

Filipino Migrants Forum

Are you an overseas qualified accountant applying for skills assessment?

By Atty. Imelda Argel, Bachelor of Laws (UP), Master of Laws (University of Sydney)

The three Authorising authorised assessing bodies for accountants are CPA Australia (CPAA), Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia (ICAA) and National Institute of Accountants. You only need to apply to one of them.

*Do you need to pass the CPA Board Examinations in order to obtain a suitable skills assessment? **NO!***

You do not have to be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in your country of origin to qualify for a suitable skills assessment as an Accountant. Moreover neither English test nor work experience is required as a part of your skills assessment.

The overseas registration as a CPA is normally required only if you apply under the Association *Membership Pathway* with ICAA. The *Qualifications Pathway* which is more common pathway is the where assessments are based on educational qualifications and completion of minimum core subjects in the degree curriculum.

Under this pathway, the basic requirement for successful skills assessment is that your educational qualification is comparable to an Australian Bachelor degree. The three bodies refer to the Country Educational Profile (CEP) of the country of your education to compare your overseas qualifications with qualifications under the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). The advantage of passing the CPA Board exams if you obtained your Bachelors degree in Accounting in the Philippines is that your degree is comparable to an Australian Bachelor degree regardless of where you studied and what your average grade was for the degree. However, the CEP relates only to the educational level of the qualification, not the field of study of Accounting. Thus, in addition to the above, you must have completed 9 of the 12 core study areas.

In other words, if you have an overseas qualification comparable to an Australian Bachelor degree based on the Country Educational Profile (CEP) of your country of education and if you have completed 9 out of 12 core subjects, in your course curriculum towards your degree, you are likely to qualify for a suitable skills assessment.

If you hold an accredited Australian Bachelor degree in accounting with CPAA, ICCA and NIA, and have completed 9 of 12 core subjects stated above, you will qualify for a suitable skills assessment without need of further study.

What happens if you are a member of an accounting professional body but do not satisfy the above qualifications pathway? If you are a current member of a professional body accredited by ICAA, it is likely that you will be issued with a suitable skills assessment for migration purposes by ICAA.

If the outcome of your skills assessment is suitable for migration purposes, you may submit it with your visa application without completing any further study. It is valid for 5 years.

But if your assessment is unsuccessful, the assessment letter will include details of study programs available in Australia, or by distance learning, to enable you to meet the required standard.

This information is of a general nature and should not be taken as authoritative legal advice for specific cases. Australia has a scheme that requires persons who give immigration assistance to be registered as migration agent. The writer, Atty. Imelda Argel is a practising Filipino migration solicitor and a registered migration agent in Sydney, Australia. She is a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, the High Court of Australia, an Attorney at law in the Philippines and in the State of New York, USA. Her Registered Migration Agent no. is 9682957. She is also the recipient of the inaugural NSW FAWAA (Filipino- Australian Women's Achievement Award) for her outstanding achievements in corporate practice and entrepreneurship.. More information is available at www.iargel.com.au. You can contact the author by email at info@iargel.com.au or by fax at (+612) 9699 3210 or by appointment at Suite 41, Ground Floor, 61-89 Buckingham St. SURRY HILLS NSW 2010.