How CIMA can add value to your career

The consensus among employers across the UK is that the CIMA qualification, with its focus on business and financial analysis as well as decision support, produces candidates that are better equipped to cope with the wider demands of business.

Organisations are therefore willing to pay competitive salaries and first-class benefits to the right person. Once newly qualified, candidates can expect remuneration parity with their ACA counterparts.

Providing a cutting edge
Retail banks and investment management entities have boosted their demand for candidates in response to the new headcount budgets set for 2008. There is a quick turnaround of vacancies, with many finding employment within four to six weeks of registering with a recruitment agency.

The importance of having, or studying towards, a CIMA qualification cannot be overstated. ‘CIMA definitely gives candidates a competitive edge over their ACA/ACCA counterparts’ emphasises Hays consultant Elizabeth Priestman.

All-round commercial acumen
‘CIMA continues to be a very attractive qualification as it generates people with great commercial skills’, says Hays Senior Regional Director, Sarah Stevenson.

Businesses are keen to take on CIMA students and the conditions are such that the demand for part-qualified candidates actually outstrips that for the qualified market.

Broadening horizons
The onus does, however, remain on the individual to broaden their skills set, whether in mergers and acquisitions, systems implementation, shared service centres or exposure gained through ‘ad hoc’ project work.

Keeping ahead of the game is paramount as the best candidates tend to be retained by their employers. Salary is not the only factor. The lure of faster promotion and increased responsibility also play a major part.

Future of any organisation
Conditions are extremely favourable for jobseekers across the UK, in terms of the CIMA qualification’s prestige and portability and the continuing rise in job opportunities.

Recruitment activity among all the major corporate players has been buoyant, from banking and energy, through to consumer goods and the major oil corporations.

‘Whether in industry, financial services or the public sector, they (CIMA students) represent the future of any organisation as they can get behind the numbers and add value’ concludes Hays Business Manager, Ivan McGeorge.

Hays Accountancy & Finance is actively supporting thousands of CIMA qualifieds and part-qualifieds across the UK. You can search vacancies at all levels and locate your nearest Hays office at www.hays.com

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