

Information Sheet

Status

The Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (the Institute) is the only statutory licensing body of accountants in Hong Kong responsible for the professional training, development and regulation of the accountancy profession. The Institute, formerly known as the Hong Kong Society of Accountants, has a long and distinguished heritage and was incorporated by the Professional Accountants Ordinance (Chapter 50, Laws of Hong Kong) on 1 January 1973.

Duties

- Registering accountants and issuing practising certificates
- Regulating the professional conduct and standards of members
- Setting codes of ethics and standards of accounting and auditing
- Regulating the quality of entry to the profession through its qualification programme and related courses
- Providing continuing education and other services to members
- Promoting the accountancy profession both in Hong Kong and overseas

► Membership admission

To become a member of the Institute, a candidate has to satisfy the following requirements:

- hold an accountancy degree or equivalent qualification accredited or recognized by the Institute;
- successfully complete and pass the Institute's qualification programme;
- gain relevant practical experience with the Institute's authorized employers or supervisors complying with the practical experience framework;
- be of good character and a fit and proper person to carry the title of Certified Public Accountant; and
- be at least 21 years old.

Members of overseas accountancy bodies recognized by the Institute may also be eligible for membership if they meet certain conditions. For details, please refer to the "Guide to Membership in the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs" and form R-3, which can be downloaded from the Institute's website.

► Designation of members

- A member is designated as certified public accountant (CPA) and entitled to use the following initials to indicate his/her status in the Institute:

Member	CPA
Fellow	F CPA (seven years' standing with the Institute)

- Practising certificate holders are CPAs who can sign statutory audit reports and are entitled to use the following designation to indicate his/her status in the Institute:

Member	CPA (practising)
Fellow	F CPA (practising)

► International affiliates

The Institute admits international affiliates who are full members with voting rights bestowed by an International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) full member body. International affiliates normally have the same rights as the Institute's full members (except the right to be elected to council, vote in council elections and attend the Institute's general meetings). For more information, please visit the Institute's website.

► For more information:

Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants

37th Floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong.
Tel: (852) 2287 7228 / 2528 9000 (Hotline) E-mail: hkicpa@hkicpa.org.hk
Fax: (852) 2865 6776 / 2865 6603 Website: www.hkicpa.org.hk



▶ Practising certificate

A CPA who wishes to sign statutory audit reports must apply for a practising certificate. Candidate must apply for renewal each year and must have not less than four years of full-time approved accounting experience. At least one year of this experience should have been completed after qualifying as a CPA with the Institute, or after becoming a member of an accountancy body recognized by the Institute. The requirement for some candidates may be reduced to 30 months if their experience is accumulated after qualifying with the Institute or accountancy bodies recognized by the Institute.

Approved accounting experience means experience gained in the office of a CPA holding a valid practising certificate issued by the Institute and practising public accountancy; or a person practising public accountancy under the jurisdiction of an accountancy body recognized by the Institute.

A substantial proportion of the approved accounting experience must be in auditing and at least one year must be gained in Hong Kong within three years prior to the date of application.

Applicants need to satisfy the council that:

- they are ordinarily resident in Hong Kong;

- they have passed the examinations prescribed by the Institute, which includes tests on local law and taxation; and
- they are not or have not become bankrupt or have not entered into a voluntary arrangement with creditors within the meaning of the Bankruptcy Ordinance.

A person holding a practising certificate may describe herself or himself as a CPA (practising). The addition of the word "practising" after the designation is at the discretion of the practising certificate holder.

▶ Firm and corporate practice registration

A CPA holding a practising certificate who wishes to practise under the name of a firm or corporate practice must apply to the Institute for registration of the name of the firm or corporate practice under the Professional Accountants Ordinance.

Please refer to the Institute's website for more detailed information about qualifying requirements, international affiliates and practising certificates at www.hkicpa.org.hk. Application forms are also obtainable from the website or by calling (852) 2528 9000.

Qualification programme (QP)

The most direct route to qualify as a Hong Kong CPA (practising) is through the Institute's post-graduate qualification programme. This comprehensive training programme equips prospective accountants with solid accountancy knowledge and focuses on essential skills for a successful career in business. Those who have completed the qualification programme are exempted* from the Institute's practising certificate examinations.

▶ Government's recognition

The HKSAR government recognizes the Institute's qualification programme as a reimbursable course under its Continuing Education Fund. Eligible candidates may apply for a fee reimbursement of up to \$10,000.

* All QP students registered on or after 1 January 2008 and hold a non-Hong Kong accountancy degree will need to sit and pass the aptitude test on Hong Kong law for practising certificate issuance purpose.

Members who join the Institute after 29 July 2008 will need to qualify through QP to enjoy the exemptions.

▶ Mainland recognition

Institute's members[#] and QP graduates are exempted from four papers, "accounting," "auditing," "financial cost management" and "corporate strategies and risk management" of the PRC CPA Uniform Examination, under the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA).

▶ International recognition

The Institute's qualification programme is accorded recognition on five continents. The Institute has signed agreements with the chartered accountant institutes of Australia, Canada, England and Wales, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa and Zimbabwe, and with NASBA/AICPA International Qualifications Appraisal Board of the U.S., Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, CPA Australia and Association of International Accountants, for access to membership in their institutes and practising rights in their countries. Please refer to the brochure, "Guide to Membership in the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs," for details.

► Statistics as at 30 November 2018

Members

CPA	37,460
FCPA	5,655
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	Total: 43,115*

* Figure includes practising members

Practising members 4,850

International affiliates 175

Firms and corporate practices

Firms	1,297
Corporate practices	589

Professional examinations

Registered students 17,665

► Administration of the Institute

Governing body

- A Council of 14 elected, two ex-officio, four appointed and a maximum of two co-opted members, and the immediate past president of the Institute.

Chief Executive & Registrar

Departments

- Admission
- Advocacy and practice development
- Compliance
- Education and training
- Finance and operations
- Legal
- Marketing and communications
- Member support
- Quality assurance
- Standard setting

► Institute council 2018-2019

Elected members

LAW Fu Yuen, Patrick (President)	FCPA
Johnson KONG (Vice President)	FCPA
LAM Chi Yuen, Nelson (Vice President)	FCPA
Alan AU	CPA
AU Chun Hing, Edward	FCPA
Raymond CHENG	FCPA
Jennifer H. Y. CHEUNG	FCPA
FONG Wan Huen, Loretta	CPA
FUNG Ling Yip	CPA
Rosalind Suk Yee LEE	FCPA
Louis LEUNG	CPA
Oliver LEUNG Man Kit	FCPA
Roy LEUNG	FCPA
LI Kin Hang	CPA

Immediate Past President

Eric TONG	FCPA
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Government-appointed lay members

CHUI Yik Chiu, Vincent
Susie HO Shuk Yee, GBS, JP
Theresa NG Choi Yuk
WONG Kam Pui, Wilfred

Co-opted member

To be announced

Ex-officio members

Ada CHUNG FCPA
Registrar of Companies
Representative of the Financial Secretary
Government of the HKSAR
Charlix WONG FCPA
Director of Accounting Services
Government of the HKSAR

Chief Executive & Registrar

Vacant

Acting Registrar

Jonathan Ng FCPA

► Institute committees and working groups

Statutory board, panels and committees

Disciplinary Panels
Investigation Panels
Practice Review Committee
Qualification and Examinations Board
Registration and Practising Committee

Non-statutory boards and committees

Audit Committee
Auditing and Assurance Standards Committee
Education Standards Committee
Ethics Committee
Financial Reporting Standards Committee
Governance Committee
HKIAAT Board
Insolvency SD Vetting Committee
Investment Committee
Nomination Committee
Professional Accountants in Business Committee
Professional Conduct Committee
Professional Development Committee
Qualification Oversight Board

Regulatory Oversight Board

Remuneration Committee
Restructuring and Insolvency Faculty Executive Committee
Small and Medium Practitioners Committee
Sports and Recreation Committee
Taxation Faculty Executive Committee
Young Members Committee

Panels and working groups

Accountancy Manpower Research Advisory Panel
Audit Profession Reform Advisory Panel
Audit Profession Reform Working Group
Banking Regulatory Advisory Panel
Branding and Communication Advisory Panel
Corporate Finance Advisory Panel
Corporate Governance Working Group
Insurance Regulatory Advisory Panel
Investment Funds Regulatory Advisory Panel
Professional Standards Monitoring Expert Panel
Securities Regulatory Advisory Panel
Sustainability and Integrated Reporting Advisory Panel
Tax Specialization Development Working Group