

Guide for Overseas Qualified Accountants

To work as an accountant in Australia, you will need the relevant undergraduate or post-graduate qualifications, such as an undergraduate degree in accounting or in finance, business or economics with a major in accounting, or a Masters of Professional Accounting (especially when your undergraduate is not an accounting specific degree or major). Your degree must be equivalent to an Australian bachelor's degree. It is recommended to gain CPA (Certified Practising Accountant) or CA (Chartered Accountant) qualifications to work as an accountant in Australia as this signifies your skill level and competencies. You also must gain a Certificate of Public Practice if you are or intend to be a Principal in your practice (see step 4).

Steps:

- ☐ Gain membership with a professional accounting body such as, CPA Australia, Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, or the Institute of Public Accountants
- ☐ Gain a Certificate of Public Practice

Required Documents: You may be required to provide some or all of the following to gain membership or complete further training.

- ☐ Proof of qualification complete, such as a testamur or certification of completion from the awarding academic institution.
- ☐ Academic transcripts.
- ☐ Course handbooks.
- ☐ Proof of placements or required work to complete your qualifications.
- ☐ Proof of registration/ membership with a professional accounting body in another country.
- ☐ Personal identification such as a Passport.
- ☐ A CV/ Resume outlining your professional experience and qualifications gained.
- ☐ Reference letters from previous employers or registering bodies.
- ☐ VISA and working rights.
- ☐ Proof of English Language Proficiency.

Essential Information:

- Fees: vary between the different bodies. Check with the body you are joining for specific fees for membership applications, annual membership fees, training and assessment.
- Time estimates: Time for membership applications, training and assessments varies, depending on your requirements.

Links:

- CPA: <https://www.cpaaustralia.com.au/>
- CA ANZ: <https://www.charteredaccountantsanz.com/>
- IPA: <https://www.publicaccountants.org.au/>