

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS for

Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting (98205)

and

Bachelor of Accounting Sciences Honours in Management Accounting (98354)

Q 1: The Department of Management Accounting offers a number of postgraduate qualifications. What is the difference?

A 1: The Department offers a *Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting (98205)* with the modules MAC4863, MAC4865, MAC4866, MAC4867 and MAC4868 (replacing MAC4864 from 2016). This program is accredited by CIMA. **THIS IS THE APPROPRIATE POST GRADUATE QUALIFICATION FOR CANDIDATES WISHING TO PURSUE THE CIMA QUALIFICATION.**

The Department also offers the degree *Bachelor of Accounting Sciences Honours in Management Accounting (98354)* with the modules MAC4861, MAC4863, MAC4866, HRMAC83 and HMEMS80. **This qualification includes a research component and is NOT accredited by CIMA.** Students who have already passed HPMAC81 and HRMAC82 will be exempted from HRMAC83.

Both the Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting and Bachelor of Accounting Sciences Honours in Management Accounting are postgraduate qualifications and are on the same academic level (both NQF Exit Level: 8).

Both the Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting as well as the Bachelor of Accounting Sciences Honours in Management Accounting will allow you to enrol for a master's degree later on.

The difference between the Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting and Bachelor of Accounting Sciences Honours in Management Accounting is that the **Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting** is tailored to prepare students who would like to **pursue the CIMA (professional) qualification**, whereas the **Bachelor of Accounting Sciences Honours in Management Accounting** includes research methodology and proposal writing modules to help **prepare students for master's degrees**.

Q 2: I have completed my CIMA qualification / completed the Strategic Case Study exam at CIMA. Can I enrol for a master's degree and will I get credits for the modules passed at CIMA?

A 2: Unfortunately you will not receive credits at Unisa for modules passed at CIMA as CIMA is not a registered university in South Africa where the qualification obtained at CIMA is a professional qualification.



Q 3: Which are the five modules of the CIMA-accredited Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting?

A 3: MAC4863 (Enterprise Strategy)
MAC4865 (Financial Strategy)
MAC4866 (Information Strategy)
MAC4867 (Performance Strategy)
MAC4868 (Strategic Case Studies) [new module, replacing MAC4864 from 2016]

Q 4: Which are the six modules of the Bachelor of Accounting Sciences Honours in Management Accounting?

A 4: HMEMS80 (Research Methodology)
HRMAC83 (Research Report in Management Accounting)
MAC4861 (Advanced Management Accounting)
MAC4863 (Enterprise Strategy)
MAC4866 (Information Strategy)

Q 5: I obtained a degree at a university where that degree is CIMA accredited. Do I meet the admission requirements for the Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting?

A 5: CIMA accredited degrees obtained from other universities are accepted and these students will be able to enrol for the Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting *if the admission requirements are met.*

Please note that this is based on the assumption that your B Com qualification consists of the required modules to comply with Unisa's requirements for entry into the Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting (see **question 6** for more information).

Students who have successfully obtained the ***Bachelor of Accounting Sciences in Management Accounting (98304) degree at Unisa***, which is accredited with CIMA, will receive exemption for the Operational level modules (E1, P1, F1 and OCS) from CIMA, and gain direct access to write the Managerial level modules. ***These students may enrol for the Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting and register for all five modules.***

Q6 Which qualifications from South African Universities are endorsed (accredited) by CIMA that will allow me to gain direct access to the Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting (98205)?

A 6: The list below details the CIMA endorsed undergraduate qualifications which can be obtained from South African Universities. These graduates could qualify for direct access to the Unisa Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting (98205) if their qualification includes the modules as listed in **question 7.**

Should the qualification not include the mentioned modules, the student will be required to, with all other applicants which hold a BCom degree which is not listed below, to complete the Unisa bridging course, Advanced Diploma in Accounting Sciences (MAC – Stream) (98230) (see **question 7** for more information), before they will qualify to enrol for the Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting (98205) as detailed in the questions and answers above.

UNIVERSITY	QUALIFICATION * ** *** ****	Not older than 5 years (2016 onwards) ****
University of South Africa (Unisa)	Advanced Diploma in Accounting Sciences - MAC Stream (98230)	Yes
University of South Africa (Unisa)	BCom: Financial Management	Yes
University of South Africa (Unisa)	BCompt Accounting Sciences in Management Accounting Foundation Stream (98633)	Yes
University of South Africa (Unisa)	BCompt/BCom Accounting Sciences in Financial Accounting	Yes
University of South Africa (Unisa)	BCompt/BCom Accounting Sciences in Management Accounting (98304)	Yes
University of South Africa (Unisa)	BCompt: Bachelor of Accounting Science	Yes
University of South Africa (Unisa)	Honours in Management Accounting	Yes
University of South Africa (Unisa)	Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Accounting and Sciences	Yes
Durban University of Technology	Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting	Yes
Durban University of Technology	Master of Accounting (Management Accounting)	Yes
Independent Institute of Education (IIE) (previously Monash)	Bachelor of Commerce	Yes
Independent Institute of Education (IIE) (previously Monash)	Bachelor of Commerce (Financial Management)	Yes
Independent Institute of Education (IIE) (previously Monash)	Bachelor of Commerce (Finance & Accounting)	Yes
Independent Institute of Education (IIE) (previously Monash)	Bachelor of Commerce (Marketing Management)	Yes
Independent Institute of Education (IIE) (previously Monash)	Postgraduate Diploma Finance & Accounting (4th year) (Monash University Programme)	Yes
Monash University (South Africa)	Bachelor of Business Science (Accounting)	Yes
Monash University (South Africa)	Bachelor of Business Science (Professional Accounting Pathway)	Yes
Monash University (South Africa)	Bachelor of Business Science (Cost & Man Accounting Pathway)	Yes
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University	BCom (CA & General Routes)	Yes
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University	BComm (CA & General Routes)	Yes
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University	BCom Honours in Accounting	Yes
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University	Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy	Yes
North-West University (Prev. Potchefstroom University)	BCom Management Accounting	Yes
North-West University (Prev. Potchefstroom University)	BComm (Accountancy)	Yes
North-West University (Prev. Potchefstroom University)	BComm (Chartered Accountancy)	Yes
North-West University (Prev. Potchefstroom University)	BCom Hons Financial Accountancy	Yes
North-West University (Prev. Potchefstroom University)	BCom Hons Management Accounting (via BCom Chartered Accounting; BCom Management Accounting; BCom Financial Accounting; and via BCom (non NWU University))	Yes
North-West University (Prev. Potchefstroom University)	Master of Business Administration	Yes
Rhodes University	BCom Plus BCom (Hons) Accounting	Yes

UNIVERSITY	QUALIFICATION * * * * *	Not older than 5 years (2016 onwards) ****
Rhodes University	Bachelor of Accountancy	Yes
Rhodes University	BCom (Accounting) Plus Post Grad Dip in Accounting	Yes
Rhodes University	BCom Plus BCom (Hons) Management Accounting	Yes
Rhodes University	MBA	Yes
Stellenbosch University	BAccLLB	Yes
Stellenbosch University	BAccountancy	Yes
Stellenbosch University	BCom Financial Accounting	Yes
Stellenbosch University	BCom Management Accounting	Yes
Stellenbosch University	BCom Honours Financial Accounting	Yes
Stellenbosch University	BCom Honours Management Accounting	Yes
Stellenbosch University	Master of Business Administration	Yes
University of Cape Town	BCom Accountancy & Cert In Theory Of Management Accounting	Yes
University of Cape Town	BCom CA Option	Yes
University of Cape Town	BCom Economics & Finance	Yes
University of Cape Town	BCom Financial Accounting	Yes
University of Cape Town	BCom General Accounting Stream	Yes
University of Cape Town	BCom specialising in Financial Accounting: Chartered Accountant	Yes
University of Cape Town	BCom specialising in Financial Accounting: General Accounting	Yes
University of Cape Town	BBusSc specialising in Finance with Accounting	Yes
University of Cape Town	Post Graduate Diploma/Honours in Accounting	Yes
University of Johannesburg	BTech Cost & Management Accounting	Yes
University of Johannesburg	Bridging Programme in Financial Management (BPFM)	Yes
University of Johannesburg	Advanced Diploma in Accountancy	Yes
University of Johannesburg	Advanced Diploma in Financial Management	Yes
University of Johannesburg	Bachelor of Accounting	Yes
University of Johannesburg	BCom Accounting	Yes
University of Johannesburg	BCom Finance	Yes
University of Johannesburg	BCom Financial Management	Yes
University of Johannesburg	BCom Honours Accounting	Yes
University of Johannesburg	BCom Honours Chartered Accountancy	Yes
University of Johannesburg	BCom Honours Internal Auditing	Yes
University of Johannesburg	BCom Honours Financial Management	Yes
University of Johannesburg	Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting	Yes
University of Johannesburg	Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Sciences	Yes
University of Johannesburg	Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Management	Yes
University of KwaZulu-Natal (all cohorts)	BCom (Accountancy)	Yes
University of KwaZulu-Natal (all cohorts)	BCom Accounting (including 4 years part-time)	Yes
University of KwaZulu-Natal (all cohorts)	BCom (Accounting, Managerial Accounting and Finance)	Yes
University of KwaZulu-Natal (all cohorts)	BCom Honours in Management Accounting	Yes

UNIVERSITY	QUALIFICATION * ** *** ****	Not older than 5 years (2016 onwards) ****
University of KwaZulu-Natal (all cohorts)	Post Graduate Diploma in Accounting	Yes
University of Limpopo	BCom	Yes
University of Limpopo	Bachelor of Commerce (BCom Acc)	Yes
University of Limpopo	Bachelor of Commerce (Extended BCom)	Yes
University of Limpopo	Bachelor of Accounting Science (BAccSC)	Yes
University of Pretoria	BCom (Financial Accounting)	Yes
University of Pretoria	BCom (Financial Management Sciences)	Yes
University of Pretoria	BCom (Financial Management)	Yes
University of Pretoria	BCom (Law)	Yes
University of Pretoria	BCom Financial Sciences	Yes
University of Pretoria	BCom Accounting Sciences	Yes
University of Pretoria	BCom Hons Accounting Science	Yes
University of Pretoria	BCom Hons Financial Management Sciences	Yes
University of Pretoria	MBA	Yes
University of the Free State	B Accounting	Yes
University of the Free State	BAcc Hons	Yes
University of the Free State	BCom (Accounting)	Yes
University of the Free State	BCom (Honours) in Management Accounting	Yes
University of the Free State	MBA	Yes
University of the Western Cape	BCom Accounting	Yes
University of Venda	BCom Accounting	Yes
University of Venda	BCom Cost & Management Accounting Dec	Yes
University of Witwatersrand (Wits)	Bachelor of Accounting Science	Yes
University of Witwatersrand (Wits)	Bachelor of Accountancy (BAcc)	Yes
University of Witwatersrand (Wits)	BComm (Hons) Accountancy	Yes
Vaal University of Technology	BTech Cost & Management Accounting	Yes

*** Please note that this list is merely a guideline as per the www.cimaglobal.com site. Applications for exemptions should be directed to the CIMA office in London (not South Africa). The London office has the first and final call with regard to granting an exemption.**

**** Visit the www.cimaglobal.com website and navigate to the “Exemption Search” function or refer to <https://www.cimaglobal.com/Starting-CIMA/Starting-CIMA/Exemptions/Exemption-Search/> The “Exemption Search” contains a database of qualifications from universities indicating the exemptions (if applicable) granted by CIMA.**

***** UNISA will consider access to the Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting (98205) for qualifications which is accredited with CIMA, that have received exemptions for the Operational level modules (E1, P1 and F1) from CIMA.**

****** Students with qualifications older than five years who qualify for admission are also required to first enrol for the Advanced Diploma in Accounting Sciences (MAC Stream) (98230), subject to fulfilling the pre-requisites for the selected modules. This is due to the fact that the PQM (program qualification mix) of qualifications at universities are revised every few years and thus this changes what is included in the various qualifications as well as what is covered in the individual modules. (see question 7 for more information).**

Q 7: The qualification I obtained is not CIMA accredited OR it does not meet the admission requirements for the Postgraduate Diploma in Management. What do I need to register for as pre-requisites to meet the registration requirements?

A 7: In order to register for the Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting programme and obtain full accreditation from CIMA, a candidate needs to have the following modules or their equivalents, included in a B Com or equivalent qualification:

- Management Accounting III (that is, MAC3701, MAC3702 and MAC3703) or their equivalents (codes prior to 2014: ACN306Y, ACN3073 and ACN3084);
- Financial Accounting III (that is, FAC3701, FAC3702, FAC3703 and FAC3704) or their equivalents, completed not longer than five (5) years before registering for this programme;
- as well as Business Management III (that is, MNG3701 and MNG3702 with its pre-requisite MNG2601) or their equivalents (codes prior to 2014: MNG301A and MNG302B).

The requirement for the Financial Accounting III modules to be completed no longer than five (5) years before registering for this programme is part of Unisa's undertaking to uphold certain standards to retain its accreditation with CIMA.

Students with qualifications that are not endorsed (accredited) by CIMA OR qualifications that do not fulfil the admission requirements will be required to register for the new bridging course, **Advanced Diploma in Accounting Sciences (MAC – Stream) (98230)** to gain admission to the Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting.

All students applying for the Advanced Diploma in Accounting Sciences (MAC – Stream) (98230) should apply for exemptions from any modules (or their equivalents) already passed as part of their undergraduate studies. Students may receive a maximum of up to five (5) credits / exemptions for the ten (10) modules included in the Advanced Diploma in Accounting Sciences.

Bachelor of Accounting Sciences in Financial Accounting (98302) students from Unisa qualify for admission to the Advanced Diploma in Accounting Sciences (MAC Stream) (98230). As part of enrolling for 98230, these students are advised to register for MNG3701, MNG3702 (and its pre-requisite MNG2601), MAC3703, AUI3702 and TAX3701 or TAX3704. This will provide students with the minimum number of five modules necessary to complete the qualification. Students should apply for exemption from the other modules (3rd year FAC and MAC modules already completed) after applying for the Advanced Diploma in Accounting Sciences (MAC Stream) (98230). Note that the pre-requisite second year business management module MNG2601 (for non-degree purposes (NDP)) has to be completed in addition to any of the five modules mentioned above which are required to complete the Advanced Diploma in Accounting Sciences (MAC Stream).

Take note that students with a **B Tech degree in Accounting Sciences** qualify for admission to the Advanced Diploma in Accounting Sciences, subject to fulfilling the pre-requisites for the selected modules.

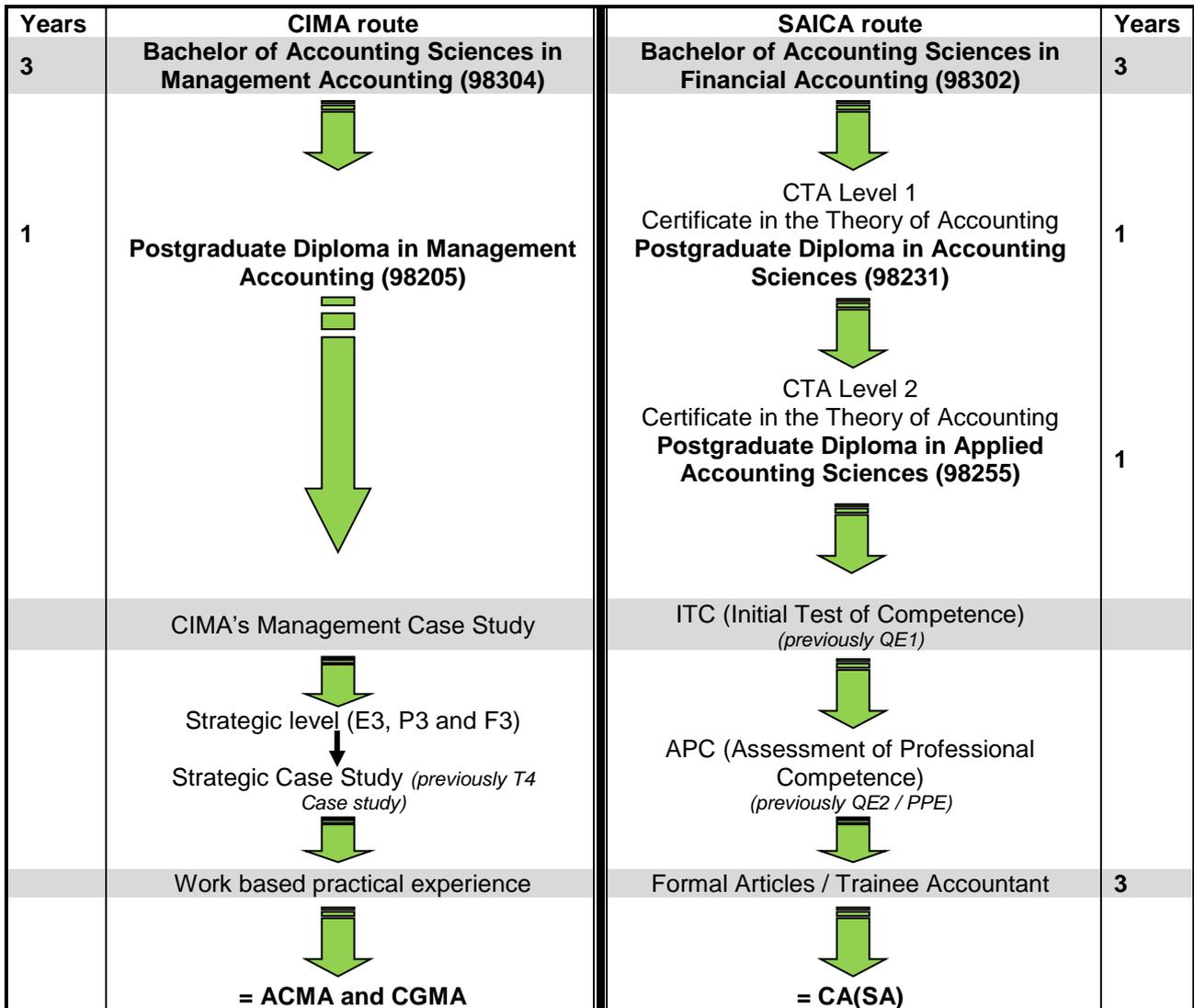
Students with **qualifications older than five years** who qualify for admission are also required to first enrol for the Advanced Diploma in Accounting Sciences (MAC Stream) (98230), subject to fulfilling the pre-requisites for the selected modules. This is due to the fact that the PQM (program qualification mix) of qualifications at universities are revised every few years and thus this changes what is included in the various qualifications as well as what is covered in the individual modules.

Q 8: Why is Unisa so strict about Financial Accounting III? Why must Financial Accounting III be from a CA/SAICA accredited programme?

A 8: This is a CIMA requirement. CIMA will not grant exemption from F1 and F2 unless they are 100% satisfied that the candidate has complied with their standards. Candidates who, for some reason, manage to obtain the Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting without complying with the admission requirements, should not expect exemption from the CIMA F2 paper.

Q 9: How does the CIMA (ACMA and GCMA) route differ from the SAICA (CA) route?

A 9: Refer to the diagram below showing the two routes. Note that years were allocated to the specific Unisa qualifications to compare the minimum time taken when studying through Unisa.



Q 10: Can an ACMA/CGMA become a CA (SA)?

A 10: An agreement is in place allowing CIMA members to gain SAICA membership. You must have CIMA membership, which means you need to have completed all CIMA exams and work-based practical experience (ACMA/CGMA).

CIMA members will be required to write and pass the Initial Test of Competency (ITC).

Post-qualification work experience:

- CIMA members with up to five year post-qualification work-experience must complete 24 months of SAICA training
- CIMA members with up to ten years post-qualification work-experience will be individually assessed and the 24 months' SAICA training may be relaxed
- CIMA members with more than ten years will not be required to complete SAICA training depending on individual assessment

Q 11: Do I have to study through Unisa to obtain the CIMA qualification? What are the options?

A 11: Students can study directly with CIMA and complete the qualification. Students are welcome to send the relevant information and copies of their qualifications / academic records to johannesburg@cimaglobal.com. CIMA will do a "pre-assessment" of exemptions and provide feedback within a few weeks.

Students who decide to enrol for and successfully obtain the Bachelor of Accounting Sciences in Management Accounting (code 98304) qualification will be exempted from CIMA's Operational level modules (E1, P1, F1 and OCS) and gain direct access to write the Managerial level modules. Students who enrol for and successfully obtain the Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting (code 98205) qualification will be exempted from CIMA's Management level modules (E2, P2 and F2), and gain direct access to the Management Case Study exam (MCS). This is due to Unisa's accreditation with CIMA.

Q 12: Is it not better to start writing the CIMA Operational to Management Level papers straight away instead of first doing the Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting?

A 12: We do not recommend this route for two reasons:

Firstly, a postgraduate university qualification on your CV will definitely make you more marketable in the South African job market, as employers attach a high value to a postgraduate qualification. Students will probably take the same amount of time to complete the Unisa modules as the CIMA modules.

Secondly, your chances of eventually passing CIMA are much higher as this qualification has been specifically designed to cover the content of CIMA's Strategic Level. Students also receive additional study material to assist them with the learning process.

Q 13: Do I have to pass all the modules in one sitting to obtain the right to write the CIMA Management Case Study exam (MCS)?

A 13: No, you may pass the modules on a piece meal basis, which is what we in fact recommend. The Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting is a one (1) year qualification which has to be completed in a maximum of three (3) years.

Q 14: How much does it cost to register?

A 14: Please refer to each individual qualification offered by the college under www.unisa.ac.za/qualifications.

Q 15: When is the deadline for applications / registration?

A 15: Please refer to the Unisa website for updated information regarding application and registration periods to which all prospective, as well as existing Unisa students, must adhere to. Students must **apply for admission** online via the Unisa website. Applications will be followed by registrations. Please visit www.unisa.ac.za/apply for more information.

Q 16: Who can I contact information if I require additional information?

A 16: You are also welcome to contact the College of Accounting Sciences student information hub:

CAS College Information Centre

Contact Mr Jabu Chauke OR Ms Christine Tuge on:

Tel: +27 (0) 12 429 4211

All enquiries: CASenquiries@unisa.co.za

Website:

<https://www.unisa.ac.za/cas>

Q 17: Which Unisa qualifications are accredited by CIMA?

A 17: It is noteworthy that CIMA is the biggest professional body for management accountants in the world with a large international footprint.

CIMA has introduced the updated 2019 CIMA Professional Qualification Syllabus. To find out more about the 2019 syllabus, visit www.cimaglobal.com

For a detailed up-to-date list of Unisa qualifications have been endorsed by CIMA with exemptions noted, please visit the www.cimaglobal.com website and navigate to the "Exemption Search" function or refer to <https://www.cimaglobal.com/Starting-CIMA/Starting-CIMA/Exemptions/Exemption-Search/>

The "Exemption Search" contains a database of qualifications from universities indicating the exemptions (if applicable) granted by CIMA.

[Click here for a list of qualifications currently being offered by the College of Accounting Sciences to new applicants.](#)

The benefit of studying with Unisa is that you obtain a professional qualification (postgraduate diploma which is NQF level 8) and you gain the CIMA exemptions.

Please do not hesitate to contact the University or College with further questions.

Kind regards

PGD in Management Accounting lecturers.