

# FAQs for ACCA Members

## 1. What is the MRA about? Does it apply to me?

The MRA provides a route for qualified members of either body to become a member of the other body and enjoy the benefits which both designations can offer. This includes providing members with increased international recognition and mobility. The MRA is not applicable to students or ACCA affiliates.

## 2. Does the agreement cover members regardless of where they reside?

The agreement applies to members of both bodies wherever they are located in the world, except for the province of Quebec. ACCA members residing in Canada must apply through the appropriate [CPA provincial body](#) where they reside. ACCA members residing outside of Canada must apply through [CPA British Columbia](#).

## 3. What is the term of the MRA?

ACCA International and CGA Canada negotiated the initial term for five years, commencing January 1, 2007. The term was renewed for another five years in June 2011. Since unification when CGA Canada merged into CPA Canada, ACCA International and CPA Canada are determining the duration of any extension to this agreement. For the time being, CPA provincial bodies will continue to accept and process applications under this agreement.

## 4. What are the benefits of being a CPA, CGA member?

The MRA provides ACCA members with increased recognition in various parts of the world and therefore with increased international mobility.

## 5. How do I apply to become a CPA, CGA member?

- a) Download and complete the initial application form.
  - i. Offshore applicants and those residing in British Columbia can download the form on the [CPA British Columbia website](#).
  - ii. Residents of Canada please download and complete [this form](#).
- b) Contact ACCA and request a Membership Status Letter.
- c) Submit your completed application form along with the Membership Status Letter from ACCA.
  - i. ACCA members who live in Canada must apply through the CGA Association where they reside. To learn more, click [here](#).
  - ii. ACCA members residing outside Canada must apply through CPA British Columbia.
- d) Contact your university to have an official sealed transcript sent directly to the Association (where applicable).
- e) Complete the CPD course, [Overview of Canadian Tax and Law](#), and submit the certificate of completion. If a transfer credit is granted by the CPA provincial body, provide official sealed transcripts from the post-secondary institution. (This may be provided with your initial application form submission.)
- f) Once the above information has been provided and approved by the Association, you will be invited to complete and submit an application for membership. Your application must include payment of the application for membership fee and annual dues. When your application has been approved, you will be notified of your admission to membership and have the right to use the CPA, CGA designation.

**6. What coursework do ACCA members need to complete before they can become eligible for CPA, CGA membership under the terms of the MRA?**

ACCA members must complete the *Overview of Canadian Tax and Law* course offered by CPA Canada. ACCA members may be exempt from this course if they have passed an equivalent course from a recognized tertiary institution in Canada. For information about transfer credits contact the appropriate [CPA provincial body](#).

**7. How do I arrange to take the required Canadian tax and law course?**

Complete the CPD course, [Overview of Canadian Tax and Law](#), and submit the certificate of completion. Transfer credits may be granted if applicants have completed an equivalent course from a Canadian post-secondary institution approved by the Association. For information about transfer credits contact the appropriate [CPA provincial body](#).

**8. How much will Overview of Canadian Tax and Law course cost?**

The cost of the course is \$595 Canadian dollars (+ applicable taxes). Payable by Mastercard or Visa only.

**9. I do not have a university degree and I qualified as an ACCA member after July 31, 1998. What do I need to do to become a CPA, CGA?**

ACCA members who gained membership to ACCA after July 31, 1998 are required to hold a university degree recognized by the CPA profession.

**10. I plan to immigrate to Canada as an ACCA member and obtain my CPA, CGA next year. Can I apply before coming to Canada?**

Yes. ACCA members applying from outside of Canada can apply directly through [CPA British Columbia](#).

**11. How long will it take for my application to become a CPA, CGA to be processed?**

Once the required documents are received by the provincial CPA body it will take one to three months to process an application to become a CPA, CGA under this MRA.

**12. If I am already a CPA, CGA member, do I have to do anything?**

No. Individuals who are both an ACCA member and a CPA, CGA only need to ensure each designation's requirements are maintained to remain a certified member of both bodies.

**13. If I apply for membership with a provincial CPA body under this MRA do I have to keep my ACCA membership?**

Yes. Members of both bodies are required to keep their membership if they are accepted as a member of the other body under this MRA.

**14. What are the application fees to become a CPA, CGA under the MRA?**

The membership application fee is \$300 Canadian dollars. This fee may vary by province.

**15. What are the annual fees?**

Annual membership dues vary by province, but average \$800 Canadian each year. For Offshore membership fees, please refer to [CPA British Columbia's fee schedule](#).

**16. What do I need to do to maintain my membership with a provincial CPA body?**

To maintain your membership you will be required to pay annual membership dues and meet the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements for both ACCA and the CPA profession. Members in public practice will also be required to meet the annual public practice registration requirements.

**17. What are the CPA mandatory CPD requirements?**

They are the same as ACCA. Both ACCA and CPA have adopted the International Federation of Accountants' (IFAC) CPD standards. Members will be required to report CPD activities annually to both CPA and ACCA.

**18. If I complete my professional developments requirements through the routes offered under the ACCA's *Realise* Continuing Professional Development program will this count toward my CPD requirements as a CPA, CGA member?**

Yes. Completion of ACCA's *Realise* Continuing Professional Development program requirements will satisfy the CPD requirements set by CPA Canada.

**19. I have a practicing certificate with ACCA enabling me to conduct audits in the UK. Can I transfer this to an audit status equivalent with CPA in a province where CPA, CGA has statutory rights to audit?**

No. Members must meet the residency requirements and the public practice entry requirements of the association. Contact the [CPA provincial body](#) of residency for more information.

**20. If I obtain my CPA, CGA designation in one province will it be recognized in another?**

Yes. CPA, CGA members enjoy full mobility within Canada. Professions in Canada are regulated at the provincial level. This means CPA, CGAs moving from one province to another are required to transfer their membership to the province/region of residence and may be required to complete additional courses or exams. Please contact the [CPA provincial body](#) where you reside for more information.

**21. If I obtain my CPA, CGA designation in Canada, can I use this when I go to work in Hong Kong/Bermuda/China, etc.?**

Yes. The CPA, CGA designation obtained in Canada is recognized abroad.

**22. Does the MRA confer public practicing rights in countries where CPA, CGA members are eligible to obtain public practicing rights from another body?**

No. Members wishing to obtain public practicing rights from a particular country will need to meet additional requirements specified by the regulatory authority in that country.

**23. I am an ACCA student and have not completed my practical experience to become a full member. Can I qualify under the MRA?**

Only full members of ACCA can qualify to become a CPA, CGA under the MRA.