Technology Audit (Information Risk Management) graduate programme

Length of programme	3 years
Qualifications you'll work for	ICAEW Certificate in Finance, Accounting and Business (CFAB)
Location	Nationwide. Please search website for latest location availability.
Entry requirements	As a general rule, you'll be expected to meet the following requirements: — Minimum Grade B GCSE[*] Maths — Minimum Grade B GCSE[*] English Language — Minimum of 120 UCAS points under the 2017 tariff point system at A Level or equivalent qualifications [*] — Minimum 2:1 degree or above in any discipline Note: (*) Or equivalent.

Please note that 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 alongside a number of other metrics, including technical background and/or experience, to ensure that you have the skills to succeed at KPMG.

Technology underpins many of the most influential organisations in the world. It enables the biggest business decisions and connects people around the globe. The opportunities that technology provides are matched only by its potential threats and risks – and this is where we come in.

We work as one team with our Financial Audit colleagues and are responsible for bringing technology specialist skills to the audit. We support the audit in the evaluation of IT systems that underpins an organisation's key financial processes. Our work gives us exposure to some of the largest global organisations, through to local medium/large sized businesses across all industry sectors, as well as to the breadth of technology used by these organisations e.g. complex Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems, emerging technologies and legacy systems. The role of technology in audit is becoming more significant as audited entities continue to embrace technology at a fast pace with bots, Cloud and Blockchain being the future norm.

The nature of our work is largely investigative, whereby we look at the processes and controls that an organisation has in place to secure the data transacted through their IT systems. Our 3-year graduate programme is designed to offer audit work experience, exposure and the support you need to secure a successful career in Technology Audit (Information Risk Management). We will help you to develop your technology, process and data audit skills, commercial acumen and gain a flair for business to enable you to deliver quality outcomes and real value results. As a graduate, it provides a solid grounding for understanding IT.

Like the companies we audit, we're having to adapt. This means new working patterns, physical adjustments in our offices and new ways of interacting with our colleagues as well as the organisations we work with - we are harnessing technology to help underpin this change.

In depth

Our nationwide Technology Audit practice provides assurance services across a broad spectrum of companies on the technology related risks within their business. Technology Audit teams are in place across all our "Coverage Groups" – i.e. how the firm is structured. These groups are National Markets (predominantly in our regional offices), Financial Services, and Corporates (both of which are more London focused).

Our Technology Audit team provides specialist IT audit support to our external and internal audits, including the use of data analytics, as well as attestation over the use of technology at third parties. We assess the control risks related to the information assets, either in IT management processes, financial and operational applications, technology infrastructure or technology projects.

Who are we looking for?

People who excel within Technology Audit are passionate about continually adapting their skills and knowledge to find solutions that meet our needs for audit engagements, whilst having a keen eye for detail to identify and assess IT control risks for quality audit outcomes.

We ask for an active interest in technology and business issues, as well as strong communication skills and the desire to take on early responsibility.

Whilst you don't necessarily need to be a technical guru (our current graduates have degrees in a variety of subjects), we are looking for individuals who have a desire to get involved in a variety of projects. Most importantly, you'll have an appetite to learn about technology and how we can best support audit engagements in assessing IT control environments.

What to expect?

If you're looking for a Graduate scheme that will equip you with the skills, knowledge and experience required to forge a successful career in the rapidly changing world of technology, then this is the job for you.

KPMG is one of the largest providers of Audit services in the world, and the majority of projects during your training years will likely be in the world of External Audit. As an IT Auditor, you will work as part of a highly skilled, passionate team alongside our financial auditors to provide assurance over key financial systems and technology infrastructure that underpins the organisation's financial reporting processes.

These engagements offer unparalleled access to the core systems and processes of some of the world's biggest brands and will furnish you with a comprehensive understanding of how technology drives modern business processes; and of how IT and finance professionals manage their technology risks. You will also hone your project management, technical and soft skills - rapidly developing a sophisticated, multifaceted and highly-adaptable core skillset that you can adapt and apply to a variety of projects.

You'll develop outstanding soft skills; have the opportunity to study for professional qualifications and take on real responsibility. Excellent communication skills are crucial to succeed in the role. We will support you to develop these skills in an environment where excellence comes as standard - the ideal foundation on which to build your future career.

You'll build internal and external relationships and have access to senior contacts at a number of organisations of varying sizes. You will also work with our colleagues in our offshore team and occasionally will be working together with other KPMG member firms across the world.

As you learn, grow and progress through the programme, you may gain exposure to a broader range of engagements, potentially including Internal Audit, 3rd Party Assurance and more. The exact nature of this work will vary but could be as diverse as assisting on an engagement during a major software transformation project; conducting data analysis; assessing a company's data privacy procedures; or advising them on the design and implementation of their IT controls.

You will add value to audit engagements and their business from day one. No two projects, companies or control environments will be the same so flexibility is key. You will be working across various companies and sectors with a variety of engagement teams, giving you the opportunity to work with a large number of your colleagues both in the UK and overseas.

We'll work with you to ensure you get a mix of experience that's right for you. Some periods will be busier than others, but there's plenty of opportunity for variety and fun.

As you would expect, more and more of our work is being delivered remotely however there will still be occasions when your role may involve a large amount of national, and occasionally international travel.

Why Technology Audit?

You get the following opportunities from working within Technology Audit:

– Exposure to a breadth of organisations covering different sectors.
– Technical skills in key audit concepts and technologies.
– Soft skills such as project management, stakeholder management and people management.

Technology Audit gives you a platform from which to develop an understanding of the usage of technology in business. The breadth of technology used and how organisations leverage their IT system offers the opportunity for you to learn about legacy systems to complex ERP systems.

When performing external audit support work, this will have a direct impact on the ability of KPMG Audit teams to rely on the company's control environments as part of the financial statement audit process. This will give you a keen understanding of not only technology systems, but also financial and business processes and associated risks arising from the widespread usage of technology as a driver for business.

The project, audit work and role combinations are almost endless. Which means you'll work with a wide variety of people across KPMG – from other Graduates to Partners. This exposure provides access to the unrivalled knowledge you need to build your own skills, as well as deliver quality audit outcomes.

Training and Development

As a Technology Audit Graduate, your training and development will follow the Graduate Learning Pathway. This is a well-rounded training and development plan, and comprises of technical training, personal development, and career development courses to help you make the most of your programme.

When you join the team, your initial training will be geared towards equipping you with the requisite skills and knowledge to support our teams of IT Audit specialists. You can expect to gain an in-depth understanding of IT systems; financial processes and controls. You will study for the ICAEW Certificate in Finance, Accounting and Business (CFAB). This mandatory qualification provides knowledge and practical skills in 3 key areas: Finance, Accounting and Business. There are 6 modules: Accounting, Assurance, Law, Business Finance, Principles of Tax and Management Information.

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.

We offer on-the-job coaching and access to wide-ranging online training resources that will help you to manage your time, influence stakeholders, manage finances and develop leadership skills.

During your programme you will also have the power to shape your own development by augmenting the Learning Pathway with courses from the KPMG Business School and a variety of online platforms. In some cases, it may also be possible to study towards professional qualifications such as: ITIL Foundation, COBiT Foundation, ISACA Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) and TOGAF.

The impact of COVID-19 on professional qualifications:

The vast majority of KPMG's staff undertaking a professional qualification were able to continue with their studies and examinations following the COVID-19 pandemic, including those studying with the ICAEW and ICAS. We expect studies to be back to our usual mix of classroom and remote learning detailed above for our 2021 intake, and exams to be scheduled normally.

FAQs

Will I work with other teams?

Absolutely. The programme is part of a much wider function within KPMG. Working with teams across the firm to deliver truly bespoke solutions, you'll gain a broader understanding of the role that our engagements technology functions play within their business. You may also get the opportunity to work on projects in other teams where you can utilise the skills you have developed or gained through training. This will also help you become a more rounded individual and increase your internal and external networks. In particular, the Technology Audit team is embedded within our Audit practice and so has a close link with the Financial Audit team with individuals from both teams working closely together to deliver the audit.

What kinds of companies and sectors might I work with?

We work with companies from every type of industry, both public and private sector, and in locations across the country and even internationally as well. So, you can expect to gain a very varied experience whilst on your graduate programme.

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

As a graduate trainee, you will be based in the Technology Audit team for the period of your training contract. As a professional services firm, KPMG provide value 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. The opportunities are endless once you have completed the 3-year programme.

How are projects organised?

We assemble teams with appropriate skills when planning our audit engagements. The teams are led by an Engagement Manager and an Engagement Leader (a Partner or Director), who allocate work and who you will report to. We have a system called Retain where you can see your own pipeline of work, as well as any study or

Is there much travel involved in the role?

The way in which we deliver our work is changing and we are now delivering significant amounts of our work remotely. However, depending on the engagement, you may still find yourself working at the offices of the entities we audit or at one of our KPMG offices. That means there will be travel involved – it's unlikely that you'll be going to the same office every day of the year, so be prepared to frequently change your routine.

What happens after I finish my graduate programme?

You'll be supported to progress and have a really varied career within the Technology Audit practice, building your specialist skills.

What was the impact of COVID-19 on professional qualification tuition?

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Were exams and progression through training programmes impacted by COVID-19, and will that continue?

The ICAEW and ICAS both moved quickly to introduce new remotely invigilated exam solutions following the start of the pandemic. This meant that whilst there was some initial disruption, we were quickly able to ensure our students could continue with their exam pathways where individuals were comfortable to do so. These newly developed solutions may well continue to be used into the future, and thus will provide extra flexibility for our business and trainees.

Contact us

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