



**Great people are  
our business**

**ACA/CA Career Guide**  
**Get the advice you need**



# ACA newly qualified? Get the advice you need

**Whether or not you already know the area in which you want to work, the ACA is an ideal starting point for a successful career in business. As a newly qualified ACA, or if you are going to qualify this year, you have an exciting and incredibly diverse range of jobs available to you.**

With more than 25 years of specific experience in ACA recruitment, Sharp Consultancy is ideally placed to navigate you through this complex market. We can help you with every stage of the process whether that be 'mapping out' your options both with your current company and within a new organisation, help with preparing your CV, interview guidance or simply providing advice on current market trends.

If you decide to explore your options, we strive to ensure that the quality of service you receive is unparalleled in the marketplace.

Furthermore we pride ourselves on an ability to open up avenues in the marketplace perhaps not fully reached by our competitors or initially considered by a candidate.

# What are your options?

As a newly qualified ACA, it can be a daunting prospect understanding and assessing the vast range of career routes available to you.

**At Sharp Consultancy, our ACA Specialists are here to guide you through this thought process. Initially we critically assess your skills and experience, discuss your career goals, ‘map out’ the routes available to you and demonstrate how these can match the market and your aspirations.**

With more than 25 years of expertise in the Yorkshire and North West markets, our ACA Specialists understand the nuances of the different options available at newly qualified level. We have an extensive knowledge of the qualities and personality traits needed to excel in each one, the benefits each offer and where they can lead to in the longer term.

“ Sharp Consultancy had a very refreshing unbiased and impartial approach. Seeing my options fully mapped out really opened up my eyes to new avenues in the market. ”

On the opposite page is an illustration of the diverse range of career options available at this junction.

Whether you want to explore traditional industry routes, are captivated by the range of options in the profession or perhaps enthused by niche offerings such as banking and private equity, we are ideally placed to provide this complete view.

“ I was delighted with the service I received. A diverse range of career routes were presented to me and talked through in detail and the end result was one I couldn't be happier with - securing a role in private equity in the North of England. ”





### **Industry & Commerce**

- Management Accountant
- Financial Accountant
- Internal Audit / Risk Management
- Commercial Finance
- Treasury
- In-house Tax

### **Public Sector**

- Business Analyst
- Financial Accountant
- Financial Controller
- Management Accountant
- Internal Audit

### **Banking**

- Relationship Management
- Acquisition / Leveraged Finance
- Business Support

### **Financial Services**

- Financial Analyst
- Financial Accountant
- Decision Support
- Production Controller
- Credit Analyst
- Fund Manager

### **Professional Services**

- Audit & Assurance
- Lead Advisory
- Transaction Services
- Corporate Recovery:
  - Formal Insolvency
  - IBR / Advisory
- Forensics
- Tax:
  - Corporate
  - Personal

### **Private Equity**

- Investment Executive




Finally a finance and accountancy recruiter that listened to what my career goals were and came up with a plan to achieve them.






## Next steps


Having digested this Career Guide, if you feel you are now ready to make the next step, we would advise the following:

 **Consider options** internally with your own firm. In our experience this is very often over-looked. Are there opportunities to diversify your skills and experience?

 **Compile a CV.** This can be very subjective (everyone will have a different view), however we would advise from a professional perspective a number of key points are conveyed:

- *Information about clients you've worked on – sector, turnover range, size etc;*
- *Any experience outside audit (to differentiate you from peers?);*
- *Achievements – have you saved time / money / improved processes / contributed commercially?*

Quantifying these makes them far more convincing and illustrates a commercial acumen and provides genuine topics for conversation.

 **Book a careers chat** with an ACA Specialist. Successful progression in accountancy is dependent on making the right choices and we know that taking this step requires careful consideration, support and planning at each stage of the process.

We pride ourselves on offering a 'holistic' approach. Navigating you through your next move, whether internally or externally, forms only one part of the process.

# Guiding you every step of the way

Making the right impression and selling yourself at an interview is essential to landing that dream role.

Interviews can take many different forms; you may be interviewed by just one person or you could find yourself facing an assessment panel with a number of different people asking you questions. This is your opportunity to show why you are the best person for the role and the key to success lies with plenty of preparation beforehand and knowing what to expect on the day.

At Sharp Consultancy, our specialist consultants are well placed to guide you through every step of the interview process. They will offer you the very best advice to prepare you for the big day including preparation tips, what questions you should expect to be asked and the opportunity to put yourself in practice interview situations to hone your skills.

With our help, you will have the confidence and knowledge to deliver an outstanding interview and be well on the way to securing the job that you have always wanted.



# Referral scheme

We work hard to provide a valuable service to our candidates and clients. A significant number of our new candidates come from referrals.

This gives us access to a section of the market that our competitors fail to reach. As such, we are keen to say thank you if you can recommend us to others.

Sharp Consultancy offers a reward scheme to individuals who recommend candidates. You may be eligible for a reward whenever we manage to successfully place a friend or colleague that you have recommended to us (terms apply).









Leeds: 0113 236 6300

Sheffield: 0114 261 1700

E: [contact@sharpconsultancy.com](mailto:contact@sharpconsultancy.com)

[www.sharpconsultancy.com](http://www.sharpconsultancy.com)



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