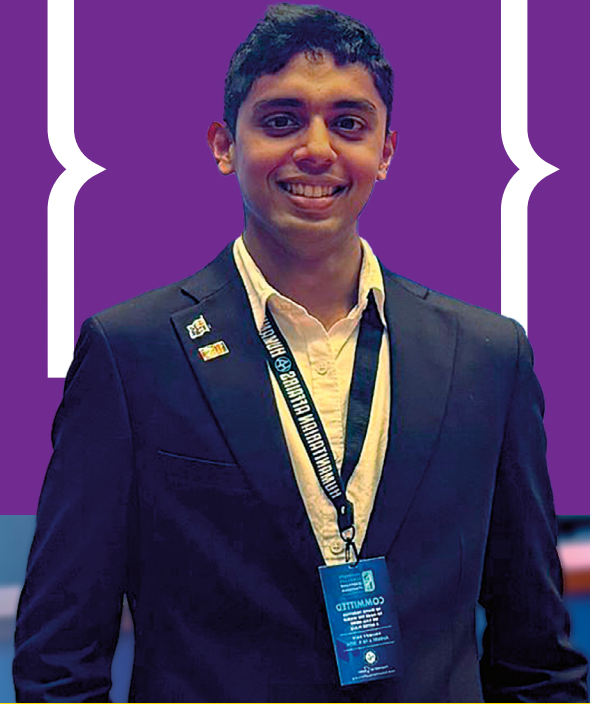


From curiosity to impact.

Leveraging accounting to drive change and to take his career global.

Leshane Kandegedara
Student Ambassador



Deakin University - Bachelor of Property and Real Estate/Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting Major)

Student activities

- **Vice President** - Deakin Commerce Society (DCS) 2025
- **Secretary and Treasurer** - Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) 2025
- **Captain and Team Manager** - Deakin University Cricket Team 2025
- **President** - Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) 2026
- **Industry Engagement Officer** - Deakin Property Real Estate Society (DPRES) 2026



Study journey and motivation

What inspired you to choose accounting as your field of study?

I studied commerce subjects in high school, and accounting immediately stood out to me. It was a field that clicked naturally, the concepts felt intuitive, and I found myself genuinely enjoying the analytical side without overthinking.

That confidence encouraged me to pursue accounting at university. The financial accounting component also complements my studies in real estate, allowing me to broaden my overall skill set.

What were your expectations before starting your accounting degree? Have they changed? If so, how?

I initially expected accounting to be purely theoretical. However, my course has been highly practical, incorporating real-world tools such as Power BI for projects, including analysing property price movements across Melbourne. Studying at Deakin has significantly shifted my expectations by demonstrating the practical and industry-focused nature of accounting.

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Learning experience

How is your accounting education preparing you for the real world?

One of my favourite areas of accounting is taxation. Beyond the professional application, it has enabled me to confidently manage my own tax affairs studying an accounting major. Deakin also offers workshops through student societies that support skills like resume building and tax lodgement.

Career aspirations

What kind of accounting career are you aiming for?

In the short term, I aim to begin my career in management accounting through a graduate or entry level role, and I plan to pursue the CPA designation while working.

Have you had any mentors or role models in the field who influenced your path?

My parents have been my greatest mentors. Their experience in the real estate industry in Sri Lanka, one of the most dynamic and challenging markets, has motivated me to work hard and continually push myself.

Professor Thomas Keel, who leads the sustainable Bimbimbie housing project, inspired me through practical, real-world learning opportunities that demonstrated the importance of ethical and sustainable practices in professional settings. <https://sustainablehouseday.com/listing/bimbimbie-project/>

Personal insights and advice

What has been the most rewarding part of studying accounting so far?

The most rewarding aspect has been the connections I have built with classmates, industry professionals, and academics.

Accounting is a broad discipline that has allowed me to connect with diverse people and learn from different perspectives. It has also pushed me to think critically and apply a structured approach both professionally and personally.

What advice would you give to someone considering accounting as a study or career path?

In the current job market, studying accounting alongside digital skills is a strong foundation. I recommend exploring graduate or vacationer programs, or even short internships, to gain early industry exposure.

There is a skills shortage, and accountants continue to be in high demand. Accounting offers diverse career pathways, and the CPA designation opens doors across industries and countries, making it a valuable qualification.

Future outlook

Where do you see yourself in the next 5 to 10 years?

“ In the short term (next four years), I aim to work in tax or advisory, ideally as a financial advisor or consultant at a Big 4 firm. Longer term, I aspire to work for a global organisation such as the United Nations, contributing to welfare and social impact initiatives.

After experiencing the UN in Bangkok, I felt a strong sense of purpose and belonging. I also hope to contribute to organisations such as the Red Cross or UNICEF. Accounting is universal, and these qualifications allow me to make a meaningful impact globally. ”



Learn more about careers in accounting and finance.

