

Frequently Asked Questions for Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA)

What is the Mutual Recognition Agreement with CPA Australia about?

The agreement allows for eligible members of ISCA and CPA Australia to become members of the other institute, subject to specific requirements.

For CA (Singapore) to become CPA Australia members:

1. How do I become a CPA Australia member?

There are two routes to become a CPA Australia member under the Mutual Recognition Agreement. (1) Transitional Arrangement Route and (2) Normal Training Route. Your route will be based on the date of membership with ISCA.

Route 1:

Transitional Arrangement Route: For members who have joined ISCA before or on 28 September 2023.

Requirements for ISCA members to join CPA Australia
Completion of all requirements: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Completed the Singapore CA Qualification (SCAQ) or ISCA's predecessor Professional Exam and practical work experience requirements2. Hold a qualification recognised by CPA Australia as meeting its degree requirement3. Maintain ISCA CA (Singapore) membership for a minimum of 5 consecutive years <p>The member must provide a Letter of Good Standing.</p>

You may apply to CPA Australia [here](#).

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Route 2:

Normal Training Route: For members who have joined ISCA after 28 September 2023.

Requirements for ISCA members to join CPA Australia
Completion of all requirements: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Completed the SCAQ2. Hold a qualification recognised by CPA Australia as meeting its degree requirement3. Maintain ISCA CA (Singapore) membership for a minimum of 5 consecutive years <p>The member must provide a Letter of Good Standing.</p>

You may apply to CPA Australia [here](#).

2. I am a CA (Singapore), what are the additional requirements to become a CPA Australia member?

If you have completed the SCAQ or the ISCA Professional Examinations and hold an ISCA membership before or on 28 September 2023, you will fall under the Transitional Arrangement Route and need to meet the requirements to be eligible to apply for the CPA Australia membership. Please see FAQ 1 - Route 1.

3. I am a Singapore CA Qualification Candidate, what are the available routes for me to obtain the CPA Australia?

If you are in the midst of completing the SCAQ, you will qualify under the Normal Training Route (See FAQ 1 – Route 2) upon completion of all the eligibility requirements stipulated under Route 2.

4. I became a CA (Singapore) through another reciprocal agreement or special arrangement pathway. Am I eligible to apply as a CPA Australia through the Mutual Recognition Agreement route?

No, CA (Singapore) members will need to have completed the normal education and training route (i.e. complete the SCAQ) to be eligible for the Mutual Recognition Agreement route. Applicants who qualified for CA (Singapore) membership under reciprocal agreements with other professional bodies or special

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arrangement pathways are not eligible to apply as a CPA Australia through the Mutual Recognition Agreement route.

5. I am a former CA (Singapore). Am I eligible to apply to become a CPA Australia through the Mutual Recognition Agreement route?

The agreements are only applicable to CA (Singapore) members with active membership status at the time of application.

6. I am a CA (Singapore) but I did not complete the SCAQ, how can I become a member of CPA Australia?

If you have completed the ISCA Professional Examination (ceased in 2018) and met the other practical experience and requirements under Route 1 (see FAQ 1), you will be eligible.

Except for the above, we do not have other direct pathway for CA (Singapore) members who did not complete the SCAQ.

Alternatively, you can consider taking the SCAQ to avail yourself for the recognition under the reciprocity agreement route. We believe that with the agreements with CA ANZ, CAI, CPA Australia, ICAEW and ICAS, and potentially with other professional bodies in the future, more will be encouraged to pursue the SCAQ to gain greater career mobility and have access to an extended professional network.

To check your eligibility for the CPA Australia MRA, you may contact sg@cpaaustralia.com.au or (65) 3105 1522.

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For CPA Australia members to become CA (Singapore):

7. How do I become a CA (Singapore)?

There are two routes to becoming a CA (Singapore) under the mutual recognition agreement. (1) Transitional Arrangement Route and (2) Normal Training Route. Your route will be based on the date of completion of your CPA Program (education element).

Candidates can apply for membership with ISCA upon successful completion of the requirements. Candidates should submit the completed ISCA membership application form, SCAQ Transcript, all other relevant documents, and make the prescribed fee to ISCA.

Route 1:

Transitional Arrangement Route: For members who have completed the CPA Program (education element) before or on 28 September 2023 (Note: validation is based on your CPA Program's transcript, that you have passed the 6th module in Semester 1, 2023 or before), including:

1. CPA Australia Full Member
2. CPA Australia Associate Member (who has completed all exams but not the practical experience requirement)

Requirements for CPA Australia members to join ISCA	
Qualification requirements	Completion of any 6 modules* under the CPA Program
Other requirements	<p>Completion of all requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Register as a SCAQ candidate and complete the Integrative Business Solutions module (such candidates do not need to work with an Authorised Training Organisation).2. Fulfil 3 years of relevant working experience[#], either:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. working with a Recognised Employer Program Partner; orb. as a full member of CPA Australia. <p><i>* Members, who wish to register as a Public Accountant of Singapore and have not passed the final examination of the CPA Program before 1 January 2019, will need to complete either the CPA Australia's Advanced Audit and Assurance module or the SCAQ's Assurance module on an elective basis.</i></p> <p>The member must provide a Letter of Good Standing[^].</p>

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	<p># The member needs to provide employment testimonials covering at least 3 years of relevant work experience, either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. working with a Recognised Employer Program Partner or b. as a full member of CPA Australia. <p><i>(This should include a testimonial from the applicant's current place of employment, which should not be dated more than 1 month prior to application submission date. Testimonials should be presented on the company's letterhead specifying exact commencement and cessation dates, job title and a description of duties.)</i></p> <p>^ The member has to request for a detailed Letter of Good Standing from CPA Australia and indicate that the Letter should state the date of completion of the CPA Program (education element) for MRA to ISCA.</p>
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Route 2:

Normal Training Route:

For members who have not completed the CPA Program (education element) before or on 28 September 2023, including:

1. Prospective student who has not started the CPA Program
2. CPA Australia Associate Member (who has not completed 6 modules)

Requirements for CPA Australia members to join ISCA	
Qualification requirements	<p>Completion of <u>all</u> requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion of all 4 Core modules, including the Global Strategy and Leadership module*; 2. Completion of the following elective modules^: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Advanced Audit and Assurance; and b. Financial Risk Management. 3. Completion of either one module or condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Australia Taxation; or b. Australia Taxation – Advanced; or c. Singapore Taxation; or d. possess 2 years of relevant local working experience. <p><i>^ You can satisfy the subject requirement, as an alternative by passing the corresponding SCAQ module (Assurance module; Taxation; Business Value, Governance and Risk module).</i></p>
Other requirements	Completion of <u>all</u> requirements:

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Requirements for CPA Australia members to join ISCA	
	<p>1. Register as a SCAQ candidate and complete the Integrative Business Solutions module (such candidates do not need to work with an Authorised Training Organisation).</p> <p>2. Fulfil 3 years of relevant working experience[#], either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. working with a Recognised Employer Program Partner^{^^}; or b. as a full member of CPA Australia. <p><i>^{^^} Working experience gained while taking the CPA Program as an Associate member is recognised.</i></p> <p>The member must provide a Letter of Good Standing^{^^^}.</p> <p>[#] The member needs to provide employment testimonials covering at least 3 years of relevant work experience, either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. working with a Recognised Employer Program Partner or b. as a full member of CPA Australia. <p><i>(This should include a testimonial from the applicant's current place of employment, which should not be dated more than 1 month prior to application submission date. Testimonials should be presented on the company's letterhead specifying exact commencement and cessation dates, job title and a description of duties.)</i></p> <p>^{^^^} The member has to request for a detailed Letter of Good Standing from CPA Australia and indicate that the Letter should state the date of completion of the CPA Program (education element) for MRA to ISCA.</p>

The 4 Core modules and 2 electives under the CPA Program:

Core Modules (4 modules)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics and Governance • Financial Reporting • Strategic Management Accounting • Global Strategy and Leadership
Electives (2 modules)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Audit and Assurance • Contemporary Business Issues • Financial Risk Management • Digital Finance • Australia Taxation • Australia Taxation – Advanced • Singapore Taxation

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For members under Route 1 or 2, you will need to register as a SCAQ candidate through the SCAQ Candidate Portal. Please contact SCAQ@isca.org.sg for questions on the Portal.

8. How do I enrol for the Integrative Business Solutions module after I am registered as a SCAQ candidate?

When you first registered as a SCAQ candidate, you will need to select the Professional Body (as CPA Australia) and submit your CPA Australia Membership Certificate and Transcript to apply for the relevant module exemptions via the Candidate Portal.

Upon successful validation, you will be able to enrol for the relevant module(s) in the Candidate portal. Module exemption fees are waived for applicants under the Mutual Recognition Agreement.

For more information, please refer to the Candidate's Handbook [here](#).

9. I am a CPA Australia Member, what are the additional modules that I will be required to complete in order to fulfil the educational requirements to be an ISCA member?

If you are a CPA Australia Member who have completed 6 modules of the CPA Program (education element) before or on 28 September 2023, you will fall under the Transitional Arrangement Route and need to meet the respective requirements to be eligible to apply for the CA (Singapore) membership. Please see FAQ 7 - Route 1.

10. I am a CPA Australia Member but I did not complete 6 modules under the CPA Program. Will I be required to complete additional modules to be eligible under the MRA?

If you did not complete 6 modules of the CPA Program, you will not be eligible under the Transitional Arrangement Route. To be eligible for membership, you can complete Route 2: Normal Training Route.

Generally, the Mutual Recognition Agreement does not recognise module exemptions awarded in the CPA Program. You can refer to the following table for better understanding:

Number of modules completed	CPA Program (Current format)	CPA Program (2004-09 format)	CPA Program (Before 2004 format)

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	Format: 4 core modules	Format: 3 core modules	Format: 2 core modules or others
6 modules	Transitional Arrangement Route		
5 modules or less	Normal Training Route	Normal Training Route. Write in to SCAQ@isca.org.sg with the subject header "Enquiry on MRA (ISCA-CPA Australia)" to provide your information (including the CPA Program transcript) for further assessment. You will be advised on the modules you will be required to complete.	

11. I am a CPA Australia Associate Member, what are the additional modules that I will be required to complete in order to fulfil the educational requirements to be an ISCA member?

If you are a CPA Australia Associate Member AND have completed all CPA Program exams before or on 28 September 2023, you will qualify under the Transitional Arrangement Route (See FAQ 7 – Route 1).

If you have not completed 6 modules of the CPA Program exams, including the Global Strategy and Leadership module, you will qualify under the Normal Training Route (See FAQ 7 – Route 2).

12. I am a CPA Australia Associate Member and currently taking the CPA Program. I have already completed the CPA Program's electives but have not completed the CPA Program (education element) before or on 28 September 2023. I have not taken Advanced Audit and Assurance and/or Financial Risk Management as my electives. Am I still eligible for the Transitional Arrangement Route?

No. You will need to complete the requirements under the Normal Training Route (See FAQ 7 – Route 2).

13. I became a CPA Australia member through another reciprocal agreement or special arrangement pathway. Am I eligible to apply as a CA (Singapore) through the Mutual Recognition Agreement route?

No, CPA Australia members will need to have completed the normal education and training route (i.e. complete the CPA Program) to be eligible for the Mutual Recognition Agreement route. Applicants who qualified for CPA Australia membership under reciprocal agreements with other professional bodies or special arrangement pathways are not eligible to apply as a CA (Singapore) through the Mutual Recognition Agreement route.

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Alternatively, you may consider the following membership pathways. Click on the respective links to find out more:

- [Associate Pathway](#)
- [Experienced Professional Pathway](#)

Please contact us at membership@isca.org.sg to check your eligibility.

14. I am a former member of CPA Australia. Am I eligible to apply as a CA (Singapore) through the Mutual Recognition Agreement route?

The agreements are only applicable to CPA Australia members with active membership status at the time of application.

15. If I obtain the CA (Singapore) membership under the MRA, can I drop my CPA Australia membership thereafter?

Under the MRA, you will need to hold both memberships. Failure to maintain home membership will result in the termination of the other membership.

16. How should I apply to become a public accountant after joining ISCA as a CA (Singapore) member through the Mutual Recognition Agreement route?

The public accountant (PA) registration is administered by the Accounting and Corporate regulatory Authority ([ACRA](#)). There are certain requirements as prescribed by ACRA, some of which include practical experience, proficiency in local laws and the completion of the [ISCA Public Practice Programme](#). You may [refer](#) here for more information on the requirements.

17. I have satisfied the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements of the home body of the recognition arrangement. Is this equivalent to meeting ISCA's Continuing Professional Education (CPE) requirements?

You will need to fulfil the CPD requirements for CA (Singapore) once your application has been approved. For CA (Singapore), you will need to fulfil 120 CPE hours across a rolling 3-year period, of which 60 hours must be verifiable. A minimum of 20 verifiable hours, including 2 verifiable hours of ethics, must be completed each year (or 6 verifiable hours of ethics over a rolling 3-year period).

Find out more about the CPE requirements [here](#).

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18. I am a CPA Australia member and currently taking the Singapore CA Qualification. I have already enrolled for the December 2023 exams. Can I withdraw from the module and take the Route 1: Transitional Arrangement Route instead?

Yes. You will need to submit a withdrawal request together with your CPA Australia Certificate and Transcript in the Candidate Portal. If you are eligible for the Transitional Arrangement Route, you will be able to enrol for the Integrative Business Solutions module after your credentials are validated.

19. I am a CPA Australia member and currently taking the Singapore CA Qualification. I enrolled for the December 2023 exams but have submitted / would like to submit a withdrawal request because of the MRA. Am I eligible for a refund of the December 2023 Module Examination fees?

You will have to submit a withdrawal request for the December 2023 exams by 28 November 2023 via the Candidate Portal. After the withdrawal request is approved (within 3 working days), a refund will be processed for the December 2023 Module Examination fees paid that are now exempted as a result of the MRA (including candidates who have paid for the Module Examination fees previously, but subsequently deferred the exams until December 2023).

Please take note we will not be able to process the withdrawal request if you have taken the December 2023 exams.

20. I am a CPA Australia member and currently taking the Singapore CA Qualification. Can I request for a refund on the Module Exemption fees paid?

Eligible candidates can request for a refund on Module Exemption fees which were paid from 1 July 2023. Such request is to be made before 29 February 2024 via the Candidate Portal.

Please take note any module exemption fees, paid to the SAC or ACRA before 30 June 2023 are not refundable.

21. I am a CPA Australia member but have not yet fulfil the 3 years of relevant working experience requirement with a Recognised Employer Program Partner or as a full member of CPA Australia. Can I still take the Singapore CA Qualification?

Yes. You can take the SCAQ concurrently while fulfilling the relevant working experience requirement.

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22. I am a CPA Australia member and I have taken Route 1: Transitional Arrangement Route. I also want to take the Singapore CA Qualification Assurance module. Can I take the Assurance and the Integrative Business Solutions module concurrently?

No. You will need to complete the Assurance module and apply module exemption for the other 5 modules (EP1, EP2, FR, TX, and BG) first before you can enrol for the Integrative Business Solutions module.

23. I am a CPA Australia member and I have taken the Route 2: Normal Training Route. To meet the requirements, I will need to take one or two of the Singapore CA Qualification technical modules. Can I take the technical module(s) and the Integrative Business Solutions module concurrently?

No. You will need to be exempted or completed all 6 modules (EP1, EP2, FR, TX, AS and BG) before you can enrol for the Integrative Business Solutions module. However, you can enrol and take more than 1 technical module in a semester.

24. I am a CPA Australia member and I have taken the Route 2: Normal Training Route. I like to apply for module exemption for the Taxation module because I have acquired 2 years of relevant local working experience. What document do I need to submit?

You will need to submit an Employer Testimonial or other relevant documentation in the Candidate Portal, which proof you had worked in Singapore for at least 2 years and in one of the following fields: 1) Financial Reporting; 2) Assurance; 3) Decision support and analysis; 4) Governance and risk; or 5) Taxation.