



Become a CPA

Unlock your potential with the CPA Program

CPA
AUSTRALIA



What does it mean to be a CPA?

Becoming a CPA can help take your career to the next level and open up opportunities around the world. As a member of CPA Australia, you'll be part of a global network of accounting, finance and business professionals. Being a CPA is a mark of high professional competence and indicates a depth, breadth and quality of accountancy and business knowledge that's highly respected, and in demand by employers.

To become a CPA, you will be required to hold a degree; complete the CPA Program's education and experience components; and then maintain your designation with ongoing professional development and commitment to professional standards.

As a CPA, you will be part of a forward-thinking membership organisation with a proud legacy spanning more than 135 years. CPA Australia provides education, advocacy, training and technical support for accountancy and finance professionals.

Known for relevance and excellence through both the specialist training required to achieve your CPA designation and the ongoing commitment to maintain it, membership with CPA Australia will help support and future proof your career. Your possibilities become endless: think CFO, CEO, forensic accounting roles, strategic procurement opportunities, and even positions within innovative startups.

Achieve your designation with:

Relevant education

Verified experience

Maintain your designation with:

Continuous development

Professional standards

Our global network

CPA Australia is truly a global organisation. With over 20 offices around the world, members can find support and connection no matter where their career leads them, from Europe, to China, to Singapore, the Americas and beyond.

Flexible access

You can study and take your exams from anywhere in the world with our international network of test centers or online exams.

Global reach

As a member, you'll not only possess an internationally recognised certification, you'll have access to our global member network and employer partner program.

Potential, unlocked

At CPA Australia, we offer accounting and finance education through a global lens. If career progression is important to you, becoming a CPA can give you the edge you're looking for.

170,000+

members

100+

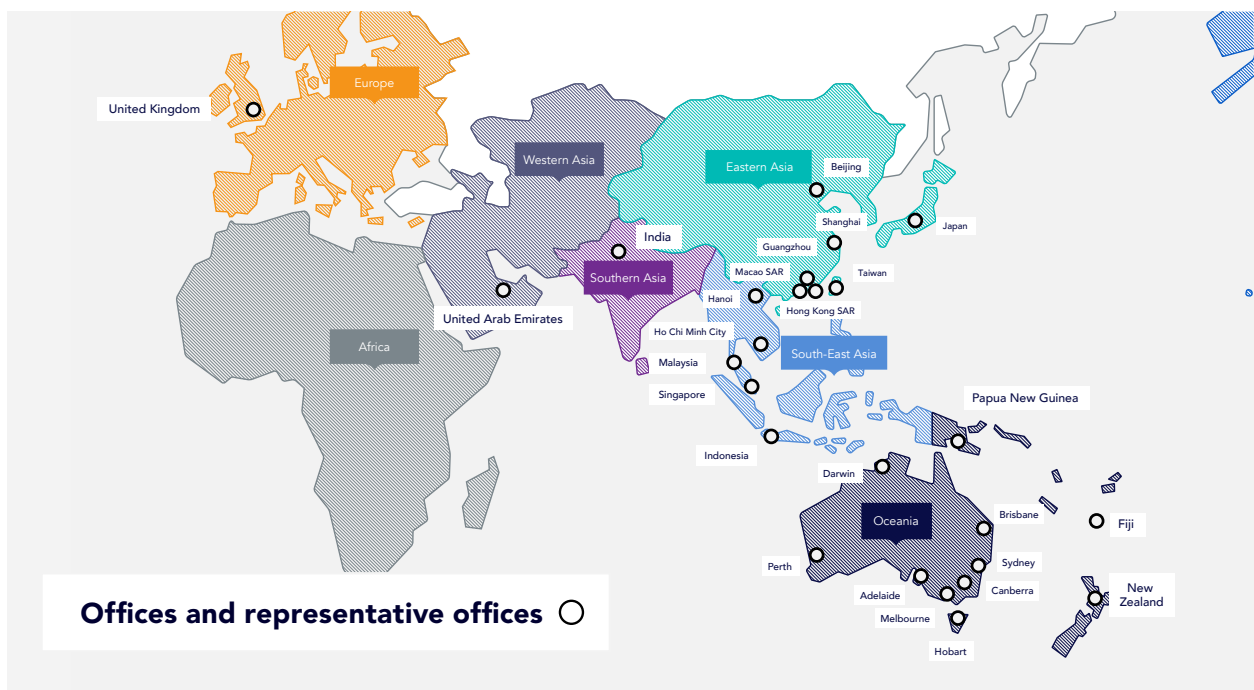
countries and regions

20+

offices and representative offices

28,000+

members in senior leadership roles



Why join CPA Australia?

We give you the skills, knowledge and access to a network that will help you strive for continued excellence in leadership, strategy and business.

1. Signify excellence with an internationally recognised professional designation.

2. Develop professionally through world class professional development: CPA Congress, micro-credentials, networking and more.

3. Connect with your community to develop valuable, career-long relationships with likeminded professionals.

4. Broaden your network and discover career-defining career progression opportunities.

The CPA Australia difference

Because of our reach and influence, we can offer numerous advantages to members. From a flexible certification program to global mobility in your career. Ultimately, what sets us apart is our impressive range of resources, content, tools and industry connections. Our world class events, exclusive networking opportunities, micro-credential courses, and award-winning industry magazines that support you to excel at every stage of your career.

Professional development

- Lifelong learning support
- On-demand micro-credentials
- Leadership courses
- Mentoring network
- Councils and committees
- Small business resource suite
- Public practice resources

[Learn more](#)

Professional networking

- Exclusive events
- Member social platform
- CPA Congress (12,000 attendees)

[Learn more](#)

Industry news

- Direct access to INTHEBLACK digital magazine
- Podcasts and webinars

[Learn more](#)

Career management tools

- Career progression planner
- Mentoring program
- Capability planning tool

[Learn more](#)

Member Benefits program

- Special offers
- Discounted products/services

[Learn more](#)

Public practice resources

- News and technical updates
- Public practice research
- Small business content
- COVID-19 support

[Learn more](#)

CPA Library

- Full text journals
- Newspapers
- Ebooks (CCH, Emerald, Pressreader)
- Exclusive publications

[Learn more](#)



The CPA Program

The CPA Program arms you with the skills needed in tomorrow's world. An interconnected, global society where technology is rapidly changing how we live and work. More than ever, accountants are called on to be savvy communicators and strategists with a commercial outlook.

For candidates who have not previously covered Economics and Markets and Fundamentals of Business Law, supplementary learning content will be automatically provided. Examined subjects are still available for candidates if they are required for migration or career pathways.

The CPA Program unlocks your full potential to ensure you are:

- technically skilled and solutions driven
- a strategic leader and business partner
- aware of the social impacts of accounting
- able to communicate and collaborate effectively
- adaptable to change.

What's next?

- 1 Complete your online membership application
- 2 Receive your verified outcome
- 3 Begin your journey to become a CPA

Journey to becoming a CPA

Step 1: Find your starting point

Degree

You'll need to hold a degree that's equivalent to an Australian bachelor's degree or at least eight standard units (one year full-time) of an Australian postgraduate degree. The application process will confirm the comparability of your degree for you.

Not graduated yet, or still waiting on the degree certificate? You can still get started on your CPA Program, but you'll need to evidence your degree before you advance to CPA status.

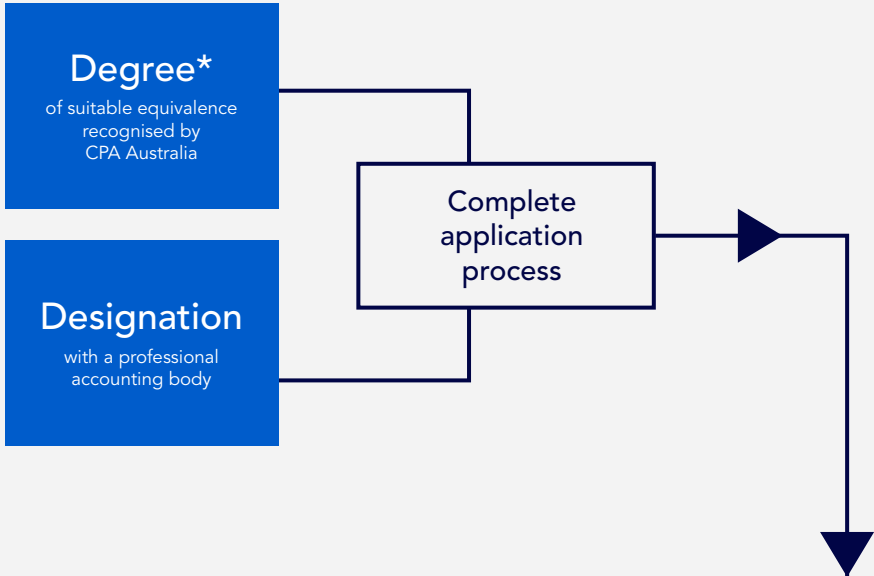
Designation

We have a number of established pathways available for those with a designation or who've completed exams with another professional and have a recognised degree. The application process will guide you on the additional documents to provide.

[Learn more about other professional body pathways.](#)

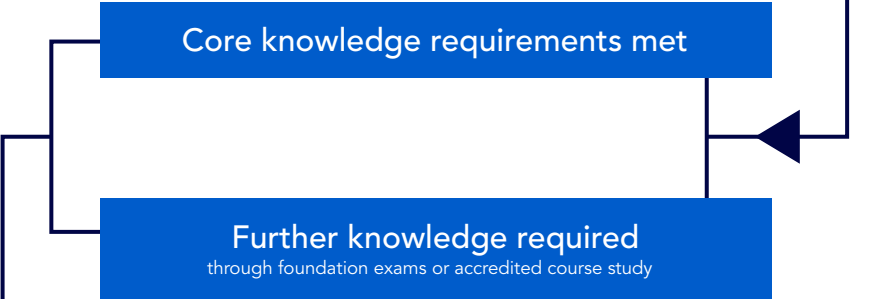
Submit your application

Submit your application using CPA Australia's online application tool. Share details of your background and study to-date, and provide your documents for verification.



Step 2: Cover off core knowledge areas

We're looking for core knowledge areas to be covered at a suitable breadth and depth in the content of your prior study. Any gaps can be covered by further study with an accredited institution or through our streamlined and flexible foundation exams. [You can check the accredited course list](#) or find out more about foundation exams on page 7.



Step 3: Enrol in the CPA Program

Once you've met the core knowledge areas through prior study or our foundation exam, you'll be eligible to activate your Associate membership and enrol in the CPA Program. You have up to six years to complete the education component, have your experience requirement signed off and evidence your degree (if not evidenced with initial application).

Once you've completed both the education and experience components and evidenced your degree you'll be eligible to advance to CPA status, and use the CPA designation after your name.



Up to six years to complete education and experience components of the CPA Program



Foundation exams

The foundation exams are a flexible way to meet the core competency areas to commence the CPA Program.

There is a maximum of four foundations exams, but any prior study in accounting or business may exempt you from some or all of them. The application process will determine how many subjects you need to complete.

The time to prepare for your foundation exam depends on how many hours you want to put aside for study. We recommend you aim for 12 weeks and schedule an exam as the goal. With foundation exams you can reschedule your exam appointment up to 72 hours before at no additional cost.

Prepare for your foundation exam with self-directed distance study based on a digital workbook provided. You can also choose to cover off your gaps by taking the appropriate subjects at an accredited tertiary institution. However, this may require multiple subjects to meet one foundation requirement. Check the [accredited course search](#) for institutions in your area. [Learn more about Foundation study and exams.](#)

Foundation exams are:

Flexible

Complete your Foundation exams in any order, and enrol at any time of the year.

Self-paced

Set your own study schedule and sit the exam within 12 months of enrolling.

Streamlined

Condensed to a maximum of four foundation exams depending on prior study.*

*For candidates who have not previously covered Economics and Markets and Fundamentals of Business Law, supplementary learning content will be automatically provided. Examined subjects are still available for candidates if they are required for migration or career pathways.

CPA Program subjects

The CPA Program comprises four compulsory subjects and two elective subjects. All content is designed to help you apply knowledge to real-world situations. *Taxation and audit electives may be compulsory if you haven't covered them in prior learning.

Compulsory subjects

Ethics and Governance

Learn how to apply ethical principles and gain a strong understanding of key corporate governance principles and mechanisms.

Strategic Management Accounting

Learn how management accounting provides critical information in the business decision-making process. This subject goes one step further and introduces the role of the management accountant in business strategy.

Financial Reporting

Apply accounting standards, interpret financial reports, and understand the business impacts of these reports.

Global Strategy and Leadership**

In this subject you'll consolidate and apply your knowledge from the other three compulsory subjects. You'll draw on your strategic analysis to address complex business issues in a competitive and uncertain business environment.

** Other three compulsory subjects must be completed before this subject.

[Read more about the CPA Program subjects \(i.e. Ethics and Governance, Financial Reporting, and Strategic Management Accounting\)](#)

Elective subjects (choose two)

Australia Taxation*

Understand and apply fundamental principles of Australian taxation law affecting individuals and business and investment entities. Local variants are available in some countries.

Australia Taxation – Advanced*

Build on the fundamental principles of Australian tax law to determine the tax implications of complex business and investment arrangements. Explore specialist taxation topics including tax theory, tax policy and more.

Advanced Audit and Assurance

With a focus on both external and internal audit procedures, this subject helps you understand the audit process and are international standards to complex audits.

Financial Risk Management

Understand and recognise the financial risks faced by businesses, and the key mechanisms and frameworks used to address and manage risk.

Contemporary Business Issues

Analyse and evaluate the role of CPAs in contemporary business and the continuous evolution of the accounting profession.

Digital Finance

This subject explores the complex world of digital finance and gives you the knowledge and tools needed to work with emerging technologies.

Hong Kong, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore and Fiji Taxation subjects

[Find out how you can study other taxation subjects.](#)

The CPA Program



Additional information

10–15

hours of study per subject, per week recommended

You have up to six years to complete your subjects and experience.

10

week semesters

Complete study prior to, along side or after work experience component.

2

weeks exam window to choose your exam appointment

Exams are available online or in test centres across most locations.

3

subjects (maximum) per semester. We recommend one subject if you're working full time.

Includes guided learning and course book.

1

exam per subject

The electives you choose to study depend on your previous studies and career aspirations.

2

semesters a year

Study your way with full time study or combined postgraduate degree options.

Your experience

As well as completing your education component, you'll need to demonstrate 36 months of relevant work experience. This can be from a single role or multiple roles and be either full time or part time equivalent.

You can have your prior work experience recognised, complete your experience as you take your CPA Program subjects, or start your experience after your education component – as long as you complete both education and experience components within six years.

For your role to be considered relevant experience it must meet at least one of the technical skill requirements.

[See the skills list.](#)

10 skills to be signed off across 36 months

- 4 skills from any of the technical areas
 - 2 personal effectiveness skills
 - 2 leadership skills
 - 2 business skills
-

While having a mentor in the CPA Program is not compulsory, it's highly recommended.

You'll also need someone who's fully qualified to sign off your experience claim form. They can be a CPA, FCPA or fully qualified member of an IFAC body.

Note: You don't need to be working to start the CPA Program.



Membership pathways

CPA Australia has mutual recognition agreements or established pathway options with a range of leading accounting bodies all around the world. This means we may be able to fully or partially recognise programs from professional bodies in:

- Europe
- Asia and Pacific
- Africa
- Americas.

Visit our website to find out which overseas accounting bodies we share agreements with.

[Learn more](#)

Guided learning

Your CPA program enrolment fee includes a range of additional resources and services. They'll help you study in a way that suits your unique learning approach and personal commitments.

We offer guided learning resources to keep you focused, motivated and fully immersed in your subject content. You can elect to access weekly webinars, quizzes, practice exams, videos and case studies, as well as join other candidates in our 'Ask the Expert' discussion forums.

[Learn more](#)

Additional Tuition

See our website for additional tuition partners in your region.

Key dates and fees

Upcoming semester dates, and application and enrolment fees, are available on our website.

Associate members of CPA Australia pay an annual membership fee, plus an enrolment fee per subject.

If you're a foundation candidate, you'll only pay an enrolment fee.

The sooner you enrol, the sooner you receive access to your digital study guide, and the opportunity to secure your preferred exam time and date.

CPA Program key dates				
Semester	Enrolment opens	Early bird enrolment deadline	Semester begins	Exam period
Semester 1 (January - April)	Late November	Mid January	Late January	Late April
Semester 2 (July - October)	Early June	Early July	Mid July	September/ October

[Learn more](#)

Please make note that these dates are provided as a guide only, check 'important dates' on the website for confirmed dates and fees.

Application process

Applying for the CPA Program is easy. Once you've submitted an online membership application, we'll assess your eligibility and keep you updated on next steps.



The online membership application will guide you through the information documents required for your situation. This can include:

- personal information, including educational background and current employment information
- copies of all official academic transcripts and degree certificates
- proof of ID
- letters of good standing from professional bodies, transcripts and certificates (where relevant).

The system will give you a provisional outcome, however this will be individually reviewed and verified by our assessment team. It is important to submit your application for verification by our assessment team.

Check your documents. All documents should be high resolution colour scans of the original with no shadows, cropping, or blurring.

Discover more about the application process.



CPA Program FAQs

Find answers to common questions on the CPA Program, foundation exams, experience requirements and membership pathways.

[Learn more](#)

CPA Australia: unlocking your future potential.
Find out more and start your CPA Program application today.

[Contact us](#) [Apply today](#)

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