

Employer Webinar 17th April

Qualification Representatives:

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General Update:

FI: First Intuition is now seeing an influx of students adapting and embracing new virtual classroom courses and online study. More students are now coming forward to ask tutors for support on how they can make the most of this study time.

AAT:

The AAT has confirmed exams are still postponed however they are putting plans in place for when exam centres are open again to be able to run assessments as soon as possible. However, the professional discussion portion of the apprentice EPA can be done remotely. During this period, they have confirmed that all registered students will be getting a 3-month extension on their membership for free. All plans for the qualification 2021 are still on track with no expected delay to the introduction.

ACCA:

As confirmed previously all exams for the June sitting have been cancelled, they are still looking into potentially having the knowledge papers available to sit with online proctoring. The early booking window for September exams is open till the 11th of May, the ACCA is currently encouraging early bookings as this will help them monitor the demand of the session and ensure they have the correct capacity planned.

CIMA: Have announced they will be online proctoring all exams, all exams will be available to book from the 22nd April. The objective test papers can be sat from 4th May and the case study papers later in the month. From 13th – 15th May for operational, 20th – 22nd May for the management and 27th – 29th May for the strategic case study. CIMA has also announced they have changed booking conditions to allow students to book onto case study exams up to 24hrs before.

ICAEW:

Also, have been looking into online proctoring exams, and have confirmed that all certificate exams will be able to be sat online, and are hoping for these to be available late this month or early May. As suspected these online exams will require machines to have certain technology specifications, these specifications can be found on the ICAEW's Coronavirus Hub online [here](#). They are expecting August and September sittings of exams to go ahead as planned, with no extra sittings. ICAEW is, however looking at plans to have these exams available to sit at home if any news should arise. ICAEW has also previously confirmed that all students that have been furloughed can have a 12-week break of not working without it affecting their current training agreement and also that if all the other criteria have been met students are able to sit final exams outside their training agreement period. The ICAEW has advised checking their corona hub on their website for any updates.

ICAEW March Exam Results:

The March sittings of the exams appeared to be a good session, with Audit and Assurance having a high pass rate of 80% and Financial Accounting and Reporting bouncing back to a good result. Close analysis of the results remains when performance in papers go down to look and understand the underlying cause to support students more with the paper. When looking into these papers, the data is often sorted into groups of first-time sitters, resitters, repeat re sitters to see how they performed and how they can stratify to get those results up.

They have strongly advised for any students that have either failed their recent exam or are preparing to sit to check the examiner's report as they can be a vital resource for new information. Looking at exams where a high percentage of students failed can be of great use to students preparing for the exams as reasons have been pointed out by the examiners, therefore, students can learn not to make the same mistakes.

ICAEW Exams:

The booking window for the September exams will be open from the 29th June to 31st July, they are expecting the normal booking procedure to go ahead. In regards to trying to engage the capacity needed for this session the ICAEW have sent out a survey to all employers asking them to advise on how many students they anticipate will be booking a September exam and where and when to ensure they have sufficient capacity for the sitting.

As advised all certificate ICAEW exams will be able to be sat online via online proctoring and should hopefully be up and running by the end of this month. Whilst the ICAEW had already been thinking and working with the idea of online proctoring they do ask everyone to be patient as the first exams go up and understand if there are any teething problems.

Key Advice for Employers:

FI along with all qualifications are urging any students who have either been furloughed or are working remotely to try and set goals, either in their general day to day or study life as this can really help motivate. It is now more important than ever for students to continue investing in their future. Whilst this situation is nowhere near ideal for anyone it can be turned into an opportunity for students to really upskill and make the most of the free time by studying more before they may be required to become more flexible when going back to work.

If students studying a standard qualification are in the position of being close to finishing one qualification but cannot do the final exams yet there can be a period of overlap between two qualifications where you can start another whilst still studying your current. For example, if studying for the AAT Financial Statements paper, that can be a great revision tool to get prepared for ICAEW Financial Accounting and Reporting

The AAT has advised the usage of their portal which all AAT students will have once they have logged in. This is an excellent tool to collate anything they have found of interest or use from either internal or external sources.

Available Resources:

The ICAEW is continuing to advise students to use the examiner's reports when preparing for exams at this moment and it can help them avoid past mistakes and home in on important sections. They have also advised for any students going through ACA exams to make full use of the question banks and practise the bank repeatedly. For those students who are wanting to take a break from exam driven studies, there are also a host of other online courses on the ICAEW hub such as excel training, the free Xero qualification and the finance in a digital world unit. Now can also be a great time to update and tidy up other files or portions of the qualification that may have been left on the back burner such as 6-month reviews and the ethics training. Students can also be directed to the wellness hub where there are articles and activities to help with their mental health and keeping them on track.

As previously mentioned the AAT has also advised the use of the AAT portal which can not only help students keep all source material in one place but also offer external courses if they

are looking to take a break from exam studies and upskill. The AAT has also advised they have put together action groups and planned Facebook Lives to support employers and students alike, they have also extended an invitation to training providers and employers to mention or ask for any themes or topics that they would want to hear more about.