

Think Ahead



OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY

A Short Guide to the BSc (Hons) in Applied Accounting



www.brookes.ac.uk/acca

<https://www.accaglobal.com/uk/en/student/exam-entry-and-administration/oxford-brookes-bsc-hons-in-applied-accounting.html>

It is a wonderful program

Student submitted Nov 2018

What is the BSc (Hons) in Applied Accounting?

The BSc (Hons) in Applied Accounting is a unique opportunity for ACCA students. You can gain an undergraduate degree whilst studying for your professional qualification.

Once you have completed the Applied Knowledge and Applied Skills examinations (exemptions are allowable for some examinations) and the Ethics and Professional Skills module, you are eligible to submit a Research and Analysis Project to Oxford Brookes University. If you pass the Research and Analysis Project, you are awarded a BSc (Hons) in Applied Accounting by Oxford Brookes University.



Oxford Brookes University

Oxford Brookes University has over 150 years of history and is now one of the UK's top modern universities with a local, national and international reputation for teaching and research excellence.

Oxford Brookes University is the only UK institution to be included in the QS Top 50 Under 50 Ranking (for three consecutive years). The 2019 QS World University Rankings found that Brookes ranked amongst the “world’s top universities” in 12 subject areas, including Accounting and Finance. The University was also recognised as the top UK University for both teaching and research in the Times Higher Education (THE) Young University Rankings and was recognised as one of the top 50 UK institutions by The Guardian League tables 2019.

All the degree programmes offered by Oxford Brookes University are quality assured by the UK Quality Assurance Agency, the Government body responsible for academic standards in UK Universities.

The standards achieved by a BSc graduate are comparable to those achieved by students in other UK higher education institutions.

ACCA elements



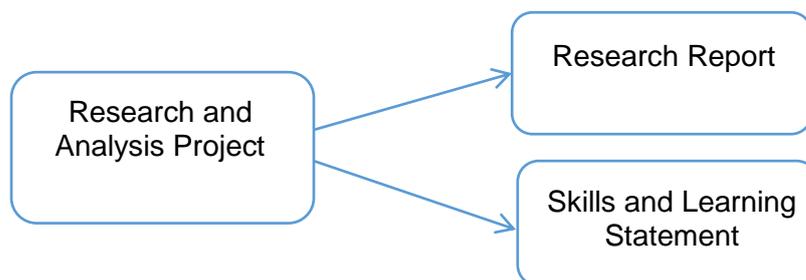
You must complete the first 9 ACCA examinations.

- You can have exemptions from Accountant in Business, Management Accounting, Financial Accounting, Corporate and Business Law, Performance Management and Taxation
- You cannot have exemptions from Financial Reporting, Financial Management or Audit and Assurance.
- You must have completed the Ethics and Professional Skills module.
- You must pass the Research and Analysis Project within 10 years of passing your first examination or being granted your first exemption.



Oxford Brookes University element

The Research and Analysis Project has two elements



Research Report

For your Research Report, you investigate an organisation and one of 20 topics. The topics cover the whole ACCA syllabus and so you can investigate a marketing strategy, a systems implementation or analyses financial performance. Depending on the topic, you can choose an organisation from different sectors - not for profit, local government and business.

Skills and learning statement

As you move through your career, one of the most important skills you develop is the ability to reflect. Learning happens in all sorts of ways, and not always in the classroom and not always measured by exams. Reflecting on your experiences is a powerful way to learn. The Skills and Learning Statement requires you to reflect on the RAP experience and so helps you develop these skills.

Why do BSc (Hons) in Applied Accounting

Employers seeking graduates

Both ACCA and Oxford Brookes University work with employers to understand the skills needed for a successful career in the profession. We then design our qualifications to ensure students acquire these skills which is why employers seek graduates.

In the UK the Department for Education collects the Graduate Labour Market Statistics. In 2018 the graduate employment rate (87.7%) was substantially higher than the employment rate of non-graduates (71.6%). In the UK in 2018, the median graduate salary was 42% higher than the median non-graduate salary.

Preparation for a Masters qualification

If you are interested in a Masters level qualification, an undergraduate degree (such as BSc (Hons) in Applied Accounting) is often expected. The BSc (Hons) in Applied Accounting is very good preparation for a masters, including an MBA, as you will have experienced university – style assessment and the Research Report will help you develop the skills needed for a dissertation.

Practice work related skills

You must complete the Ethics and Professional Skills Module (ESPM) prior to submitting the Research and Analysis Project as it is important to have an understanding of ethics prior to conducting your research. Of course, understanding ethics is also vital for all professional accountants. If you have completed an earlier version of the Ethics and Professional Skills module, you do not need to complete the latest version.

Within the ESPM you are introduced to essential work skills, such as organising and managing meetings, time management, developing commercial awareness and communication and interpersonal skills. The Research and Analysis Project provides you with the opportunity to practice and further develop these skills.

Time management – the project is an extended piece of work and so you will need to plan your work carefully

Inter-personal skills – by working with your mentor you will learn to prepare for and manage meetings, respond to feedback,

Information gathering – you will need to collect information, assess the quality of the sources

Analysis and evaluation – you will use the information to inform your analysis, develop an argument, draw conclusions

Communication skills – You will develop your business / professional writing and learn how to use the information gather to develop a credible argument.

When can I do the Research and Analysis Project (RAP)?

You must pass the RAP within 10 years of passing your first examination or being granted your first exemption. You can therefore study for the RAP after completing the Applied Skills examinations, or after you have completed the Strategic Professional examinations. You can therefore choose the route that is best for you, depending on your circumstances.

A couple of things to consider;

The Research and Analysis Project develops skills, such as the ability to draw together information from different sources that are very useful for the Strategic professional examinations.

On the other hand, having done the Strategic Professional examinations, you will have developed skills that will be helpful in completing the Research and Analysis Project.

Doing the Research and Analysis Project between the Applied Skills and Strategic Professional examinations is a change of activity, but you may prefer to continue with a focus on your examinations.

If you are at work, you may want to choose a time where you are likely to be less busy.

What is involved - The Registered Mentor

The Research and Analysis Project is a piece of independent research. A registered mentor guides you through the process. The registered mentor is

- An ACCA member
- A tutor at a learning provider
- Your line manager

In order to become a registered mentor, the mentor must complete the Oxford Brookes On-line Mentoring training course.

As a minimum, you must meet with your mentor three times. At the final meeting, you will deliver a presentation summarising your research findings. It is possible to have an on-line mentor, you are still required to present your findings, but this can be via a video call (such as Skype or Zoom).

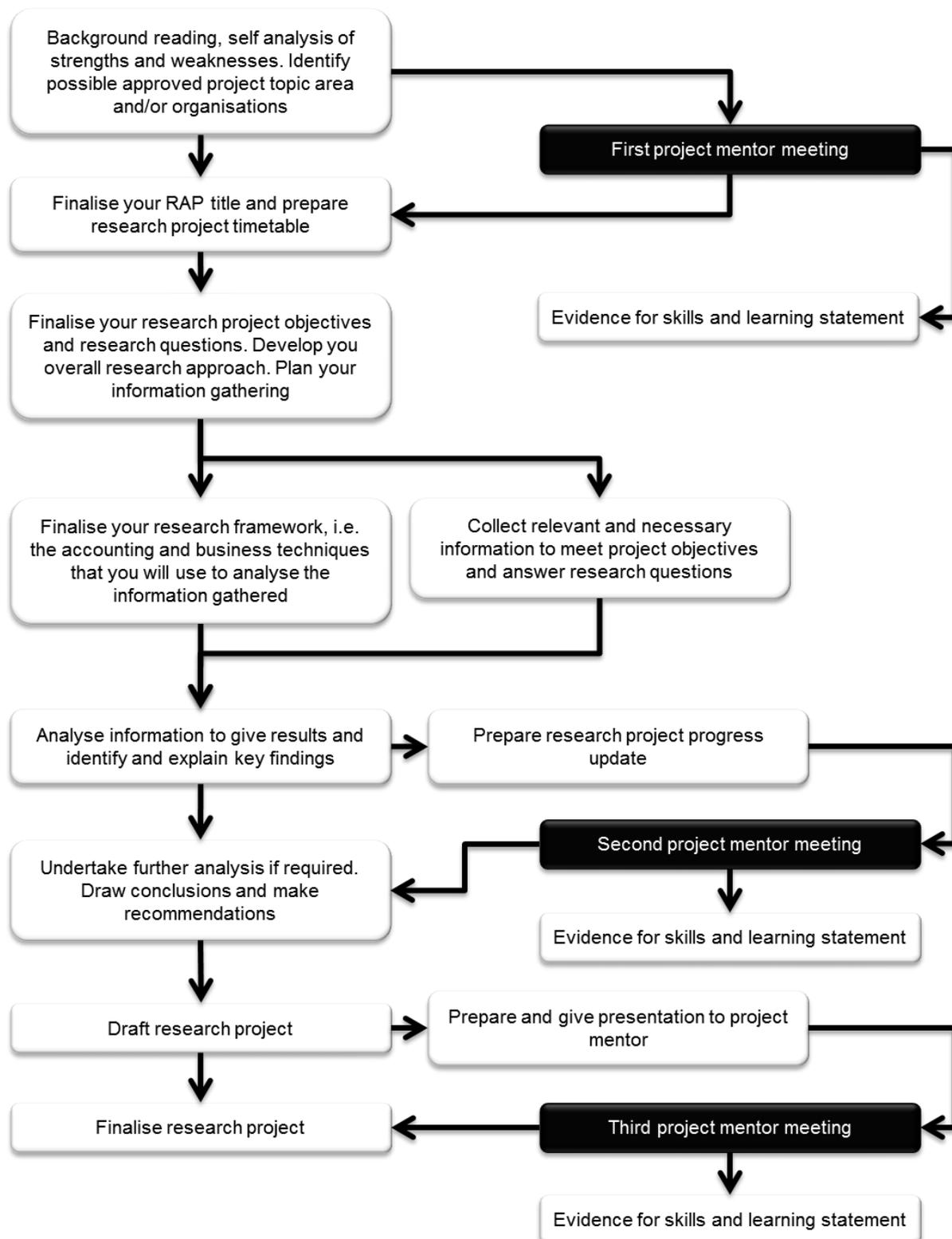
Most of the Approved Learning Providers provide a mentor service. This can involve some classes that introduce you to the skills needed for the Research and Analysis Project, such as, academic writing and referencing, searching for information, presentation skills and reflective writing.

Oxford Brookes University does not monitor the performance of mentors. The student and mentor must establish the basis of their working relationship, agreeing any charge for the mentor services and exactly what the mentor will do.

Please ask friends or colleagues for recommendations, compare different courses at learning providers, and ask your prospective mentor questions about their experience of the Research and Analysis Project. Some mentors do advertise on-line mentoring services.

This diagram explains the Research and Analysis Project journey.

Research and Analysis Project journey



Self-reflection

One of the most exciting aspects of the Research and Analysis Project is the Skills and Learning Statement, as this provides you with an opportunity for self-reflection. As you move into your professional career, the ability to learn from experiences, and to manage your own development will be essential. As you work through the Research and Analysis Project you are asked to reflect on what you are learning, how you have developed your interpersonal skills and how the experience will help your career.

Cost

The BSc (Hons) in Applied Accounting is very cost effective. When you submit your Research and Analysis Project to Oxford Brookes University, you pay a submission fee of £380 (Nov 2019, May 2020).

It is acceptable for Mentors, and Learning Providers providing a RAP course to charge students. The arrangement is between the mentor/LP and the student and Oxford Brookes does not have any control over these costs. The fees charged can range from £300 - £600.

When you are considering mentor arrangements, make sure you understand what you can expect for any fee charged. Mentors and learning providers should be very clear about the costs.

Graduation

Students who successfully complete the Research and Analysis Project are awarded a BSc (Hons) in Applied Accounting. You are sent an award certificate and transcript. The submission fee includes your award certificate, a copy of your transcript and a place for you at the graduation ceremony.

You, your family and friends, are invited to attend a Graduation Ceremony, dependent on your location, either in Dubai (usually February), Kuala Lumpur (usually October) or Oxford (June). There is a charge for guest graduation tickets, hiring a gown and graduation photographs.

Interested and want to know more?

Watch out for emails from ACCA about the OBU degree. These will often follow your exam results.

You may want to talk to your current learning provider about the support they offer for the RAP.

Oxford Brookes University and ACCA have lots of information on their websites

www.brookes.ac.uk/acca

<https://www.accaglobal.com/uk/en/student/exam-entry-and-administration/oxford-brookes-bsc-hons-in-applied-accounting.html>

And Finally – what do students think?

After each submission period we ask students to complete a survey. Students who submitted in November 2018 said the following:

“The programme helps develop accountancy and finance skills that are relevant to all sectors.”

“The programme was amazing it build up my confidence about research and report writing. Thank you ACCA and OBU for such programme.”

“Thank you so much for having this programme. I had learned a lot beyond the classroom, know myself more thru self-reflection statement and was delighted to be given a chance to present my work to other mentees and my mentor.”

“It was absolutely a very good and very real experience for me. From guideline to submission of the report, I found the OBU Information pack very helpful throughout the whole process.”

“It is a wonderful program.”

“This degree is a great foundation for anything in business.”