

Chartered Accountant (CA)

Accounting in New Brunswick

In New Brunswick, accounting has three accounting designations, each with its specific education, examination and experience requirements: Certified Management Accountant (CMA); Chartered Accountant (CA); and Certified General Accountant (CGA). Review the requirements for each designation to determine which will be the best match for your qualifications.

The laws of all provinces prohibit the use of foreign CA designations in Canada. Once you are a Canadian CA, however, your designation is fully portable across Canada by applying for membership in the provincial institute in which you wish recognition.

How do I get my credentials recognized?

If you wish to practice as a Chartered Accountant in New Brunswick, you must contact NBICA at www.nbica.org.

Before you immigrate to Canada

Please contact the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario or the Ordre des Comptables Agréés du Québec for an assessment of your qualifications before you arrive in Canada. Your education and training can be assessed before you immigrate, and you will be told what additional requirements you will need to complete.

Foreign qualification recognition is the process of verifying that the knowledge, skills, work experience and education obtained in another country are comparable to the standards established for Canadian professionals and tradespersons.

Assessment information

Once you decide that you are interested in pursuing the CA designation in New Brunswick, you must send documents of your qualifications and work experience to NBICA for an assessment. After the assessment, NBICA will advise you on what requirements you would need to meet to obtain the CA designation.

The New Brunswick Institute of Chartered Accountants (NBICA) is the self-governing body of chartered accountants and CA students in New Brunswick. Its primary mandate is to serve and protect the public interest, and advance the interests of the chartered accountancy profession within New Brunswick and throughout Canada. The Chartered Accountants' Act (1998) grants the NBICA the authority to govern the professional activities of its members and students.

Please see the section below to determine your status within NBICA. You will be eligible to register in one of three general categories depending on which accounting body you are associated with through current membership. Your category of registration determines what requirements you will need to fulfil to earn the CA designation in New Brunswick.

Your category of registration depends on whether the accounting body in which you are a current member has been assessed as "designated" or "non-designated" by the Canadian Chartered Accountants' International Qualifications Appraisal Board (IQAB). Findings of IQAB are based on a review of the qualification program of the accounting body.

Members of "designated" accounting bodies institutes of CAs of:

Australia, England and Wales, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa, the Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Ordre des experts comptables et des comptables agréés, France, Institute des Reviseurs d'Enterprises de Belgique, Instituto Mexicano de Contadores Públicos, and the Netherlands Institute of Register Accountants.

Any state board of accountancy in the United States that exempts NBICA CAs from the requirement to pass the uniform American Institute of Chartered Public Accountants (AICPA) final examinations.

Currently, NBICA has no reciprocity arrangement with any American CPA state society.

You must have passed the final examination of your accounting body and completed at least two years (24 months) of acceptable public or other accounting experience. If you meet these requirements, you will be exempt from the education and examination requirements for the CA qualification program in New Brunswick. You will only be required to take and successfully complete the CA Reciprocity Examination (CARE).

You must have a total of 30 months of public accounting experience assessed by NBICA as being equivalent to experience acquired in CA offices in New Brunswick. The 24 months of experience noted above can count toward this total if it was public accounting experience. In total, the 30 months of required public accounting experience may be completed in the country of your accounting body or in another country.

If you have 30 months of public accounting experience that is acceptable to NBICA, you will not be required to complete public accounting experience in New Brunswick. If you do not have 30 months of public accounting experience acceptable to NBICA, you will be required to work in an office in New Brunswick for a specified amount of time to satisfy this requirement. The office must be approved by NBICA for training CA students.

Members of “non-designated” accounting bodies are:

The Institutes of Chartered Accountants of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, the Australian

Society of Certified Practising Accountants, the Hong Kong Society of Accountants, the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (United Kingdom, ACCA), the New Zealand Society of Accountants and United States state boards of accountancy that require Canadian CAs to write the uniform examination as a condition of membership or certificate holders who do not meet institute requirements for reciprocity.

IQAB has determined that programs offered by non-designated accounting bodies are not equivalent to the program offered by NBICA. If you are associated with a non-designated accounting body you are required to complete:

- the Atlantic School of Chartered Accountancy (ASCA) (www.asca.ns.ca) program, including all examinations;

All Canadian CAs must have at least three years of appropriately supervised and progressively responsible professional accounting experience. To prove that your work experience meets the required breadth and depth of competency development, you will need to provide a completed experience certification form.

You may be required to work in an approved CA training office for a specified amount of time to obtain the required work experience. In that case, it is your responsibility to find an appropriate position.

In addition to an undergraduate university degree with specific required credits, all provincial institutes require completion of a graduate-level professional education program.

- the NBICA provincial law course;
- the uniform evaluation (UFE); and,
- 30 months of prescribed public accounting experience in an office in New Brunswick approved by NBICA for training CA students.

Members of non-assessed accounting bodies

Accounting bodies not listed under members of designated accounting bodies and members of non-designated accounting bodies above have not been assessed by IQAB. If your accounting body is not mentioned in either of these, you come under the category of members of non-assessed accounting bodies.

If you belong to a non-assessed accounting body, you are not automatically eligible for exemptions from any education or examination requirement of the CA program. You may, however, ask for an individual assessment of your qualifications and those of your accounting body to determine if the Institute will grant you any education or examination exemptions in New Brunswick. If exemptions are not granted, you will be required to complete all the requirements of the ASCA program to qualify for membership in NBICA (visit www.asca.ns.ca for more information).

All individuals associated with non-assessed accounting bodies would register as students, regardless of any exemptions granted.

Not a member of an accounting body

If you are not a member of any accounting body but have a university degree in accounting, business or commerce, the ASCA will assess the courses you completed as part of your degree program to decide if you can be exempt from certain education requirements. Please visit the ASCA website for more information.

CA Reciprocity Examination (CARE)

If you are a current member of a designated accounting body, you will need to pass CARE.

CARE is the exam that provincial and territorial CA institutes use to measure the professional competence, in a Canadian context, of members of accounting bodies outside Canada who have been assessed by IQAB and determined as having the education, examination and experience requirements substantially equivalent to the Canadian CA qualification program. CARE examines candidates on their knowledge of Canadian accounting and assurance standards, the rules of professional conduct, Canadian taxation and Canadian business law.

Finding a job in New Brunswick

You should take time to research job requirements and develop a plan for finding work. You can ask for help. There are many resources available to you that you can access before you come to New Brunswick and after you are here.

There are many resources available to help you find employment in New Brunswick, including immigrant-serving agencies and job banks. Visit www.gnb.ca/immigration.

Additional resources

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario www.icao.on.ca

Ordre des comptables agréés du Québec www.ocaq.qc.ca

Chartered Accountants of Canada www.cica.ca

Citizenship and Immigration Canada www.cic.gc.ca

Service Canada www.servicecanada.gc.ca

Foreign Credentials Referral Office www.credentials.gc.ca

Service New Brunswick www.snb.ca

NB Jobs www.nbjobs.ca

New Brunswick Immigration Portal www.gnb.ca/immigration

Working in New Brunswick Tool www.gnb.ca/immigration

Government of Canada Job Bank www.jobbank.gc.ca

Before you arrive

While you are waiting to come to New Brunswick, there are many important things you can do to improve your chances of success.

The Foreign Credentials Referral Office (www.credentials.gc.ca) is an organization of the Government of Canada that provides helpful resources. The Government of New Brunswick also has specially designed tools to help you make Canada your home. Please visit www.gnb.ca/immigration. Use these resources to find important information and to develop your job search plan.

You might need to prove – or be tested on – your language skills in English or French. You can find information at www.language.ca. If you need to improve your language skills, start before you come to Canada.

You will require identity documents, official university education transcripts, and professional accounting program and professional accounting work experience documents.

It is much easier for you to gather and organize these documents while still in your home country. You may need to arrange for official copies of your certified university transcripts, professional accounting work certificate and references, and a letter confirming your registration or membership in good standing from your professional accounting body.