

FAQs on ICAI SCAQ Module Exemptions

1. What is the collaboration between ISCA and ICAI?

The Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) are deepening their collaboration in the areas of professional qualification recognition and Artificial Intelligence (AI) capability development.

As part of the professional qualification collaboration, ISCA has established a pathway which eligible ICAI members would receive specified exemptions from the Singapore Chartered Accountant Qualification (SCAQ), subject to the eligibility criteria and requirements. ISCA members will receive specified exemptions from the ICAI Chartered Accountancy Course after formal execution of the Module Exemption Agreement between ISCA and ICAI.

2. What SCAQ exemptions are available to eligible ICAI members?

Eligible ICAI members may receive exemptions from all six modules of the SCAQ Foundation Programme:

- Principles of Financial Reporting
- Advanced Financial Reporting
- Accounting for Decision Making
- Assurance
- Financial Management
- Singapore Taxation

The exemptions recognise relevant competencies that eligible ICAI members have already acquired and demonstrated through the ICAI Chartered Accountancy Course.

3. When do the SCAQ exemptions take effect?

The specified SCAQ exemptions for eligible ICAI members take effect from 21 August 2026.

ISCA has completed its assessment and internal approval of these exemptions. The formal execution of the Module Exemption Agreement between ISCA and ICAI remains subject to the necessary approvals in India and completion of the remaining formalities.

4. How did ISCA determine the exemptions?

ISCA reviewed the relevant ICAI qualification content and assessments against the learning outcomes and competencies covered by the corresponding SCAQ Foundation Programme modules.

Exemptions are limited to areas where ISCA has assessed that the required competencies have already been adequately covered and demonstrated.

5. Do eligible ICAI members automatically become CA (Singapore) after receiving the exemptions?

No. The exemptions apply to specified modules under SCAQ Foundation Programme. Eligible ICAI members who wish to attain the CA (Singapore) designation must continue to meet the applicable entry, assessment, practical experience, SCAQ and ISCA membership requirements.

6. How does ISCA safeguard the standards of the CA (Singapore) designation?

The competencies and requirements expected of a CA (Singapore) remain unchanged.

The exemptions recognise specified competencies that eligible ICAI members have already demonstrated through relevant examinations. They do not remove the need for candidates to complete the remaining technical, professional, practical experience and membership requirements.

The integrity and standing of the CA (Singapore) designation remain central to ISCA's assessment of any qualification-recognition arrangement.

7. Do the exemptions affect an individual's eligibility to work in Singapore?

No.

The module exemptions are part of a professional qualification pathway. They do not confer any right to work in Singapore or change Singapore's immigration and employment requirements.

For individuals who attain the CA (Singapore) designation, any application to work in Singapore remains subject to the prevailing immigration and work pass requirements.

8. Does the current exemption pathway apply in both directions?

The exemptions currently implemented by ISCA apply to eligible ICAI members pursuing the SCAQ pathway.

The proposed Module Exemption Agreement is intended to support broader recognition under the respective qualification pathways of both Institutes. Further information on any pathway for eligible ISCA candidates will be provided after the relevant assessments, approvals and implementation arrangements have been completed.

9. How can eligible ICAI members apply for the exemptions?

Eligible ICAI members who wish to pursue the SCAQ should refer to the SCAQ website for the applicable eligibility criteria, application process and requirements.

Applicants may be required to provide relevant documentation to support their eligibility for the exemptions.

10. Where can I find more information?

For information on the Singapore Chartered Accountant Qualification, including entry requirements, programme requirements and application procedures, please refer to the SCAQ website (<https://isca.org.sg/scaq>).

For further enquiries relating to SCAQ, please contact scaq@isca.org.sg.