

Winston Churchill: "Continuous effort – not strength or intelligence – is the key to unlocking our potential."

FORGING AHEAD IN EUROPE

An accounts student reports from France – 'The best encouragement is regular contact with another student pursuing the same course, even if he is far away! Phoning one another twice or thrice a week or more, even when you both don't know, you get encouraged for you are at least two to struggle!! Despite all the rocks on your road.....never stop.....be a leader, and a finisher.....'

.....and from Zurich – 'I am working towards my third CIMA exam. It's a great course as it can be studied at any time for as long as it takes! Studying CIMA with First Intuition makes a big difference as the chapters are methodically explained by a tutor who can be contacted if anything isn't clear. Our local school is registered as an Exam Centre so we can sit the exams whenever we're ready which is a brilliant advantage!'

Five students in Germany are working on the 3MAC Course and despite finding the language a major challenge they are studying with enthusiasm and method, learning Accountancy and English simultaneously!

COURSES IN QUANTITY SURVEYING

In response to many enquiries we are glad to say that Quantity Surveying Courses are now available. The provider is the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and their distance learning courses are accessed on www.ricscourses.org on the RICS Training E learning platform, part of their online academy. The Foundation Course is 24 weeks with an online exam at the end and a Certificate on successful completion. Course content includes estimating, tendering, pricing, forms of contract, valuation of variation works, how to gain extensions of time, and differences between subcontractors and procurement routes. There is no membership involvement and the cost is £695 + VAT. An Advanced course can follow.

Email oliver.woodcock@ubteam.com for more information.

AAT EXAM RESULTS ANALYSIS

AAT students will be pleased to hear that AAT have recently revised the way they communicate CBA test results to candidates. Instead of the result being reported as 'competent' (or not), which leaves candidates wondering whether it was a scrape-through or a success, the result for each topic is now shown as 'not met', 'met' and 'exceeded'. These more detailed results are immediately available on the AAT website accessed at the exam venue. Just ask for **the assessment report that includes results breakdown** and the exam provider should be able to print out this interesting feedback. **REMEMBER** – Please report all results to geoff.holding@ubteam.com

A MILD REBUKE!

Due to some recently reported incidents, college-enrolled students need to be reminded to establish and maintain at all times a healthy working relationship with their college and in particular to treat individual tutors with respect. It is acknowledged that irritating situations can occasionally arise but, whatever the cause, it is imperative that the high standard expected of our students in everyday testimony is not allowed to drop. A student's attitude is observed and noted far more than realised. A negative approach or unkind word can mar a relationship which can take years to heal and may never be forgotten, even if apologised for or withdrawn.

ACCOUNTANCY WORKSHOP IN CAMBRIDGE

We are sorry for our accountancy students in E, NE and SE England who have had to travel so far to attend the highly successful double-entry workshops earlier this year in Wales and Shrewsbury! We are therefore arranging another one-day workshop on **Wednesday 20 February 2013** at Cambridge with accommodation this time for up to 35 students. The main theme is likely to be double-entry bookkeeping but there will be opportunity for one-to-one professional help on other topics. The day will be run by First Intuition tutors but any accountancy student (CIMA, AAT or ACCA) will be welcome irrespective of college provider. If you would like to attend please send an email to geoff.holding@ubteam.com not later than **31st December 2012** with your name and a note of any specific topic(s) you would like to cover. The cost is likely to be half price at £60 per head, but will be dependent on the level of take-up.

RECOMMEND CIMA TO A FRIEND!

We are constantly exhorted to think of others, so if you are a CIMA student we suggest that you share your benefits with others and see them get a reward as well! CIMA students already know about the benefits of studying CIMA, such as increasing IQ levels, boosting career progression and salary potential. Many enjoy studying with another student or students and experiencing the mutual encouragement of setting and achieving goals together. By recommending CIMA to a friend, that friend will be able to register with CIMA for just £70 and will pay no subscription fee until 2014. If you wish to recommend a friend please visit www.BrainsBehindBusiness.com/student, choose one of the share options and tell CIMA when your friend signs up.

FUNDING PROGRESS FOR POSTGRADUATE COURSES

We are encouraged to report that positive meetings are being held with the National Apprenticeship Service, a Government Body, exploring the possibility of employers being able to obtain funding towards student course costs for approved qualifications such as Accountancy, Law and Sales & Marketing. Our approaches are being received favourably. Watch this space and please keep your employer informed!

KEEP IN TOUCH

Please don't keep your exam result to yourself! Your local PSC and PST Member need to hear how you get on. If it's a success there will be much cheer; in the event of an occasional disappointment there will be encouragement! We should all know that communication is essential to the survival of any organisation.

SCHOOL LEAVER STATISTICS

We are very pleased to give the figures below relating to UK Focus School leavers in 2012 –

Total completing secondary education in 2012	280
Of above:	
Those with 1 or more A levels	224 80%
2 or more A levels	178 64%
3 or more A levels	113 40%
Of above total currently in employment	279 99%
Total enrolled for postgraduate studies	163 58%