

The SGH-CIMA Initiative¹

Starting from 1 October 2012, our university expanded its educational offer by three new and unique (not only in Poland) international specializations.² Thorough verification led to the accreditation by The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) of study programmes in the fields of Finance and Accounting, and Management. As a result, SGH current and future students gained the opportunity to complete their studies with an additional and very valuable qualification: *Certificate in Business Accounting* (CBA – at first-cycle studies) or *Diploma in Management Accounting* and *Advanced Diploma in Management Accounting* (DMA and ADMA – at second-cycle studies).

In-depth verification of the above-mentioned programmes was conducted at CIMA, in the academic year 2011/2012. In the case of SGH, this process took only about a few months, and not a over a year, as it usually does. It was undoubtedly the result of involvement of Ms Fiona Harvey, director of CIMA-Performance and Emerging Markets and Mr Jakub Bejnarowicz, Head of CIMA division in Poland (both cooperating directly with SGH on behalf of CIMA Global), as well as Dr Stanisław Macioł – director of ORSE SGH, with whom Prof. Anna Karmańska prepared the curricular and organizational solutions for the specializations.

CIMA is an institute educating professionals in the area of financial management. It offers international programme of professional qualification in the field of management accounting. The training programme is dedicated to education of specialists for the needs of work in business. The main area of CIMA's interest concerning professional competences focuses on the management of an enterprise and the role of strategic information in the process in question. CIMA qualification, so popular among consultants, financial advisors, and management responsible for planning and controlling, as well as persons responsible for the company's strategy. (For more details, see <http://www.cimaglobal.com>)

One particular benefit of the introduced interdisciplinary specializations is that SGH students may now receive both an SGH diploma and CIMA qualification, which – due to its international character – without doubt strengthens the value of SGH diploma worldwide. CIMA is recognised on every continent and has about 195,000 members from 176 countries.

It should be emphasised that the interdisciplinary specializations are available for both full-time and part-time students alike. Although these forms of study may differ in terms of the number of in-class hours, the learning outcomes remain the same and all students are considered equal by CIMA. (For details of the interdisciplinary offer, see: www.sgh.waw.pl/CIMA)

The above specializations constituted a qualitative change on the Polish education market – a result of SGH's efforts and CIMA's pioneer involvement in Poland in terms of cooperation with a higher education institution. SGH earned CIMA's recognition not only due to the university's renown, but also – and perhaps primarily – due to the quality of education and its compatibility with professional qualification profile recognised by national and international business.

Finally, it should be added that the SGH-CIMA initiative is a result of more than just analysing business environment and the changes it undergoes – it is an expression of the anticipation of the accreditation criteria, as well as other standards related to, or stemming from the National Qualification Framework. It is also an answer to educational demands of the students enabling them to gain important practical skills, which are of considerable value for employers. The interdisciplinary

¹ The following is an excerpt of an article by Anna Karmańska "Inicjatywa programowa SGH-CIMA" published in *Gazeta SGH*, no. 11/12 (288), p. 14. The full text is available only in Polish.

² The agreement between SGH and CIMA was signed on 12th June 2012.

specialisation offered by SGH-CIMA are an important step made by SGH towards fulfilling the needs and expectations of both our alumni and employers, while maintaining general academic profile.