

A helping hand up the career ladder



THE ACT'S BURSARY SCHEME PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHO WISH TO STUDY FOR AN ACT TREASURY QUALIFICATION BUT CANNOT SECURE COMPANY SPONSORSHIP OR SUFFICIENT FUNDING.

JAMES LOCKYER EXPLAINS HOW THE SCHEME WORKS.

The ACT offers a bursary scheme that allows students from developing countries to study for ACT treasury qualifications. The scheme encourages students wishing to pursue a career in treasury to enjoy the same opportunities as those in developed countries, and promotes treasury worldwide. So far, students from Botswana, China, Romania and Zimbabwe – among many others – have taken the opportunity to enhance their careers, thanks to the bursary. Eight students have now successfully completed the AMCT Diploma through the scheme.

The scheme was introduced by the ACT Educational Trust in 2005. The bursary offers financial support covering the costs of course fees, which includes study material, past examination papers and the examination itself.

The qualifications that are available under the scheme include:

- Certificate in International Treasury Management;
- Certificate in Risk Management;
- Certificate in Corporate Finance & Funding;

- AMCT Diploma in Treasury; and
- MCT Advanced Diploma (which is 50% covered by the bursary).

The bursary is in place to support individuals who wish to pursue a treasury career but would not otherwise be able to undertake qualifications due to financial constraints. The benefits for those on the scheme are many. They include personal and professional development, a demonstration of commitment to working in treasury and finance, expertise development, and education in the valuable tools and techniques of treasury management. The bursary is also supported by legacies – an admirable way of honouring future treasury students with a positive career opportunity.

James Lockyer is director of education at the ACT.
jlockyer@treasurers.org

If you would like more information or to get involved, please go to:
www.treasurers.org/qualifications/bursary

Box 1: Mbako Mbo

Mbako Mbo, from Botswana, is one example of how the ACT bursary scheme can benefit students by developing treasury skills and opening up a promising career path. Mbo, who is now a corporate treasurer at Botswana Power Corporation, heard about the ACT's professional qualifications from a colleague. "Upon visiting the website and reading through the course specifications I found that the AMCT Diploma in Treasury was quite interesting and in line with what my job entailed," he says. At this point, he applied for the diploma via the bursary scheme.

"Following extensive research into other professional qualifications, I opted to study for the AMCT exams. In order to confidently handle the large amount of core treasury duties, I needed a qualification that would provide me with the skills and practical knowledge that I was after. As someone who has completed their ACCA qualification, I knew this had equipped me with a solid understanding of finance, but I still felt some competency gaps that AMCT could sufficiently address.



"Has the study programme brought practical benefits to my current role? 100%! I found the AMCT study programme relevant to industry requirements, to my practical duties and to the real issues that I face every day at work."

Mbo appreciates just how diverse life as a treasurer can be: "My job is extremely varied. It entails liquidity management (including cash and headroom management), corporate funding (specifically, loan negotiations and documentation), risk management, bank relationship management and treasury operations.

"Given the current economic climate, it is extremely important to develop skills and knowledge. Qualifications like the AMCT are dynamic, and equip students with analytical skills in problem solving.

"With AMCT it is not just about the certificates alone. With the skill and knowledge that comes with the course, I now feel more of an all-round finance professional with a promising career, and am grateful to the ACT bursary scheme, which provided me with this opportunity."