

**Body:** Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

**Recognition:** Mutual Recognition Agreement (May 2000 to 30 June 2005)  
Agreement for Recognition Arrangements (ARA)  
(1 July 2005 to 30 June 2010)

**Status as of 22 August 2006:** New ARA signed

**Deadline for Hong Kong Institute of CPAs Membership application:** Nil

- ACCA has completed the Institute's review process. Both bodies signed a new ARA on 22 August 2006. ([Press release](#))
- New agreement for recognition arrangements (ARA) takes effect from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2010.
- Old mutual recognition agreement (MRA) with ACCA ended on 30 June 2005. Transitional arrangements are in place.

### **Under New ARA**

ACCA members applying for the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs membership must meet the following eight criteria:

1. You hold a university degree accredited or recognised by the Institute;
2. You have passed the 14-paper ACCA professional examination in Hong Kong or the U.K. including:
  - i Paper 2.2 (HKG) – Corporate and Business Law (Hong Kong);
  - ii Paper 2.3 (HKG) – Business Taxation (Hong Kong);
  - iii Paper 3.1 – Audit and Assurance Services; and
  - iv Paper 3.2 (HKG) – Advanced Taxation (Hong Kong);
3. You have completed and passed the workshops of any one of the four modules of the Institute's CPA Qualification Programme (QP);
4. You have passed the Final Examination (FE) of the Institute's QP;
5. You have passed the Institute's aptitude tests on Hong Kong law and taxation or the ACCA Hong Kong law and taxation variant papers mentioned above;
6. You have at least three years of practical experience in accountancy which has been gained under an Institute-authorized employer or supervisor;
7. You are an ACCA member in good standing and were registered as an ACCA student in Hong Kong or the U.K. on or after 16 August 2004; and
8. You must fulfill the standard membership application requirements of the Institute i.e. verification of good character (e.g. be fit and proper, and not subject to any adverse disciplinary findings or pending complaints or investigations).

## **Under the Transitional Arrangements of the Old MRA**

### **ACCA Members**

1. ACCA members in good standing who were registered as students of ACCA on or before 15 August 2004 and completed their ACCA examinations before the extended deadlines shown for students below can apply for the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs membership under the transitional arrangements of the old MRA.
2. You are exempted from the aptitude test.
3. For practical experience gained on or after 1 July 2005, your experience must be acquired under an Institute-authorized employer or supervisor.

### **ACCA Students registered on or before 15 August 2004**

The Hong Kong Institute of CPAs will continue to accept membership applications from students of ACCA if they were registered with ACCA on or before 15 August 2004 and pass all ACCA examinations held on or before:

Accounting graduates – 30 June 2007

Non-accounting graduates – 30 June 2008

Non-degree holders – 30 June 2009

If you are registered as a student with ACCA after 15 August 2004 or otherwise fail to complete the ACCA examinations by the above deadline, you must fulfill specified conditions in order to qualify for membership in the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs under the new ARA signed on 22 August 2006.

#### *Additional steps:*

1. You must become an ACCA member before you can be eligible for exemption from the examination requirement for the Institute's membership admission.
2. For practical experience gained on or after 1 July 2005, your experience must be acquired under an Institute-authorized employer or supervisor.
3. No aptitude test is required.
4. ACCA students who cannot meet the deadlines can join a bridging programme to the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs QP.
5. The bridging programme is also available to ACCA students who want to join the CPA QP. They may qualify for some exemptions.

## **ACCA / HKSA JES Students**

If you completed the Joint Examination Scheme (JES) on or before the date it was terminated in 2001, you can apply for membership any time:

1. You do not need to become ACCA members to apply for the Institute membership.
2. You do not need to take the aptitude test.
3. For practical experience gained on or after 1 January 2005, it must be acquired under an employer or supervisor authorised by the Institute. I

If you did not complete the JES and were on the JES register as of 31 December 2001, you can apply for membership any time:

1. If you have completed the ACCA examination on or before 31 December 2004, you can apply for membership in the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs without becoming an ACCA member.
2. You do not need to take the aptitude test.
3. For practical experience gained on or after 1 January 2005, it must be acquired under an Institute-authorized employer or supervisor.

Updated 1 August 2007