

**Reading & Southampton**

**August 2024**

**Employer Newsletter**

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**Next Gen ACA**

*A new ICAEW Syllabus will be coming into force from September 2025*

We would like to invite you to an FI National Webinar on 13th August at 1pm where we will discuss the upcoming syllabus changes which will impact September 2025 starts. First Intuition’s Gareth John will be joined by ICAEW’s Shaun Robertson (Director of Education and Qualifications), who will chat through the rationale of the proposed changes, Ginny Bradwell (Director of Education at First Intuition) who will highlight the implications for students and apprentices and Hazel Rogers (National Client Director at First Intuition) who will discuss some of the decisions clients will need to start thinking about.

The session will be recorded and circulated afterwards. We will then be running some local events for FI Reading and Southampton clients to update you on how this could impact your new starts in September 2025 and transitional arrangements for existing students supported by our local ICAEW Business Development Representative, Lea Watson.

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| ICAEW Syllabus update – National Webinar | 1pm on 13th August, register [here](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErcu6tqDwoG91yJPRFOoyxRz_RaPbEheA9#/registration) |
| ICAEW Syllabus update – Reading | At First Intuition Reading, 4:30pm on 9th September |
| ICAEW Syllabus update – Southampton | At First Intuition Southampton, 4:30pm on 16th September |
| ICAEW Syllabus update – Online Reading/Southampton webinar | 1pm on 1st October, register [here](https://firstintuition-co-uk.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtf-6spz8tHNFTamzokExibo4JVqHbmMKy) |

**Trailblazer updates**

Apprenticeship Trailblazer groups in the UK are employer-led groups that develop new apprenticeship standards. These groups represent various sectors and ensure that the training provided meets industry needs. The Trailblazer initiative is overseen by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE), which helps these groups through the process of creating and revising apprenticeship standards. First Intuiton are active in all of the accounting Trailblazer Groups.

*Level 4 Professional Accounting and Taxation Technician*

Some of the ongoing decisions include:

* Creation of 2 separate standards at L4. One representing Accounting and the other more focused on Tax
* There is potential that this could lead to the AAT having 2 routes within its qualification to meet the needs of each standard. One focused on Accountancy with a bit of Tax, and one focused on Tax with a bit of Accountancy. This is still being thought through.
* There has also been discussion as to whether the EPA at level 4 to be objective test style or role simulation.
* The second part of the EPA would be a professional discussion, without the need for a detailed portfolio.
* The Trailblazer Group has a deadline of September 2024, and IfATE remain optimistic that this will be met with a view to being ready for Q2 starts in 2025.

*Level 7 – Accountancy or Tax Professional*

The level 7 Trailblazer group is moving forwards with plans to align the standard more closely to the professional qualification. This is expected to include mandated exams, and changes to the EPA. As with level 4 the tax and accountancy standards will be separated out. Although this standard is still being discussed it is hoped that it may be available for Q2 in 2025. Ideally, with a launch date aligned with the new ICAEW syllabus.

**The CIMA Finance Leadership Programme (FLP)**

*Providing an alternative study route to achieving the CGMA designation*

The CIMA FLP is currently an alternative to an apprenticeship approach to achieving the CGMA qualification. With FLP, the learner will continuously demonstrate their understanding of the CIMA syllabus through online assessments embedded within the learning materials. These assessments focus on applying knowledge to real-world scenarios, giving a more practical understanding of the material (as opposed to doing the objective test exams). This continuous assessment style allows for greater flexibility in the learner journey and means that formal examination focuses solely on the three Case Study exams.

Studying the FLP route at First Intuition means that learners will have access to online live study sessions and to our comprehensive library of tutor-led video recordings, which cover the core learning across each pillar. This gives them the flexibility to dip in and out of the resources as they come across topics where they need a little more help. Our case study preparation courses enable learners to walk into their case study exams feeling confident, having prepared via our structured Online or Online Live courses, including 3 marked mock exams, all included in the annual FLP subscription.

At First Intuition, studying online doesn’t mean studying alone. Every learner will have a call with one of our expert coaching team to create a study plan and regular check-ins to help keep them on target. Tutor support is available throughout and we are always happy to help with any technical assistance.

For your employees this means they will get the same respected CGMA designation whilst learning the syllabus in a real-world focussed, flexible environment. For you, as an employer it means that you lose less time out of the office for trainees attending courses and re-sitting exams. It also allows you to offer a new training option to employees that might not be suited to the traditional study approach.

If you’d like to discuss your employees studying the CIMA FLP at First Intuition please contact the team on flp@fi.co.uk . For more information, please visit [Study CIMA’s CGMA FLP - First Intuition](https://www.firstintuition.co.uk/study-cimas-cgma-flp/)

**Earn £300 Amazon Voucher by introducing new apprentices to First Intuition Reading and Southampton**

We’re introducing a special referral program that rewards you for spreading the word about First Intuition!

Do you know another company who could benefit from our Finance Apprenticeships? If you introduce a new client to us and they sign-up an apprentice with us, you will receive a £300 Amazon voucher as our way of saying thank you (or a £300 donation to a charity of your choice).

Here’s how it works:

1. Refer a **new** client to our Commercial Director (ryanhill@fi.co.uk)
2. Once they become a client and onboard an apprentice who stays on programme for 3 months, you will receive a £300 Amazon voucher as our way of saying thank you (or a £300 donation to a charity of your choice).

There's no limit to the number of firm’s you can refer.

Any questions don’t hesitate to drop Ryan an email (ryanhill@fi.co.uk).

**Recruiting an apprentice**

We often receive queries about recruitment, including the best way to find and recruit a new apprentice. One tried and tested approach is the Find an Apprenticeship site <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>. Many schools, colleges and universities direct their learners to this site to help them identify apprenticeship opportunities with local employers. This website is newly linked to the UCAS website to increase the student reach.

If this is a service you would like help with, we can set this up for you, free of charge, please do get in touch.

We also regularly attend recruitment fairs and schools to promote apprenticeships. If you are recruiting, please feel free to share with us your adverts and job descriptions and we can promote them at these events while we talk about apprenticeships. Please contact your client partner if this is something you would like to pursue.

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**ISP Questionnaire**

Following requests from managers to know more about the skills days content, we are introducing skills questionnaires for each skills module. These will be sent out by the course tutor to line managers and to the apprentice approximately 2 weeks before the skills day runs. This short questionnaire will include information about the content covered on the day but will also invite the manager and the apprentice to share details with the tutor about their own development targets within that skills area.

This should help managers, apprentices and the course tutor to focus on the apprentice’s individual development needs as well as aligning this to the business needs.

If you do not start to receive these questionnaires, please let your coach know. If you have recently taken over line management for an apprentice, we will need to add your name to our database to make sure that we send updates to the right person.

**Past newsletters**

Keep up to date. If you want to read some of the historical newsletters they can be found [here](https://www.firstintuition.co.uk/fihub/first-intuition-reading-and-southampton-client-newsletters/).