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## Hats off to KPMG

Amidst the controversy and widespread criticism over the [government's decision to increase university tuition fees](#), there is good news at last for would-be undergraduate students.

Multinational accountancy giant [KPMG](#) has unveiled plans to help up to 100 young people attend university this September, and hopefully, beyond.

The firm which employs over 140,000 people across 46 countries is in talks with [Durham University](#) and [ICAEW](#) (Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales) to enrol students from diverse areas to attend the company's new degree programme.

The BSc in Accounting will be four years long with an additional two years training to obtain a professional accountancy qualification. The one hundred lucky students will have their tuition fees and university accommodation paid in full with an additional salary during the degree of up to £20k. Applications are open from next month.

Students embarking on the programme will divide their time between the university course and work placements where they will gain first-hand experience of the industry they are training in. There have even been hints that students will be able to take additional modules to further develop their skills such as learning foreign languages and having the opportunity to travel abroad.

Already, KPMG is currently working with 20 disadvantaged schools in an effort to recruit 75-100 18-year-olds to the scheme. Although the company is focusing on specific disadvantaged areas in an attempt to create a more diverse workforce, the scheme is open to any 18-year-old, providing they meet the academic requirements of the university and the same A-level grade criteria as required by the KPMG's graduate programme.

On top of this ground-breaking initiative, KPMG are intending to recruit an additional 800 graduates and take on 150 interns over the next year. And if the school-leavers scheme is successful, the company are optimistic they can help many more prospective students get to university and work towards a financially rewarding career.

It is hoped that the ultimate success of the scheme will encourage other firms to follow suit and start working in partnership with other schools and universities.

By PRinHR's Annie Makoff

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