Sage Qualifications

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"It's about ensuring access to digital skills education for all as we approach the 4th Industrial revolution" -Stephen Kelly, CEO - Sage

Sage have collaborated with many Accounting and Bookkeeping Awarding Bodies, and several Regional Universities to develop a series of nationally recognised and regulated qualifications in Computerised Accounting and Payroll. Working closely with Universities we have over 25,000 learners with a Sage qualification.

This project supports learners and businesses by giving practical skills and demonstrating how, when used proficiently, computerised software adds real value to a business, it also increases learner's employability, encourages self-employment and enhances business confidence in critical decision making formed on the basis of accurate data management.

The CIMA Accredited Sage Certificate really ticks all the boxes for both me as a University Lecturer and my students.
For the students, achievement of the certificate immediately improves their employability, giving them a differentiating factor from their peers. This is beneficial not just for their graduate employment prospects but also when it comes to securing summer internships.
From my point of view, external accreditation of the course is crucial. Having CIMA, the world's largest body of management accountants, endorsement really adds weight to the qualification. **Ulster University**

From feedback received from accounting undergraduates who successfully completed the course and passed the invigilated test, it is clear that the CIMA accredited Sage 50 course had a major impact on improving their CV and them being successful in gaining either practical work experience or a graduate role in accounting. This is because it provides practical IT skills that were of immediate use to their new employer which when combined with their relevant academic studies at the Hertfordshire Business School gave them unique advantage in the job market. **Hertfordshire University**

Statistics from BIS in 2016 state that more than 99% of UK companies are classed as SME's, they account for 60% per cent of private sector employment and 47% per cent of private sector turnover - most of these businesses need to be able to do internal accounting better and Sage is the No 1 Accounting Software used by the SME sector.

This project is driven by the unique Sage Qualifications interactive e-Learning portal. This Moodle portal has downloadable software for every learner, is easy to use, has simple explanations and examples with a plethora of pictures, videos, quizzes and activities. Providers have found this project enables learners to collect and collate financial data from which they can analyse data, synthesising this into information which supports better decision making and gives their learning added value with up to date and practical skills.

The courses allow the learners to practice sending the mandatory returns required by HMRC when running a business and explains the importance of timely data submission as well as simplifying the processes.

The awarding bodies we work with include IAB, Skillsfirst, ICB, City & Guilds, OCR, ICAEW and CIMA. These qualifications and courses mean that *for the first time*, a person's skill at using Sage Accounting and Payroll software can be officially benchmarked, with an accredited Sage UK certification which proves competency.

The qualifications begin at Level 1, then progress through the Further Education levels 2 and 3, and extend into Higher Education at Level 4 and 5. Most of the current partnership qualifications are on the RQF and attract SFA funding.

From empirical evidence, we know that this certification makes the learners more employable because they have practical skills that are of immediate use to an employer who will recognise the Sage brand - backed with awarding body accreditation.

Sage Qualifications have also worked extensively within the prison service and find that these qualifications are excellent for boosting confidence and exploring self-employment. Our success rates are outstanding with over 96% pass rate for our RQF qualifications.

Student Feedback

"I have found the SAGE module interesting as I am learning a system which I may be using for the majority of my life and gaining experience, as well as a professional qualification(Sage), which will benefit me greatly in the not so near future."

"Gaining a good insight into how computerised bookkeeping is done in small to medium businesses was a great opportunity and very interesting"

"I am now a confident user of Sage thanks to this course"

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"The Level 4 CIMA Accredited Sage 50 course has made me more employable and I can stand out from other candidates by showing both my analytical skills and desire to study for something outside of my undergraduate degree. From an employers' point of view, I can bring more skills in the new multi-skilled work environment"

"Sage Qualifications have taken every step possible to ensure that my learning experience was going to be a positive one and that I will take a lot out the Sage 50 course. The ability to access full Sage 50 software on the duration of the course, made this unsurpassed by other courses due to the amount of guidance and help you receive with your purchase. I could not recommend this more for students, accountants and anyone that is interested in expanding their skillsets"

"I like the fact that study is done by practising 'real life' situations"

"You got to utilise the actual Sage package whilst learning the theory of Bookkeeping - it was practical in every aspect"

Tutor Feedback

From feedback received from accounting undergraduates who successfully completed the course, it is clear that the CIMA accredited Sage 50 course had a major impact on improving their CV and gaining either work experience or a graduate role in accounting. It provides practical IT skills that were of immediate use to their new employer which when combined with their relevant academic studies at the Business School gave them unique advantage in the job market."