

## Certified Management Accountant (CMA)

### 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.

It is possible to work in the field of accounting without a designation, but a designation can bring career advantages. Also, some employers and certain types of accounting work require one. Before working as a CMA in New Brunswick, you must complete the foreign qualification recognition process and provide all the necessary documentation.

CMAs provide a balance of three essential business disciplines: accounting, management and strategy. Working in organizations of all sizes and types, CMAs have unique skills in cost management; strategic performance measurement; process management; risk management and assurance services; and stakeholder reporting. CMAs also have the ability to connect strategy with operations and anticipate customer and supplier needs.

**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.**

### How do I get my credentials recognized?

Certified Management Accountants of Canada (CMA Canada) actively works on issues of recognition and mobility. Mutual recognition agreements exist for the following foreign designations: Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), both in the United Kingdom, and CPA Australia.

Professional advanced standing opportunities are available for the following foreign designations: American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA); Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA); and the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMAP).

**The Certified Management Accountants of New Brunswick (CMA New Brunswick) is the regulating and licensing body for all CMAs in the province.**

Candidates who have completed the applicable qualification process for these accounting bodies and who have a university degree will be granted an exemption from the CMA Canada entrance examination, but they will be required to complete the Strategic Leadership Program™ to obtain their CMA designation.

Candidates are also required to have completed, prior to admission, an approved university level course in Canadian taxation and Canadian law.

### Advanced standing

Foreign-accredited professionals with university degrees and other foreign university degree holders may be eligible for advanced standing in individual CMA prerequisite study topics based on the specific courses they have successfully completed. Advanced standing candidates must successfully complete the CMA Strategic Leadership Program.

The first step is to have your university degree and foreign accounting designation evaluated by the Certified Management Accountants of New Brunswick (CMA New Brunswick) ([www.cmanb.com](http://www.cmanb.com)). Be sure to clarify

which documents are required and how you should arrange for them to be sent to CMA New Brunswick. In many cases, you will be required to have your university send official transcripts and course descriptions directly on your behalf, along with certified translations. Courses in specific topics in management and accounting that are considered equivalent to those taken by students in New Brunswick will be required. You will be advised of any credits for past education or training that will be deemed equivalent and will be given instructions on meeting the remaining requirements before being admitted to the CMA national entrance examination.

**A candidate can only take the CMA exam three times. Please be sure that you have prepared to the best of your abilities before taking it.**

## Work experience and Strategic Leadership Program

Each provincial or territorial regulator, including CMA New Brunswick, requires you to obtain relevant work experience in accounting. In most cases, this will take two years. Candidates are required to obtain 24 months of relevant work experience, 12 months of which must be obtained during the Strategic Leadership Program. Up to 12 months of previous work experience may qualify for this requirement. You are also required to participate in the Strategic Leadership Program while gaining your work experience.

The program consists of seminars and assignments on strategic management and strategic accounting, and it also takes approximately two years to complete. During this period, you will study with other candidates while completing your assignments. You will also be required to complete two major components of the program: the CMA Case Examination – a four-hour comprehensive examination – and the CMA Board Report, a complex business case that you and your fellow students complete together over four months.

**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](http://www.gnb.ca/immigration).**

## CMA entrance examination

The entrance examination is a comprehensive test of accounting knowledge gained through university studies. The test focuses on management accounting, corporate finance, financial accounting and taxation, and international reporting standards. A smaller portion of the examination (approximately 15 per cent) will be devoted to the remaining CMA competencies. The entrance examination is held twice a year, in mid-June and mid-October. It is four hours long and comprises 100 to 120 multiple-choice questions. The examination is available in English and French. A mark of 60 per cent must be obtained to be eligible to enter the Strategic Leadership Program. Be sure to investigate the examination preparation materials, including sample tests that may be available from the CMA New Brunswick website, [www.cmanb.com](http://www.cmanb.com).

## Finding a job in New Brunswick

The CMA New Brunswick recruitment site, [www.cmanb.com](http://www.cmanb.com), is designed to help employers solve staffing needs and help members seeking new career opportunities. This site enables you to apply for jobs and make your resumé available to prospective employers.

## Additional resources

New Brunswick Immigration Portal  
[www.gnb.ca/immigration](http://www.gnb.ca/immigration)

Certified General Accountants Association of Canada  
[www.cga.org/canada](http://www.cga.org/canada)

Chartered Accountants of Canada  
[www.cica.ca](http://www.cica.ca)

Citizenship and Immigration Canada  
[www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)

Foreign Credentials Referral Office  
[www.credentials.gc.ca](http://www.credentials.gc.ca)

Service New Brunswick  
[www.snb.ca](http://www.snb.ca)

NB Jobs [www.nbjobs.ca](http://www.nbjobs.ca)

Working in New Brunswick Tool  
[www.gnb.ca/immigration](http://www.gnb.ca/immigration)

Government of Canada Job Bank  
[www.jobbank.gc.ca](http://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](http://www.credentials.gc.ca)) is an organization of the Government of Canada that provides helpful resources. The Government of New Brunswick has specially designed tools to help you make Canada your home. Please visit [www.gnb.ca/immigration](http://www.gnb.ca/immigration).

Use these resources to find important information and to develop your job search plan.

Also, while you are preparing to move to New Brunswick, you can contact CMA New Brunswick to inquire about the documents that you will be required to complete for the accreditation process and make sure that you have collected all documentation before moving to Canada.

New Brunswick is a bilingual province. To complete the foreign qualification recognition process successfully and to secure employment, you need to have an intermediate/high level of English and/or French.

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