



Accountancy and academic professional inter dependency (or mutual exclusivity?)

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IFAC Today

- Expanding network of 157 member bodies in 122 countries, representing 2.5 million accountants.
- The IAESB is one of 4 standard-setting bodies designated by, and operating independently under the auspices of IFAC.



IAESB Strategic Objective

The IAESB's objective is to serve the public interest by:

- Establishing a series of standards and other statements reflecting good practice in pre- and post-qualification professional accountancy education and development;
- Establishing education benchmarks for IFAC's compliance activities; and
- Fostering international debate on emerging issues relating to the education and development of professional accountants.



IAESB's Composition

- Consists of a chairman and 17 members from around the world;
- Comprises accounting academics, practitioners in public practice, accountants in business and other individuals with an interest in the work of the IAESB;
- Appointed by the IFAC Board based on recommendations from the IFAC Nominating Committee;
- Approved by the Public Interest Oversight Board;
- Consultative Advisory Group (CAG); and
- IAAER Links.



IAESB Publications:

- International Education Standards (IESs)
- International Education Practice Statements (IEPSs)
- International Education Information Papers (IEIPs)
- Framework and clarity project



The Framework and the Standards

Why it is difficult to achieve these aims?

Variety of career paths and in roles

Variety in educational systems

Specialisms vs. general accounting education

Major difference in focus and impact of Educational Standards compared to Audit and Accounting Standards is the audience addressed and the enforcement structure.



IAESB and Process of Change

- Surveys, focus groups, referrals, opinion
- Academic evidence?
- Issues papers (Board, CAG, Public)
- Consultative documents (Public)
- Publication with oversight



ICAS and Policy Development

- Board and committee composition
- Senior management approach
- Commission or sponsored research
- Independent research
- Journals and other refereed sources



When senior officials in the US want evidence they refer to in order:

- 1st Special advisers/experts
- 2nd Professional Associations
- 3rd Think tanks
- 4th Lobbyist and pressure groups
- 5th Media
- 6th Constituents and consumers
- Last **ACADEMICS**

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Influence or Irrelevance: Can accountancy research improve policy making?

- Leadership of academe
- “Solutions not problems”
- Impact Assessments
- Feedback loops (economic drivers?)
- Strategic dialogue
- Research approval process



Small Steps

- Conference themes
- BAA special interest groups
- Specialised journals
- ACCA and IAESB initiative
- IAAER
- Two way participation

We could all go a lot further on this journey.