

What Next?

You've just completed a training programme with Access, so 'what next?' is a good question. It is a good time to **consider your options** and we would be happy to discuss this with you (and your employer if appropriate).

In considering 'what next' you should **think about your current job, experience, qualifications, skills, ambition**, as well as **potential changes in your job, promotion opportunities and prospects etc.** If possible **discuss this with your employer**. We would also suggest that you revisit and **update your CV** at this point, making sure you add your new qualifications.

It may be that you don't feel ready to launch straight in to something else. If so, we would suggest you put a date in your diary to consider again – New Year is always a good time to make plans for the coming year, while many companies also have a system of staff appraisals that can be very useful in allowing you to discuss your future progression and training needs.



If you need further help in looking at progression opportunities remember we are always happy to help, while **Connexions, Next Steps, Job Centre Plus** and others are also very useful starting points for advice and guidance (numbers will be in the phone book or on the internet, but give us a ring if you have problems).

The following are examples of training you may want to consider when progressing from your training programme (let us know if you have any other ideas and we will try to point you in the right direction):

Progression from : Accounting Higher Apprenticeship (AAT Advanced / NVQ 4)

- Progression from this level would usually be onto **professional qualifications** via specialist training providers such as Kaplan or ABAC Training, or a **degree**. Your AAT qualifications often provide exemptions towards degrees and professional qualifications. The Financial Services Sector Skills Council has a useful website www.fssc.org.uk which includes a 'Directions Highstreet' giving case studies and a course search facility. Funding may be available via career development or student loans.
- **Association of Chartered and Certified Accountants:** ACCA qualifications are most suitable for individuals in technical roles such as corporate accountants, auditors and tax accountants. Visit www.accaglobal.com for more information.
- **Chartered Institute of Management Accountants:** CIMA qualifications are most suitable for those who have more emphasis on management reporting, corporate strategy and the actual business organisation (covering roles within forecasting, budget making, variance analysis and strategy). Visit www.cimaglobal.com for more information.
- **Foundation, Ordinary and Honours Degrees** are available in a range of Business, Finance and Accounting subjects and can be offered by local colleges (such as Gateshead College) or universities (part time or full time). Some universities include CIMA, ACCA and other qualifications as part of the degree.

For more information, we would suggest you visit www.direct.gov.uk and check out the 'education and learning section' - lots of advice on skills, qualifications, finding courses and financial support.

Finally, good luck with whatever you choose to do next!