be promoted it is necessary to have completed a certain number of CPE hours. The CPE consists of attendance at conferences, seminars and workshops, which are organized by the Ministry of Finance (MOF). The MOF Training Center also organizes short training courses on accounting retraining and Government procedures where students are required to sit for exams. Individual integrity, attitude and work applications are other factors taken into account for job promotion.

Students have been sponsored on overseas courses, including tuition on market economies and foreign languages (Ireland and Singapore).

## **7. Hanoi University of Finance and Accountancy**

The Hanoi University of Finance and Accountancy (HUFA) is the major educating authority for accounting training in Viet Nam. The Ministry of Education sets the curriculum for each course. There are three faculties in:

- Public Finance;
- Corporate Finance; and
- Accounting and Auditing.

The HUFA also organizes on-the-job training for students doing their degree courses and approximately 5,000 students have been involved in this program.

Details of the Curriculum for the Bachelor of Accounting Degree are included in Appendix 13. The Ministry of Education sets the curriculum for the HUFA Bachelor of Accounting Degree, and all other accounting degree courses. It is understood that accounting subjects

are directed at the Vietnamese Accounting System as they apply to state-owned enterprises in Viet Nam.

## **8. European Union Assistance**

The EU under the European Union Technical Assistance Program sponsored the use and application of International Accounting Standards (IAS) for Viet Nam (EUROTAPVIET). Workshops were held at various universities and colleges throughout Viet Nam and students gained comprehensive knowledge of all IAS. On average, each workshop lasted three to four days and covered one or two IAS. This Project was done during the period 1995-1998.

Under part of the EU Project, 20 Vietnamese students were selected and received specific training at Certified Public Accountant (CPA) level. This involved two months' training in Viet Nam and two weeks training in France. There were five components of the EU Project:

- Accounting and Auditing Legal Framework;
- Assistance to Local Accounting and Auditing Firms;
- Strengthening Capacity of VAA;
- Training; and
- Equipment Purchases.

More information on the EU Project is included in the chapter on Donor Assistance.