

QUESTIONS ABOUT PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT

Singapore Chartered Accountant Qualification (SCAQ) and its recognised equivalent professional qualifications

1. What is SCAQ?

SCAQ is the national CA qualification, developed by the Singapore Accountancy Commission (SAC) and administered by the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA).

2. How can I register for the SCAQ and what are the pre-requisites?

More details on the SCAQ such as the application form, pre-requisites and modules are set out at <https://www.sac.gov.sg/scaq>.

3. I have obtained an accountancy qualification recognised as equivalent to the SCAQ. Why is there an upfront requirement that I also have to pass a specified examination module offered by the same professional body?

It is an upfront requirement that an applicant has to pass a specified examination module for each qualification (see table A), as the specified module generally relates to advanced audit and assurance knowledge that an applicant should possess to undertake various aspects of auditing work.

Table A: Specified examination modules that an applicant has to pass besides obtaining the professional qualification

| Name of SCAQ-equivalent professional qualification | Examination module that a candidate has to pass |
|--|--|
| The Association of Chartered Accountants Qualification under the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) | Advanced Level: Corporate Reporting |
| The Chartered Accountant Qualification under the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS) | Test of Professional Skills: Assurance & Business Systems |
| The Chartered Accountancy Programme under the Chartered Accountants Ireland (CAI) | Final Admitting Examination (FAE) Elective: Advanced Auditing and Assurance |
| Chartered Accountants Program under the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ) | Audit and Assurance |

- 4. I have obtained an accountancy qualification recognised as equivalent to the SCAQ (e.g. *the Chartered Accountancy Programme under the Chartered Accountants Ireland*) but did not pass the specified examination module (e.g. *FAE Elective: Advanced Auditing and Assurance*) for that qualification. In this regard, how can I still meet the professional examination requirement to be a public accountant?**

You would be deemed to have met the professional examination requirement if the foreign professional body conferring the accountancy qualification has granted you an exemption from the specified paper on the basis that you have completed an equivalent of the advanced audit and assurance module in your entry-level qualifications (e.g. your degree).

Otherwise, in the absence of said exemption by the foreign professional body, you could either:

- (a) approach the foreign professional body (which conferred the qualification to you) to take the specified examination module; or
- (b) write to ACRA for us to refer you to take the examination of SCAQ's Professional Programme: Assurance module offered by the SAC.

- 5. It is indicated that one of the professional examination requirements is that I have to pass an examination in *Singapore Company Law and Singapore Taxation and Tax Management*, if I have less than 2 years of relevant local experience and have not passed the final examination in accountancy from a specified Institute of Higher Learning. What are the relevant Institutes of Higher Learning?**

For those who graduate prior to 1 January 2019, the relevant Institutes of Higher Learning and qualifications are:

- (i) The Singapore Polytechnic for the years 1961 to 1969;
- (ii) The University of Singapore;
- (iii) The Nanyang University of Singapore;
- (iv) The National University of Singapore;
- (v) The Nanyang Technological Institute;
- (vi) The Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants Association of Chartered Certified Accountants of the United Kingdom Joint Scheme;
- (vii) The Nanyang Technological University;
- (viii) The Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants Professional Examination;
- (ix) The Singapore Management University; and (x) The Singapore University of Social Sciences.

For those who graduate on or after 1 January 2019, the relevant Institutes of Higher Learning are:

- (i) the National University of Singapore;

- (ii) the Nanyang Technological University;
- (iii) the Singapore Management University;
- (iv) the Singapore University of Social Sciences; and (v) the Singapore Institute of Technology.