

Modernising assessments for Sri Lanka's management accountants

A partnership to enable growth and global recognition through secure, scalable testing solutions

The world is changing fast, and businesses need skilled management accountants more than ever. These professionals keep companies on track and help drive growth. That's why the Institute of Certified Management Accountants of Sri Lanka (CMA Sri Lanka) is so important. As the national body representing the profession, CMA Sri Lanka is on a mission to shape the next generation of finance leaders. They're not just keeping up—they're setting the pace!

Created by an Act of Parliament, and with prestigious memberships in global organisations like the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), the institute holds itself to the highest standards. Its commitment? To make sure every certified management accountant is ready for anything the future brings.

To deliver on that commitment, the organisation set some clear goals: overcome logistical challenges, enhance the candidate experience, and expand the programme's reach beyond its own borders. Achieving those goals meant modernising how it delivered assessments. CMA Sri Lanka knew it needed to shift from traditional paper-based exams to a more secure, scalable, and accessible approach.

Overcoming traditional barriers with digital transformation

The institute faced logistical and security challenges common with paper-based testing, such as delays in grading, constraints on scheduling, and restrictions on the inclusion of multiple languages. It required a scalable solution to maintain certification relevance in a rapidly evolving, skills-focused environment, and to remain effective during challenging periods. The organisation recognised the need for a forward-looking solution.

With this mindset, CMA Sri Lanka set out to raise the bar, determined to empower their candidates and lead the profession with integrity and ambition. The answer? To step away from traditional testing methods — and step toward computer-based testing (CBT). In addition to modernising the assessment process, the institute was keen to introduce multi-language examinations, making it possible for candidates to take their tests in English, Sinhala, or Tamil. This step was essential not only for inclusivity within Sri Lanka, but also for opening doors to aspiring management accountants across the globe.

The primary objective? Leverage a trusted, globally recognised platform to standardise assessments, improve operational efficiency, and provide a superior testing experience for all candidates. That meant finding a partner committed to excellence, ensuring every exam was consistent, secure, and respected. To lead its transformation, CMA Sri Lanka chose Pearson.



To make exams more accessible, standardise the assessment process, and improve the candidate testing experience, CMA Sri Lanka opted to transition from paper-based exams to computer-based testing — and they chose Pearson to be their partner.

Delivering secure, scalable, and accessible certification

The partnership with Pearson has enabled the institute to achieve significant milestones and open new opportunities for growth. A key development was the successful transition of its Foundation Level examinations to a CBT model. This shift immediately addressed previous challenges by introducing a more secure and efficient process.

A critical aspect of this transformation has been the ability to deliver exams in multiple languages. Pearson's robust platform supports assessments in the three required languages, ensuring that the organisation can cater to its diverse candidate base without compromising the consistency or quality of the exams. This multilingual capability has been vital for maintaining accessibility and upholding the credibility of the certification across different linguistic communities.

The collaboration has also been instrumental in expanding CMA Sri Lanka's international footprint. By leveraging Pearson's advanced multi-modal test delivery capabilities — including its global network of test centres and its online proctoring service — the institute can now reach candidates well beyond its domestic market, particularly serving the Sri Lankan diaspora in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. As a result, there are increasing opportunities for overseas candidates to participate in examinations, and the acceptance of their programmes and certifications continues to grow each year.

Pearson's partnership with CMA Sri Lanka is about empowering the next generation of management accountants through globally accessible, secure, and reliable certification exams that support the professionalisation of finance talent in the region.

Key benefits of the partnership include:



- **Modernised assessment delivery:** A secure, global CBT platform has replaced inefficient manual processes.



- **Enhanced candidate experience:** Candidates now benefit from flexible scheduling, faster results, and a fair and consistent testing environment worldwide.



- **Global reach and scalability:** The partnership has allowed the institute to scale its programme internationally while maintaining the highest standards of integrity.

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The transformation of our exams from pencil-and-paper to computer-based through our new partnership with the biggest name in global assessment delivery will both increase availability of the exams to our candidates and allow even greater levels of customer service and satisfaction.

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Professor Lakshman R. Watawala
President, CMA Sri Lanka

A future-ready partnership

The future has never looked brighter for CMA Sri Lanka, as the institute boldly advances its partnership with Pearson to set new benchmarks in exam delivery and candidate empowerment. With an unwavering commitment to accessibility and innovation, the institute is transforming its examination landscape—making it easier than ever for aspiring management accountants to prove their skills and access global opportunities. Since the initial rollout, Pearson has been entrusted with two additional higher-level exams, a testament to the trust and ambition fuelling this collaboration.

This dynamic partnership isn't just keeping pace with industry changes—it's driving them. By embracing cutting-edge solutions and scaling credentialing efforts, CMA Sri Lanka is positioning its candidates to shine on the world stage. Together, the institute and Pearson are not only meeting the challenge of a changing professional environment, but seizing it as a chance to lead, innovate, and inspire the next generation of finance professionals. The journey ahead is full of promise—and the best is yet to come.

To learn more, contact us at
pearsonvue.com/business-development