



Joint Media Release

ACCA and SMU Academy unveil advanced certificate to prepare finance leaders for technological, sustainability and geopolitical disruption

Singapore, 9 October 2026 (Friday) – ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) and SMU Academy, the professional training arm of Singapore Management University (SMU), today unveiled the **Advanced Certificate in Finance Leadership for Technological, Sustainability and Geopolitical Disruption** at the ACCA Annual Conference in Singapore. The six-module professional programme will prepare finance leaders for a business environment being reshaped simultaneously by technology, the sustainability transition and geopolitical tension. The certificate programme will be available from January 2027.

The programme is built around three Ts: Technology, Transition, and Tension. It addresses them as a single connected challenge rather than three separate ones. Across 12 days of on-campus and online learning, participants work through macro trends reshaping finance; AI applications in finance and accounting, intangible assets and intellectual property, ESG reporting and sustainable finance, finance leadership and cross-border risk management.

This is the second joint programme SMUA and ACCA have rolled out, following the Advanced Certificate in Strategic Digital Transformation in Finance introduced in 2019.

The programme responds to a documented capability gap. Research by ACCA and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ), [*Enabling finance insight: Bridging skills and data gaps for AI-enabled finance*](#), found that 72% of respondents have only basic generative AI proficiency (38%) or none at all (34%). The same study found that data quality and a lack of skills were each cited by 42% of respondents as among the main obstacles to producing better business insight.

Steve Lee, Portfolio Head - Singapore, ANZ, & Oceania at ACCA, said, "Finance professionals are being asked to answer questions the profession was never structured to answer — how a tariff reshapes a supply chain, what climate risk does to a balance sheet, whether an AI-generated number can be relied on. These are not separate problems. They arrive together, and they arrive quickly.

"Our research shows the appetite to build these capabilities is there, but the structured development is not. Singapore's competitiveness as a financial centre depends on a profession that can do more than report what happened. This programme is a practical response to that, and we are pleased to build on our long partnership with SMU Academy to deliver it."

Jack Lim, Executive Director, SMU Academy, said, "Technology, sustainability and geopolitics no longer affect businesses separately. Finance professionals need to understand how these forces interact if they are to navigate complexity and make sound, responsible decisions.

"This programme combines our academic rigour and applied learning with ACCA's global industry insights to help finance professionals continue building the capabilities they need to lead in a changing business environment. Through this partnership, we aim to develop leaders who are ready to support Singapore's digital economy and industry transformation."

The programme is CPD-accredited and designed for finance professionals including accountants, finance managers, controllers, data analysts, transformation managers, risk and compliance specialists, and audit and governance professionals. Participants should have at least two years of experience in financial services or foundational finance industry knowledge.

Supported by the Skills and Workforce Development Agency (SWDA), the programme is eligible for SWDA funding, making upskilling more accessible to Singaporeans. The full programme fee is S\$15,696 inclusive of GST, with fees as low as S\$1,828.80 after maximum funding, subject to eligibility. Singapore Citizens aged 25 and above may also use their SkillsFuture Credit towards self-sponsored participation.

Further details and registration are available at <https://academy.smu.edu.sg/courses/advanced-certificate-finance-leadership-technological-sustainability-and-geopolitical>

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About ACCA

We are ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants), the only truly global professional accountancy body. Since we were founded in 1904, we've been breaking down barriers to the accountancy profession. Today we proudly support a diverse community of over 266,100 members and 546,500 future members in 179 countries.

We're redefining accountancy. Our cutting-edge qualifications, continuous learning and insights are respected and valued by employers in every sector. They equip individuals with the business and finance expertise and ethical judgment to lead and drive sustainable value in organisations and economies worldwide.

Guided by our purpose and values, we're leading the accountancy profession for a changed world. Partnering with policymakers, standard setters, the donor community, educators and other accountancy bodies, we're strengthening and building a profession that focuses on people, planet and prosperity to create value for all.

Find out more at: www.accaglobal.com

About Singapore Management University and SMU Academy

Established in 2000, Singapore Management University (SMU) is recognised for its high-impact multi-disciplinary research that addresses issues of global relevance, and for its interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning. Home to over 13,000 students across six schools and two colleges, SMU offers bachelor's, master's and PhD degree programmes across Accountancy, Business, Economics, Computing, Law and Social

Sciences, as well as executive development and continuing education programmes. SMU graduates are consistently ranked among the most employable in Singapore, and command one of the highest mean starting salaries.

As the professional training arm of the University, SMU Academy (SMUA) offers cutting-edge interdisciplinary programmes that support lifelong learning and help organisations meet reskilling goals to thrive in an ever-changing economy. SMUA integrates a practice-oriented, experiential, and interactive approach, integrating academic depth, real-world business cases, and interdisciplinary learning.

Located in the heart of downtown Singapore, SMU's city campus strengthens its strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community, enabling the University to turn ideas into action and create impact where it matters.

www.smu.edu.sg | <http://academy.smu.edu.sg>.