

The international education standards for professional accountants: perspectives for ukraine

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To become a member of world economic organizations Ukraine has to match international standards at all branches of state life. Especially it is concerned with the standards for accountants and auditors. Realization of these Standards in Ukraine will lead to full comprehension between accountants and auditors of our country and international specialists. To achieve this goal Ukrainian government enacted the order “Strategy of using International Standards of Financial Statements in Ukraine” in 2007. The purpose of this order is “to reform system of accounting and use methods of extending economic information according to international standards and to ensure undisguised opening and ability to compare financial statements of enterprises”. This order corresponds to International Accounting Standards requirements. International Education Standards for Professional Accountants (IES) clarify main requirements for accountants and auditors education. Correspondence of Ukrainian educational process to these standards is shown in a table.

Table. Correspondence of Ukrainian educational process to IES

International Education Standards for Professional Accountants	Education in Ukraine
(a) using case studies, projects and other means to simulate work situations;	mismatch
(b) working in groups;	match
(c) adapting instructional methods and materials to the ever-changing environment in which the professional accountant works;	match
(d) pursuing a curriculum that encourages self learning so that students learn to learn on their own and carry this skill with them after qualification;	mismatch
(e) using technology creatively and quality issues for e-learning;	match
(f) encouraging students to be active participants in the learning process;	match
(g) using measurement and evaluation methods that reflect the changing knowledge, skills, and professional values and ethics required of professional accountants;	match
(h) integrating knowledge, skills, professional values and ethics across topics and disciplines to address many-sided and complex situations typical of professional demands;	match
(i) emphasizing problem identification and problem-solving,	match

which encourages identifying relevant information, making logical assessments and communicating clear conclusions;	
(j) exploring research findings;	match
(k) stimulating students to develop professional skepticism and professional judgment	mismatch

To become a professional accountant one should match the following skills: intellectual skills; technical and functional skills; personal skills; interpersonal and communication skills; organizational and business management skills.

According to the IES professional auditors must develop the following professional skills: a) Applying the following professional skills in an audit environment (identifying and solving problems; undertaking appropriate technical research; working in teams effectively; gathering and evaluating evidence; presenting, discussing, and defending views effectively through formal, informal, written, and spoken communication); b) Developing the following professional skills at an advanced level in an audit environment (applying relevant audit standards and guidance; evaluating applications of relevant financial reporting standards; demonstrating capacity for inquiry, abstract logical thought, and critical analysis; demonstrating professional skepticism; applying professional judgment; withstanding and resolving conflicts).

While learning and analyzing IES, we can make a conclusion that ukrainian educational process should be changed in the following ways: using case studies, projects and other means to simulate work situations; pursuing a curriculum that encourages self learning (let students to choose disciplines themselves); stimulating students to develop professional skepticism and professional judgment. Professional accountant should not also forget the main principle of International Accountant's Federation ethics code: "Professional accountant should constantly maintain professional knowledge and skills at necessary level to insure giving professional services on the basis of modern practical tendencies legislation and work methods".