



Think Ahead

Audit Qualification Experience Requirement (AQER)

ACCA may award the audit qualification (AQ) in the following territories:

- United Kingdom
- Republic of Ireland
- Jersey, Guernsey and Dependencies and the Isle of Man
- Zimbabwe
- South Africa.

Appendix 1 contains details of the training requirements for an audit qualification for the United Kingdom.

Appendix 2 contains details of the training requirements for an audit qualification for the Republic of Ireland.

Appendix 3 contains details of the training requirements for an audit qualification for Jersey, Guernsey and Dependencies and the Isle of Man.

Appendix 4 contains details of the training requirements for an audit qualification for the United Kingdom under the Special Entrant route.

Appendix 5 contains details of the training requirements for an audit qualification for Zimbabwe.

Appendix 6 contains details of the training requirements for an audit qualification for South Africa.

Separate application forms are available for each territory.

Appendix 1: Recognised Professional Qualification Experience requirement (United Kingdom)

To obtain ACCA's recognised professional qualification (ie the UK audit qualification), which is an appropriate qualification in accordance with section 1219 of the Companies Act 2006 of the United Kingdom, members must have completed three years' (ie 132 weeks based on 44 weeks per annum) practical training in an ACCA approved employer, achieved all the units of competence in the table below and comply with the remaining requirements set out in the [Rulebook Global Practising Regulations](#), Annex 1, Appendix 1 (6).

The training in an ACCA approved employer must be recorded in the Audit Qualification Experience Form (AQEF).

The recognised professional qualification experience requirement is set out below:

At least 44 weeks of the training must be in audit work. This should include:

- (a) at least 22 weeks specifically in statutory audit, as defined in Section 1210 of the Companies Act 2006 or in relation to Limited Liability Partnerships or Qualified Limited Partnerships prepared in accordance with UK International Accounting Standards and as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, and
- (b) a further 22 weeks which is either:
 - (i) audit work of companies established under the Companies Acts, or
 - (ii) audit work in respect of either:
 - (aa) organisations whose financial reporting requirements are laid down in statutes other than the Companies Acts, for example:
 - nationalised industries;
 - local councils, health authorities and self-governing trusts (excluding value for money audits and parish accounts);
 - housing associations;
 - trade unions;
 - industrial and provident societies; or
 - (bb) other entities where the provisions of the Auditing Standards issued by the UK competent authority or the International Standards on Auditing issued by the International Auditing

and Assurance Standards Board apply and where an opinion or certificate is placed on accounts stating that they give a true and fair view of the financial position of the entity or that they present fairly the financial position of the entity. The turnover of the entity must exceed the VAT threshold ruling at the date to which the accounts are made up. Examples of non-statutory audits include:

- partnerships or sole traders whose external reporting obligations are governed by legislation or regulatory bodies;
- professional bodies (eg ACCA);
- unincorporated charities;
- UK branches of overseas corporations;
- private partnerships and sole traders (subject to partnership agreements or bankers'/other third party demands).

The Financial Reporting Council has stated that statutory audit work undertaken in certain territories is equivalent to statutory audit work undertaken in the UK and can therefore count towards the award of a UK audit qualification. This applies to the following territories and from the following dates:

Territory	Experience achieved from
Ireland	1989
Germany	2001
Cyprus, Netherlands and Luxembourg	7 May 2010
Jersey, Guernsey and Dependencies, and Isle of Man	4 April 2011 on market-traded companies
United States	16 January 2024
Switzerland*	22 October 2024

Applicants in these territories must also meet all the other requirements outlined above to be eligible for a UK audit qualification.

* Only experience gained in ordinary audit as defined by Swiss law can count as UK statutory audit work.

Audit
AU1 Identify ethical, legal and engagement requirements on an audit
AU2 Determine the level of audit risk
AU3 Evaluate the risk within an organisation's internal control structure
AU4 Coordinate the delivery of audit evidence
AU5 Evaluate evidence collected for an audit
AU6 Make judgements about the truth and fairness of an organisation's financial statements
AU7 Review the performance of an audit
AU8 Advise of the findings and implications of an audit
AU9 Prepare a formal audit report

Appendix 2: Recognised Professional Qualification Experience requirement (Republic of Ireland)

To obtain ACCA's recognised professional qualification (ie the Irish audit qualification), members must have completed three years' (ie 132 weeks based on 44 weeks per annum) practical training in an ACCA approved employer, achieved all the units of competence in the table below and comply with the remaining requirements set out in the [Rulebook Global Practising Regulations](#), Annex 2, Appendix 1 (6).

The training in an ACCA approved employer must be recorded in the Audit Qualification Experience Form (AQEF).

The Recognised professional qualification experience requirement is set out below:

At least 44 weeks of the three years' practical training must be in statutory audit work and in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 of the Republic of Ireland. Please note that statutory audit work can include statutory audit work undertaken in other European Union member states.

Statutory audit work is defined as 'an audit of entity financial statements or group financial statements in so far as:

- (a) Required by European Union Law,
or
- (c) Required by national law as regards small companies.

Audit
AU1 Identify ethical, legal and engagement requirements on an audit
AU2 Determine the level of audit risk
AU3 Evaluate the risk within an organisation's internal control structure
AU4 Coordinate the delivery of audit evidence
AU5 Evaluate evidence collected for an audit
AU6 Make judgements about the truth and fairness of an organisation's financial statements
AU7 Review the performance of an audit
AU8 Advise of the findings and implications of an audit
AU9 Prepare a formal audit report

Appendix 3: Qualification requirements for an audit qualification (Jersey, Guernsey and Dependencies and Isle of Man)

To obtain the audit qualification for Jersey, Guernsey and Dependencies or Isle of Man, members must comply with either the training requirements set out in Appendix 2 of the AQER (ie the training requirements for the UK audit qualification) or the training requirements set out below:

The training in an ACCA approved employer must be recorded in the Audit Qualification Experience Form (AQEF).

Members must have completed three years' (ie 132 weeks based on 44 weeks per annum) practical training in an ACCA approved employer and achieved all the units of competence in the table below.

At least 44 weeks of the training must be in audit work. This should include:

- (a) at least 22 weeks specifically in statutory audit, and
- (b) a further 22 weeks which is either:
 - (i) audit work of companies established under the Companies Acts, or
 - (ii) audit work in respect of either:
 - (aa) organisations whose financial reporting requirements are laid down in statutes other than the Companies Acts (or equivalent provisions of the laws of the country to which the qualification is to relate), for example:
 - nationalised industries;
 - local councils, health authorities and self-governing trusts (excluding value for money audits and parish accounts);
 - housing associations;
 - trade unions;
 - industrial and provident societies, or
 - (bb) other entities where the provisions of the Auditing Standards issued by the UK competent authority or the International Standards on Auditing issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board apply and where an opinion or certificate is placed on accounts stating that they give a true and fair view of the financial position of the entity or that they present fairly the financial position of the entity. The turnover of the entity must exceed the VAT threshold ruling at the date to which the accounts are made up.

Examples of non-statutory audits include:

- partnerships or sole traders whose external reporting obligations are governed by legislation or regulatory bodies;
- professional bodies (eg ACCA);
- charities;
- UK branches of overseas corporations;
- private partnerships and sole traders (subject to partnership agreements or bankers'/other third party demands).

The 22 weeks specifically in statutory audit referred to in (a) above includes:

- audit work of companies established under the Companies Acts; and/or
- audit work of market and non-market traded companies established under equivalent provisions of the laws of Jersey, Guernsey and Dependencies and the Isle of Man.

The further 22 weeks of audit work referred to in (b) above includes:

- audit work of companies established under the Companies Acts; and/or
- audit work of market and non-market traded companies established under equivalent provisions of the laws of Jersey, Guernsey and Dependencies and the Isle of Man; and/or
- audit work specified in (aa) and (bb) above, including equivalent entities established in Jersey, Guernsey and Dependencies and the Isle of Man whose financial reporting requirements are laid down in statutes other than the Companies Acts.

The training must be supervised by:

- a fully qualified statutory auditor under the Companies Act 2006 of the United Kingdom; or
- any other person having in the opinion of Council adequate qualifications and experience and who is a fully qualified statutory auditor under paragraph 9(4) of Schedule 11 to the Companies Act 2006 of the United Kingdom; or
- a member holding a practising certificate and an audit qualification for Jersey, Guernsey and Dependencies and/or the Isle of Man from ACCA.

Audit
AU1 Identify ethical, legal and engagement requirements on an audit
AU2 Determine the level of audit risk
AU3 Evaluate the risk within an organisation's internal control structure
AU4 Coordinate the delivery of audit evidence
AU5 Evaluate evidence collected for an audit
AU6 Make judgements about the truth and fairness of an organisation's financial statements
AU7 Review the performance of an audit
AU8 Advise of the findings and implications of an audit
AU9 Prepare a formal audit report

Appendix 4: Special Entrant route (United Kingdom only)

In order to become an AQ holder a Special Entrant will need to be eligible to be granted membership of, and a UK Practising Certificate by, ACCA. Non-ACCA member applicants will need to be a member of a body recognised for direct ACCA membership in accordance with [ACCA's Member Regulation \(3\)](#).

The Special Entrant route relates to members and non-members at a senior level who are registered to audit accounts under the law of a third country and who wish to obtain ACCA's recognised professional qualification (ie the UK audit qualification) and who either:

- hold a non-UK audit qualification which is not an appropriate qualification and are not yet working in the UK or have less than 24 months UK audit work experience as at the date of their application to ACCA; or
- hold a non-UK audit qualification which is not an appropriate qualification and have already completed over 24 months UK audit work experience as at the date of their application to ACCA.

'Appropriate qualification' means a qualification issued by a Recognised Qualifying Body (RQB) or covered by a Mutual Recognition Agreement between the UK's Financial Reporting Council (FRC) and another competent audit authority.

The eligibility criteria are set out below:

- All applicants must hold a professional accountancy qualification (for at least two years) granted by an accountancy professional body that is a member organisation of IFAC;
- All applicants must have met any other requirements to enable them to audit accounts under the law of their home third country;

- All applicants must have been registered, or have been eligible to be registered, as a statutory auditor in that home third country;
- All qualifications must have been obtained by examination. A member or non-member may be required to take the UK variant exams required for a UK audit qualification (AQ);
- All applicants must have significant previous audit experience of at least five years;
- All applicants must have held a senior level (typically this would be senior manager and above) position for at least two years at date of application. This must include their current employer, and if necessary, can include time at a previous employer if they have less than two years at their current employer;
- All applicants must be able to show that their current employer intends to support an application by them to hold an AQ in the UK if their Special Entrant application is successful;
- Applicants must also obtain three years' training in a UK-registered audit firm that is an ACCA Approved Employer. However, for Special Entrant cases a reduction in that period may be considered where the applicant has either:
 - no UK audit experience or less than 24 months audit experience within a training employer approved by ACCA; or
 - at least 24 months UK audit work experience within an ACCA approved employer – practising certificate development (audit).
- The training in an ACCA approved employer must be recorded in the Audit Qualification Experience Form (AQEF).

Appendix 5: Qualification requirements for an audit qualification (Zimbabwe)

To obtain the audit qualification for Zimbabwe members must have completed three years' practical training in an ACCA approved employer (or five years in the case of applicants who are not holders of a university degree), successfully completed the Audit Development Programme and comply with the remaining requirements set out in the [Rulebook Global Practising Regulations](#), Annex 3, Appendix 1.

The training must be undertaken in accordance with the Audit Development Programme and consist of experience in all of the following:

- (a) Audit;
- (b) Corporate reporting and financial management; and
- (c) Taxation.

Applicants must:

- (a) be proficient in all the performance objectives for audit and assurance as described in ACCA's Practical Experience Requirement; and
- (b) endeavour to achieve proficiency in a broad range of practical experience in relation to accounting and taxation.

The training must be obtained in an ACCA approved employer under the supervision of either:

- (a) a principal who is an Oversight Registered Public Auditor entitled to practise and throughout the period of training does practise as an auditor in the country; or
- (b) any other person having in the opinion of Council adequate qualifications and experience providing that such person is an Oversight Registered Public Auditor under the law of Zimbabwe.

The training shall be recorded in a manner that the Association specifies as acceptable from time to time.

Appendix 6: Qualifications to obtain the South Africa audit qualification

To obtain ACCA's recognised professional qualification (i.e. the SA audit qualification), members must have completed three years' (ie 4,620 hours in total, or approximately 1,540 hours per annum) practical training in an ACCA approved employer and comply with the remaining requirements set out in the Rulebook Global Practising Regulations, Annex 5, Appendix 1 (4).

The recognised professional qualification experience requirement is set out below:

At least 1,540 hours of the training must be in audit work. This should include:

- (a) at least 770 hours specifically in high-risk audits and related assurance work according to the IRBA's approach to categorising assurance engagement risk.

The IRBA's approach to categorising assurance engagement risk is detailed below:

A High-risk Audits and Related Assurance Work

This refers to assurance engagements that are performed by Registered Auditors (RAs) and firms, and that are required in terms of legislation or regulation. These engagements include, but are not limited to, the following:

- I. Audits, required in terms of the Companies Act of 2008 (as amended), of:
 - Public companies;
 - State-owned enterprises;
 - Private companies with a public interest score of 350 or more;
 - Private companies with a public interest score of less than 350, but at least 100, if the annual financial statements (AFS) were internally compiled; and
 - Private companies with a public interest score below 350 and where the Manual of Information was altered to include an audit requirement. Such an engagement is not considered to be a voluntary audit.
- II. Audits of banks and regulatory returns to the South African Reserve Bank, in terms of the Banks Act regulations.
- III. Audits required as per the South African Reserve Bank Act.
- IV. Audits, required by legislation under the Financial Services Conduct Authority, of:
 - Insurance companies;

- Collective investment schemes;
- Pension and retirement funds;
- Provident funds; and
- Any other audits required by the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act (FAIS).

- V. Audits of medical schemes.
- VI. Audits on behalf of the Auditor-General:
 - Secondment of staff to assist the Auditor-General – no opinion is expressed and, consequently, these engagements should be excluded.
 - Performance of an engagement under the supervision of the Auditor-General (so-called "contracted out" engagements). Although this audit opinion is signed by the Auditor-General, a substantial portion of the work is performed by the contracted firm. These engagements should be included.
 - Audits performed and signed by a firm in terms of Section 4(3) of the Public Audit Act of 2004 (as amended). These engagements should be included.
- VII. Trust accounts for legal practitioners (including attorneys trust accounts).
- VIII. Estate agents (business and trust accounts).
- IX. Audits of cooperatives.
- X. Audits of non-profit organisations, where the turnover is **more than R50 million**.
- XI. Audits of all tertiary educational institutions.
- XII. Audits required by the Sectional Titles Schemes Management Act of 2011 (as amended).
- XIII. Assurance work related to other regulatory returns in respect of **any of the above audit clients**.

- (b) a further 770 hours which is either in:
- i. high-risk audits and related assurance work, or
 - ii. low-risk assurance work according to the IRBA's approach to categorising assurance engagement risk (all assurance work not already stated above and including what is listed below):
 - Voluntary audits by decision.
 - Independent reviews required in terms of the Companies Act of 2008, as amended.
 - Other assurance work.

Members must also achieve all the units of competence in the table below.

The training in an ACCA approved employer must be recorded in the Audit Qualification Experience Form (AQEF).

Audit	
AU1 Identify ethical, legal and engagement requirements on an audit	AU6 Make judgements about the truth and fairness of an organisation's financial statements
AU2 Determine the level of audit risk	AU7 Review the performance of an audit
AU3 Evaluate the risk within an organisation's internal control structure	AU8 Advise of the findings and implications of an audit
AU4 Coordinate the delivery of audit evidence	AU9 Prepare a formal audit report
AU5 Evaluate evidence collected for an audit	