

## The CPA Qualification

A Certified Public Accountant (CPA) is a fully qualified accountant with a strategic mindset who fosters an innovative approach to enhanced business performance. A qualified CPA is a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Ireland.

To gain admission to Membership of the Institute, applicants must :

- ✓ Sit & pass all examinations.
- ✓ Demonstrate Practical Competence in IT.
- ✓ Obtain 3 years relevant supervised training.
- ✓ Demonstrate an in depth level of competence in two of the technical six areas of competence.
- ✓ Demonstrate all of the behavioural attributes.
- ✓ Be of good character - Character reference.

### 1. What is the Examinations Process?

Examinations are held twice yearly, at the end of April and end of August.

There are 4 stages of examinations:

- Formation 1
- Formation 2
- Professional 1
- Professional 2.

<p><b>Formation 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Maths &amp;QM</li> <li>• Economics &amp; the Business Environment</li> <li>• Business Laws</li> </ul>	<p><b>Formation 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Accounting</li> <li>• Taxation</li> <li>• Information Systems</li> <li>• Management Accounting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Professional 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Reporting</li> <li>• Auditing</li> <li>• Corporate Laws &amp; Governance</li> <li>• Managerial Finance</li> </ul>	<p><b>Professional 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy, Leadership &amp; Knowledge Management (M)</li> <li>• Audit Practice &amp; Assurance Services</li> <li>• Advanced Corporate Reporting (M)</li> <li>• Strategic Corporate Finance</li> <li>• Strategic Performance Management</li> <li>• Advanced Taxation</li> </ul> <p>(M) Denotes mandatory subject at Professional 2</p>

- **Formation 1, Formation 2 and Professional 1:**

At each examination stage students are required to sit all papers, for that stage, in one sitting (except where exemptions(s) granted).

- **Professional 2 Stage:**

May be taken on a modular basis and sat in any order. Students have 4 consecutive sittings within 2-years to successfully sit and complete Professional 2 stage.

**Mandatory and Elective Subjects**

Students at Professional 2 stage must sit and pass 2 mandatory subjects and any 2 from 4 elective subjects. These are:

- **Mandatory Subjects**

- Strategy & Leadership
- Advanced Corporate Reporting

- **Elective Subjects:**

- Audit Practice & Assurance Services
- Advanced Taxation
- Strategic Corporate Finance
- Strategic Performance Management

**2. What are the training and competence development requirements?**

Trainees must obtain 3 years relevant supervised training prior to being eligible to apply for membership. It must be progressive, supervised and entail structured feedback. [A Training Record for CPA Students](#) must be submitted to the Institute on an annual basis.

Students are also required to submit a [Competency Guide and Return](#) in which they describe how they have demonstrated the relevant technical competencies, professional values, ethics and attitudes required for admission to membership. These are outlined in the [Competence Profile for Newly Qualified CPA's](#) and [Guide to In-Depth Competency Fields](#).

**3. How to provide proof of practical IT competence?**

Evidence of trainee' practical competence in IT is a prerequisite for admission to membership. Trainees may meet this requirement by either sending in your ECDL certificate or submitting a [Certificate of Practical IT Competence](#) signed by the mentor.

### Key Dates for 2009/2010

<b>January</b>	Examination Entry Forms issued to all Students. 31 <sup>st</sup> January – Training Record & Competency Guide & Return due
<b>March</b>	1st March - Closing date for April Examination Entry Forms.
<b>April</b>	Examinations commence final week of April*
<b>June</b>	Mid June - April 2010 Examination Results Issued to all Students.* End of June - Examination Entry Forms issued to all Students.*
<b>August</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> August - Closing date for August Examination Entry Forms. August - Examinations commence final week of August*
<b>December</b>	1st December - Closing date for student registrations (if sitting following April examinations) December - CPA Conferring Ceremony*

- Date(s) confirmed annually and published on the CPA website [www.cpaireland.ie](http://www.cpaireland.ie)