Why volunteer?
Sharing your time and expertise can have profound benefits for society, your employer and you

TURNING A PASSION INTO A LIFE’S WORK
Michael Wickham Moriarty speaks about life in the non-profit sector

THE NEXT WAVE OF AUDIT INNOVATION
How new technologies help auditors work better, smarter and faster

NOTHING BUT THE EXPECTED?
Kimberley Rowan and Peter Vale assess Finance Bill 2019
AN AUTHENTIC BALANCE BETWEEN BUSINESS AND ACADEMIA

Rewarding careers in Chartered Accountancy await graduates of the Trinity Business School Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting.

Ranked first in Ireland and second in Western Europe for Accounting according to Eduniversal, the Trinity Business School Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting offers non-accounting graduates a fast-track route into a career in accountancy.

The course focuses on the fundamentals of financial accounting, management accounting, corporate finance, audit, taxation and related areas. It also offers significant exemptions from the examinations of professional accountancy bodies, including the Chartered Accountants Ireland CAP1 exams.

Graduates emerge from the eight-month, full-time course with a keen understanding of their future role as accountants, be that in practice or industry. “The programme prepares students for successful careers in accounting,” says Neil Dunne FCA, Programme Director for the Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting. “The core modules are what you would expect from any Chartered Accountancy course – financial accounting, corporate finance, tax, governance, company law and so on. This ensures that students gain the technical skills they require but the authentic balance between business and academia means they also gain vital business acumen, which they can carry with them wherever they go.”

Students on this year’s programme are enjoying the facilities of Ireland’s most advanced Business School building. Completed earlier this year, the €80 million state-of-the-art 11,400 square metre building includes an Innovation and Entrepreneurial Hub, a 600-seat auditorium, restaurant spaces for up to 200 people, smart classrooms with the latest digital technology, and a rooftop conference room. It also hosts the summer student accelerator programme, LaunchBox.

While the new Business School may offer increased space, there has been no compromise when it comes to class size. “We put a cap on the class size at around 40 students to optimise the student experience,” says Dunne. “Students won’t find themselves in a class of over 100 students. It’s large enough for them to establish personal and professional networks that will stand to them for their whole lives and small enough to develop real friendships as well. They also have access to all the supports available from a world-class university like Trinity College Dublin.”
It’s also large enough to offer real diversity. “We have a large number of students from overseas and that’s a big benefit,” says Dunne. “There is also great diversity in our students’ qualifications, which span arts, law, science and so on. That makes for very lively discussions during class.”

The quality of the faculty is another key aspect of the programme. “Our expert faculty is made up of Chartered Accountants and we have expert practitioners from the Big Four and other firms who come in to demonstrate exactly what’s required to succeed in a career as a professional accountant.”

Graduates of the Trinity Business School Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting find themselves much sought after, with the majority finding employment before the end of their first semester. “Demand for our graduates is very strong,” Dunne notes. “Qualified accountants can end up in any industry in any part of the world. Our graduates have been very successful in gaining employment with a wide variety of firms, but the strongest demand is coming from the Big Four. That’s a reflection of the demand for qualified accountants in the economy, the quality of the course and the strong Trinity Business School brand.”

Strong connections with all the leading accountancy firms facilitates a smooth transition into employment. “The accountancy firms sponsor student awards, attend our careers fairs and provide guest lecturers. They can see that our students have been exposed to qualified accountants and not just the books. The exemptions from professional exams are also of key importance. That makes our graduates more valuable to employers. They will spend less time on exams and more time gaining experience.”

Overseas students also have a pathway to an accountancy career in Ireland, according to Patrick Phillips, Postgraduate Career Development & Alumni Officer. “Accountancy is in such demand that it has been recognised as a critical skill by the Government,” he explains. “There is now a particular work visa to cover accountancy.”

In fact, Ireland is one of only a few European countries to provide a two-year graduate work visa. The Irish Third-Level Graduate Scheme exists to allow legally resident, non-EEA third-level graduates to remain in Ireland for the purpose of seeking employment and applying for a work permit. Students in training to become Chartered Accountants can apply for this Stamp 1A visa, which lasts for up to four and a half years.

The high level of demand for accountants is evidenced by the competition among the Big Four to fill their graduate programmes, which is why students are encouraged to apply as early as October or November – just after the beginning of their first semester.

The career guidance service provided by Phillips and his colleagues is a key feature of the programme. “Trinity Business School has its own dedicated careers service and we try to get the students to a career-ready state very early on,” says Dunne.

It’s all part of the service. “We try to give the students every bit of help we can to make their experience here as enjoyable as possible and to make them as employable as possible,” Dunne concludes. “We will open for applications after Christmas and I would advise potential students to apply as soon as possible, as the course fills up very quickly.”

For more information about the Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting at Trinity Business School, contact the admissions team by email at business.masters@tcd.ie or by telephone at +353 1 896 2493.