

Is there life after exams?

We outline the steps you can take to further your career if you don't – for whatever reasons – get the exam results you wanted

With the latest round of CIMA and ACCA exams now over, we at Page Personnel Finance understand that many of you will be focusing on your grades. This can be a stressful time for PQs and many candidates find there is added pressure to pass first time and secure the best grades.

While this is certainly important, our experience tells us that even the best PQ's don't always pass every exam first time and there are always options available.

Here are some key things to consider if you don't get the results you want:

- **Understand what you're options are.** For most PQs resits are the first thing to consider when they get a disappointing result. If you find yourself in this situation you will need to know if your



employer is prepared to support you through resits and what study leave you are entitled to. You should also know that resitting the exam is not the only option. Depending on your long-term goals you may be able to progress in your career

by developing the right work experience rather than pursuing a professional qualification.


- **Be clear about where you went wrong.** Most examining bodies will provide more detailed feedback on your exam results upon request. In our experience it is well worth taking advantage of this, even where professional bodies charge an admin fee to provide the information.

Understanding exactly what happened will help you to decide whether or not invest in extra tuition and if so, where to focus your revision.

- **Plan your next attempt thoroughly.** If you decide to resit, you will need to put as much, if not more, effort into your exam preparation this time around. Be prepared to take annual leave to supplement your study leave. You should also think about the time of year your resits fall and how this fits in with year-end and period-end cycles at work. It may be better to defer and leave yourself more time to study.

- **Update your CV.** Part qualification in CIMA and ACCA is still worth recognising and even if you haven't passed first time you will still have developed in terms of your skills and experience. You should think about how best to present this on your CV.

- **Don't panic!** Not everyone passes first time. It's still possible to go on to the career you want with a little extra hard work.

We hope you find these tips useful. Remember, Page Personnel is here to help – visit our website at www.pagepersonnel.co.uk. 

• Thanks to Page Personnel for this article

Page Personnel