



Forensic Empowered and Intensive graduate programmes



Length of programme	3 years
Qualifications you'll work for	ICAEW Certificate in Finance, Accounting and Business (CFAB) & Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Diploma or full ACA
Location	London & various regional offices. Please search the website for latest location availability
Entry requirements	<p>As a general rule, you'll be expected to meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Minimum grade B GCSE(*) Maths – Minimum grade B GCSE(*) English Language – Minimum of 320 UCAS tariff points(*) – Minimum 2:1 degree or above in any discipline <p>Note: (*) Or equivalent</p>

Please note, we only consider a candidate's 'top' 3 A Level grades and do not accept General Studies.

At KPMG, we look at more than just your academic results. We will review your application, together with your performance in our assessments, to ensure that you have the best opportunity to demonstrate your potential. We will be considering your strengths and achievements against KPMG's capabilities alongside a number of other metrics, including technical background and/or experience, to ensure that you have the skills to succeed at KPMG.

Our Forensic team helps clients to protect their businesses by reducing reputational risk and commercial loss. Combining accounting investigation, technology and industry skills, we come in where facts and figures don't agree, or where behaviour doesn't comply with expectations or regulations. Through investigations and compliance, fraud risk management, corporate intelligence, anti-bribery, anti-money laundering, and dispute advisory services, we help to diffuse challenging situations.

Our Forensic Graduate Programme is designed to build your commercial and business awareness across the Forensic practice and enable you to qualify in three years. As well as the chance to study towards the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales qualification (ACA) or the Institute of Chartered Accountants (CA) in Scotland, you'll receive structured internal training and opportunities to help clients across a variety of sectors and services.

In depth

As the programme is based over three areas, you'll enjoy the chance to develop skills and gain exposure across these areas:

Investigations and Compliance

This is the largest team within Forensic, often working with clients in sensitive and complex environments to conduct an independent investigation.

Projects are varied, challenging, can last from two months to two years and may involve UK or international travel.

A typical project would be conducting an investigation into an alleged fraud – reviewing captured electronic data, conducting interviews to establish facts and identify the perpetrator, and analysing financial and non-financial information to highlight relevant evidence.

Or you could find yourself proactively conducting a fraud risk assessment to help clients understand the fraud risks they face, evaluate their existing counter-measures and develop strong anti-fraud measures. Within Fraud and Compliance, we look for people with good analytical skills who thrive in a demanding, fast-paced environment.

Dispute Advisory Services (DAS)

The Dispute Advisory Services team helps prevent and resolve commercial disputes by supporting our clients to assess damages and resolve accounting, audit and finance-related issues. Experts within Dispute Advisory are regularly instructed in litigation, arbitration, mediation and other dispute resolution proceedings, with appointments to the role of Independent Expert Witness, Single Joint Expert or Expert Determiner.

Our projects are diverse, and we work across a variety of sectors, but our work can often include investigation and analysis, assessment of liability in accountant and auditor claims, data analysis, review of e-disclosure, assistance with negotiation strategy or other contract dispute avoidance advice. A typical project would involve receiving instruction from lawyers, undertaking a review of the disclosed evidence and preparing an Expert report for a court or arbitration which sets out the expert's opinion on a number of issues.

Our Forensic Transaction Services team in particular deals with the financial and accounting aspects of transaction-related disputes and provides advice on accounting aspects of draft Sale and Purchase Agreements.

To be part of the Dispute Advisory Services (DAS) team you will need a good eye for detail, strong written and analytical skills and the ability to work to tight deadlines. Your role will include a mixture of projects and business development and although the majority of our work is carried out in the UK, there may be occasional international travel to support an expert in a case being heard in a foreign jurisdiction.

Training and Development

The training and development of our professionals is critical to the future success of our business, which is why our people are trained to become experts in their field and supported to study for a professional qualification.

In Forensic, we currently offer either the full ACA or for those working in financial crime the CFAB and AML Diploma. For the full ACA, there are two paths to qualification that you will be able to select upon applying. These are the ACA Intensive Programme or our ACA Empowered Programme. The CFAB would be delivered through the Empowered Programme.

Intensive Programme

The Intensive Programme is KPMG's front-loaded, classroom-based ACA product which focuses on upskilling trainees more quickly. This means that for the first 12 months of your training contract you will solely focus on passing 14 out of 15 ACA exams, and come into the business on two work experience placements. One is a structured, six week work experience placement during the first quarter of the calendar year after you join, and the second comes after you have completed your 14 exams.

The entire programme is supported by a wide range of mechanisms that will be applied by your tuition provider or KPMG when you require them, but due to the intense pace of the programme you will need to be really dedicated in your approach to learning. This product allows you to focus purely on your professional qualification in your first year. In the remaining two years of your training contract you can concentrate on building up a fantastic range of work experience (with only one exam left to complete) and will have the technical knowledge to apply within the workplace.

The three main training hubs for the Intensive Programme are London, Birmingham and Manchester. Regardless of the selected home office, you will be expected to re-locate to one area in order to dedicate the time to attend the programme for the first 12 months.

Please Note: Due to the intensive nature of the programme, holiday dates are mandated during the initial 12 months of the programme to fit in with the study and exam schedule – with no exceptions.

Empowered Programme

The Empowered Programme is KPMG's blended ACA product where the onus is on you to take ownership of your studies and help shape your learning.

The programme uses innovative technology and is delivered via a blend of online classroom live and recorded courses plus in-centre classroom courses. It also has wrap-around support which consists of dedicated professional coaches, online portal content and live and recorded additional study sessions which means there is a form of support for your every need. This blended approach enables you to study and learn the content at a pace suited to your learning style, but ensures all are at the right technical level prior to stepping into revision elements so you can focus on your exam technique before the exam.

The structure of the programme spreads the ACA examinations over the lifetime of the three year training contract so that you are able to build up your technical knowledge, and can gradually apply what you are learning in training to your workplace experience.

KPMG is proud of both their ACA and CA products as they support all learning styles and ensure a supportive and inclusive learning environment. Therefore, regardless of route, you will be supported by KPMG's dedicated Professional Qualification Training and Accreditation team whose focus is to ensure that each KPMG trainee fulfils their potential.

All programmes take three years to complete. They just offer different routes to achieving success. You should not underestimate how much of your first three years will be spent studying and therefore it is imperative you really think about your learning style, and be sure that you are joining a firm that takes your development as seriously as you do.

Please see below for case study.



Name: Matthew

Business Area: Advisory – Forensic, Risk Consulting

Based: London

The recruitment process?

I actually found the recruitment process quite enjoyable! Arriving at the London office for the assessment centre was quite eye-opening, as you come in contact with the KPMG working environment for the first time, and is enough motivation within itself to perform on the day. I think the process is also a two-way street, whilst KPMG are learning more about the candidates, it gives the candidates the chance to get a feel for the firm and its people.

Why KPMG?

The main driver for me was the name. KPMG is a global brand recognised across the board, recognised consistently as one of the top graduate employers. I believe that the training and career development opportunities are second to none, so I was confident that KPMG would be the ideal place to progress straight out of university.

Qualifications and support?

I am studying the ACA, a three-year accounting qualification, through the Empowered programme. The programme runs alongside work, so balancing projects and exams has been challenging thus far. Since the qualification is highly relevant to the projects taking place within the department, it has been fascinating to see theory applied to engagements with real-life clients, and helps you to appreciate the value of the hours you put in after work.

Day-to-day?

In my first few months I have worked on fast-paced, short-term investigations and a long-term sanctions screening project. Each has their own merits: working towards a deadline on an hourly basis can be exciting, but longer-term engagements can help to develop a greater understanding of the work you are doing and develop skills in-depth. Ultimately, a blend of both is hugely beneficial, and with regular training and business development opportunities, is a great environment to learn and develop at KPMG.

My advice?

Say hi! Everyone in the building is friendly and is, or has been, in your position before, so they will be happy to answer a question, have a quick chat, or meet for a coffee.

Working with clients?

The sanctions screening project I am currently on means working full-time on client site, which has been an interesting experience. Knowing that the work you are doing is going to be delivered to a client, too, puts a healthy pressure on you to perform.

Social life?

The graduate induction is like a professional Freshers' Week, as you meet a lot of like-minded people in a new and exciting environment. Outside of your cohort, there are team events, sports teams, and social groups, so there is more than enough going on to make for a busy social calendar.

Further career opportunities at KPMG?

Each project I have worked on so far has been radically different, but that might not be the case for everyone. If you are not getting the variety that everyone is looking for from their graduate programme, KPMG is broad enough that there are opportunities everywhere you look. Through networking events, training, and internal and external secondments, there are more than enough ways to find the career opportunities you are looking for, gain valuable experience, and develop the skills you want to develop.

FAQs

How might my work be planned?

We'll make sure that your projects give you the opportunity to develop the skills of a successful business adviser. Your manager will also help you to focus on identifying any development needs. Say, for example, you wanted to gain research experience, you could agree with your manager to explore a project in a team that's working on a new client proposal.

Which clients could I be working with?

You clients are often high profile and global. So, you could be working with multinationals in industries such as the financial services, oil and gas, telecoms, travel, leisure and tourism, music and entertainment, utilities or retail.

Will I get the opportunity to work in different business areas of the wider KPMG UK firm?

As a professional services firm, KPMG support their clients in a variety of different ways and as you develop skills on your graduate programme, you will often find yourself working on projects with colleagues from other areas of the firm.

Opportunities for you to work on projects in other teams where you can utilise the skills you have developed or gained through your studies will also help you become a more rounded individual and also increase your internal and external networks.

Will I need to travel?

Although not guaranteed, it's quite likely. You could find yourself working with clients on both short and long term projects across the UK or possibly even in mainland Europe or other international locations.

What can I do after I finish the Graduate Programme?

Our three year Graduate Programme is just the start. It will give you a strong foundation, great client experience, professional training and core consulting skills. Given our amazing growth, there are opportunities to progress a really varied career in Forensic as you build specialist skills. Throughout your career you'll be offered ongoing support and opportunities to develop your expertise, both on challenging client projects and through training.

Contact us

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