



**Canadian
Institute
of Actuaries**

**Institut
canadien
des actuaires**

Education FAQ

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GENERAL FAQ

1. What are the main differences between Pathways 1, 2 and 3 and what are the requirements?

Pathway 1 is designed for students using an accredited degree and exclusively using the CIA's education and exams to achieve ACIA and FCIA designations.

Candidates wishing to use Pathway 1 must have a recognized degree from a CIA accredited university and must successfully complete ACIA Modules 1 and 2, the ACIA Capstone Exam and the CIA Professionalism Workshop to become an ACIA. For a limited time, some exemptions from the modules and the Capstone Exam are possible.

Pathway 2 is designed for candidates who want to hold another recognized Associate level designation and become an ACIA and FCIA through the CIA's education and exams and who do not plan to become a Fellow of another actuarial organization. It is also for candidates seeking ACIA via mutual recognition agreements and the Affiliate route. E.g., the goal is ASA/FCIA, ACAS/FCIA, ASSA/FCIA, AIAA/FCIA, AIA/FCIA.

Candidates wishing to use Pathway 2 must have a recognized Associate level designation (some exemptions apply) and must complete ACIA Module 2 and the CIA Professionalism Workshop to become an ACIA. Some exemptions from Module 2 and the Capstone Exam are possible. Candidates achieving ACIA via Pathway 2 are assumed to be completing their FCIA using the CIA's modules and examinations rather than the education and exams of other actuarial organizations. Under certain conditions, recognition of modules and examinations of other actuarial bodies will be granted.

Pathway 3 is designed for candidates who want to hold another recognized Fellow level designation and become an FCIA via experience, fast-track or mutual recognition. E.g., the goal is FSA/FCIA, FCAS/FCIA, FASSA/FCIA, FIAA/FCIA, FIA/FCIA.

Candidates wishing to use Pathway 3 must first obtain a recognized Fellow designation then complete the FCIA Module 2 for their specific track and either choose the experience route or fast-track option. Note that obtaining the first Fellow designation must precede entry into CIA educational activities towards the achievement of FCIA.

ACIA FAQ

2. I completed a degree in actuarial science from one of the 11 CIA accredited universities. How can I use my degree to qualify as an ACIA?

You can use it in Pathway 1, in which an actuarial degree from an accredited university is required. Here are the requirements for ACIA under Pathway 1:

Requirement	Description
1. Degree in actuarial science from an accredited university	a. Degree completed between June 30, 2015, and October 31, 2023; or b. degree completed after October 31, 2023, including list of CIA required courses .
2. ACIA Modules 1 and 2	They are expected to be deployed later in 2023. Please see available exemptions as per FAQ 5 below.
3. ACIA Capstone Exam	It will be administered in January 2024. Please see available exemptions as per FAQ 5 below.
4. CIA Professionalism Workshop	It is administered several times a year .

3. I wish to use CIA UAP credits, SOA or CAS exams to qualify as an ACIA. Which pathway is best for me?

This is Pathway 2. Please note that UAP credits will no longer be granted effective October 31, 2023, but any UAP credits confirmed up to this date will not lapse and continue to be accepted under Pathway 2.

Requirements under Pathway 2 for candidates using UAP credits, SOA or CAS activities:

Requirement	Description
1. Preliminary education	a. ACAS or all ACAS requirements save for exams 5, 6 and the CAS COP, including exams and UAP piecemeal credits. b. ASA or ASA level requirements, save for APC, including exams and UAP piecemeal credits.
2. ACIA Module 2	Expected to be deployed later in 2023. Please see available exemptions as per FAQ 5 below.
3. CIA Professionalism Workshop	It is administered several times a year .

4. Who needs to complete the ACIA Capstone Exam?

Only candidates wishing to pursue Pathway 1 and candidates pursuing ACIA via Pathway 2 who hold actuarial designations that are not recognized by the CIA need to do the ACIA Capstone Exam. For a limited period, some exemptions from the Capstone Exam are available.

5. Are there available exemptions for ACIA Modules 1 and 2 and the ACIA Capstone Exam?

Yes, exemptions are available over a transitional period ending in 2023, as per the following table, in accordance with transition rules ATR23-5 and ATR23-7.

ACIA Capstone Exam exemption (for Pathway 1) Must meet items 1 and 2 below.	ACIA modules exemption (for Pathways 1 and 2) Must meet item 1 below.
1. Degree in actuarial science from accredited university obtained between June 30, 2015, and October 31, 2023* *Extension for up to one year for co-op students based on case-by-case basis	
2. UAP credits (confirmed by October 31, 2023) and/or exams (confirmed before December 31, 2023): a. SOA P, FM, IFM,* LTAM+STAM,SRM *LTAM+STAM can be replaced by LTAM+FAM-S or STAM+FAM-L or b. CAS 1,2,3F, MASI, MASII	1. Exams and courses confirmed before December 31, 2023 a. Eight SOA FAP modules and assessments and exam PA or b. CAS online courses 1 and 2, and exam MASII
	Note: SOA candidates pursuing FCIA through Pathways 1 and 2 must complete their FCIA-level education, including the Practice Education Course (PEC) by December 31, 2023, to be exempt from ACIA Module 2.

6. I am an Associate of one of the recognized actuarial associations. What are my requirements to qualify as an ACIA?

Pathway 2 is available to you. Requirements are:

Requirement	Description
1. Preliminary education	Associate designation of your recognized organization.
2. ACIA Module 2	Expected to be deployed later in 2023. Please see available exemptions as per FAQ 5.
3. CIA Professionalism Workshop	It is administered several times a year .

7. I obtained my actuarial degree from a non-accredited university. Which pathway is the best option for me to obtain an ACIA designation?

Those who do not have a degree from an accredited university can obtain their ACIA designation through Pathway 2. See FAQ 3 for requirements.

8. I have some exam credits as well as a degree from an accredited university. Which pathway is best for me to obtain an ACIA designation?

While the CIA encourages candidates to continue down the path that they had originally planned on following prior to the release of Pathway 1, both Pathways 1 and 2 are available – see FAQ 2 and FAQ 3 for requirements. If you are currently pursuing an actuarial designation from another organization, you can pursue this education pathway and use Pathway 2 to qualify as an ACIA.

9. Am I exempt from the ACIA Capstone Exam?

Please note that the ACIA Capstone Exam mostly applies to qualification as an ACIA through Pathway 1. It may apply to Pathway 2 candidates with actuarial designations from organizations that are not recognized by the CIA. See FAQ 5 for possible exemptions if you choose to qualify as an ACIA through Pathway 1.

10. Am I exempt from the ACIA modules?

Please note that ACIA Modules 1 and 2 are required for Pathway 1 candidates and to Pathway 2 candidates with actuarial designations from organizations that are not recognized by the CIA. See FAQ 5 for possible exemptions.

ACIA Module 2 only is required for Pathway 2 candidates from recognized actuarial associations. See FAQ 5 for possible exemptions.

11. How can I apply for ACIA under Pathways 1 and 2?

All [membership applications](#) must be submitted through our website. Once you've established that you meet the requirements for ACIA according to your pathway, including any applicable exemptions, you can submit your full application for ACIA. Confirmation of requirements will be assessed based on the documentation you provide.

Be sure to provide all information upon application such as official university transcript, transcripts of actuarial exams passed and proof of membership from an actuarial organization.

12. Do I need to apply for any of the exemptions?

No. See FAQ 11 for details.

13. What will happen to the former UAP piecemeal exam credits?

UAP exam credits will no longer be granted effective October 31, 2023. Any UAP credits confirmed up to this date will not lapse and continue to be accepted under Pathway 2. Be sure to apply for your credits by September 30, 2023.

14. Are there UAP credits for FAM-L and FAM-S?

Yes. In addition to UAP credits for P/1, FM/2, IFM/3F, LTAM, STAM and SRM, UAP credits for FAM-L and FAM-S have been added to the UAP offer. Please consult the [requirements for each university](#) to see if you can apply. All UAP credits can be used to meet the Capstone Exam exemption (see FAQ 5) under Pathway 1, and for purposes of qualification as an ACIA under Pathway 2.

All UAP exam credits will no longer be granted effective October 31, 2023. Any UAP exam credits confirmed up to this date will not lapse and continue to be accepted under Pathway 2. Be sure to apply for your credits by September 30, 2023.

15. The organization in which I obtained my actuarial credentials is not listed as a recognized association. How do I obtain an ACIA or FCIA designation at the CIA?

If you live in Canada and hold an actuarial qualification from an organization member of the International Actuarial Association (IAA), Pathway 2 is available to you. Requirements will generally be as follows:

Requirement	Description
1. Preliminary education	Fully qualified actuary from an IAA member organization.
2. ACIA Modules 1 and 2	Expected to be deployed later in 2023. Until then, you can meet requirements as described in FAQ 5.
3. ACIA Capstone Exam	It is expected to be administered in January 2024. Until then, you can meet requirements with SOA exam (A)LTAM or exam (A)STAM; or CAS exam MAS I or MAS II.
3. CIA Professionalism Workshop	It is administered several times a year .

You would then pursue FCIA through Pathway 1. See Fellow FAQ 2 for details.

If you received qualifications from another actuarial organization not mentioned, we will need to confirm requirements. Please send us your transcript from the organization that you have completed actuarial education/examinations with to education@cia-ica.ca.

16. Do I need an ACIA designation before becoming a Fellow of the CIA?

Yes – if you plan to qualify under Pathways 1 or 2. Also note that for FCIA applications received by November 15, 2025, using transitional Pathway 2 recognition of SOA and CAS Fellow-level activities, ACIA designation is required.

No – if you plan to qualify as a Fellow from one of the recognized actuarial organizations. You will have to meet Pathway 3A or 3B requirements, regardless of holding an ACIA designation.

Please see Fellow FAQ 4 and 5 for details on Pathway 3A and 3B requirements.

17. Who do I contact if I have more questions?

If you'd like to consult with one of our education experts, please contact education@cia-ica.ca.

Or, join us every Friday 12-12:30 ET on [Zoom](#) (Meeting ID: 868 6517 9998, Passcode: 684536) to ask us your questions live.

FCIA FAQ

1. What is the difference between Pathways 1, 2 and 3 to FCIA?

Pathways 1 and 2 are identical from ACIA to FCIA – they are based on CIA exams and modules. See FAQ 2 for Pathways 1 and 2 requirements to FCIA.

Pathway 3 is designed for candidates holding a recognized Fellow designation from another organization. See FAQ 3 for more details.

2. What are the Pathway 1 requirements to FCIA?

The following table shows requirements for Pathway 1, along any applicable transition rules:

Requirements	Description
1. ACIA designation	Hold ACIA designation, obtained through Pathways 1 or 2.
2. ACIA Module 2 (transitional requirement)	As per transition rule FTR23-2 : December 31, 2023, is the deadline for candidates in the SOA education system using Pathway 1 or Pathway 2 to complete Fellow-level education, including the PEC (but not the SOA FAC), to be exempt from SOA exam PA or ACIA Module 2.
3. FCIA Module 1	Expected to be deployed in 2024. Credit may be obtained as per recognition rules, subject to transition rule FTR25-2 , for FCIA applications using only SOA/CAS activities and submitted before November 15, 2025. Transition rule FTR25-3 provides the opportunity to candidates to extend the recognition of achieved Fellow level SOA or CAS educational activities, on the condition that they successfully complete at least one FCIA exam by November 15, 2025. It is important to note that SOA and CAS Fellow level activities only successfully completed prior to passing this one FCIA exam will be subject to credit.
4. FCIA Module 2	Expected to be deployed in 2024. Credit may be obtained with PEC as per transition rule FTR23-1 . December 31, 2023, is the deadline to complete track-specific PEC to be exempt from FCIA Module 2.
5. F1, F2 and F3 FCIA exams	Credit may be obtained as per recognition rules, subject to transition rule FTR25-2 , for FCIA applications using only SOA/CAS activities and submitted before November 15, 2025. Transition rule FTR25-3 , provides the opportunity to candidates to extend recognition of achieved Fellow level SOA or CAS educational activities on the condition that they successfully complete at least one FCIA exam by November 15, 2025. It is important to note that SOA and CAS Fellow level activities only successfully completed prior to passing this one FCIA exam will be subject to credit.
6. PEC	Administered until December 31, 2023, and provides credit for FCIA Module 2 as per transition rules FTR23-1, FTR23-3, FTR24-3 .
7. Advanced Professionalism and Leadership Course (APLC)	Replaces the PEC effective June 2024 as per transition rule FTR24-1 .
8. Experience	Three years of experience within the last six years, including 12 months of Canadian experience while ACIA accrued in the last three years.

3. I hold a Fellow designation from a recognized actuarial organization. How do I qualify as an FCIA?

Two options are available to you, namely Pathways 3A and 3B. FCIA membership via Pathway 3A is open to any person who already holds a recognized Fellow level actuarial designation and has accrued at least three years of relevant Canadian experience since achieving that Fellow designation. FCIA membership via Pathway 3B is open to any person who already holds a recognized Fellow level actuarial designation and who wishes to fast-track to FCIA by completing a designated exam by the CIA.

See FAQ 4 for Pathway 3A requirements and FAQ 5 for Pathway 3B requirements.

4. What are the requirements to qualify as an FCIA under Pathway 3A?

The table below outlines requirements along with applicable transition rules:

Requirements	Description
1. Recognized Fellow designation	FSA (US), FCAS (US), FIA (UK), FASSA (South Africa), FAIA (Australia), FSAI (Ireland)
2. FCIA Module 2	Effective August 16, 2024, as per transition rule FTR24-2 : Pathway 3A and Pathway 3B candidates must complete FCIA track module 2 if PEC not completed by December 2023.
3. PEC, until December 31, 2023	Administered until December 31, 2023, and provides credit for FCIA module 2 as per transition rule FTR23-1 .
4. APLC	Replaces the PEC effective June 2024.
5. Experience	FSA and FCAS: Three years of Canadian experience (in a chosen area) in the last four years, after achievement of first Fellow designation. FIA, FASSA, FAIA, FSAI (former MRA): Three years of Canadian experience (in a chosen area) in the last four years at the time of application (for applications received until November 15, 2025) as per transition rule FTR25-1 . After November 15, 2025, three years of Canadian experience (in a chosen area) in the last four years, after achievement of first Fellow designation.

5. What are the requirements to qualify as an FCIA under Pathway 3B?

The table below outlines requirements along with applicable transition rules:

Requirement	Description
1. Recognized Fellow designation	Candidates with recognized Fellow designations: FSA (US), FCAS (US), FIA (UK), FASSA (South Africa), FAIA (Australia), FSAI (Ireland).
2. FCIA Module 2	Effective August 16, 2024, as per transition rule FTR24-2 : Pathway 3A and Pathway 3B candidates must complete FCIA Track Module 2 if PEC not completed by December 2023 (FTR23-1).
3. One FCIA exam	<p>a. Effective November 16, 2024, as per transition rule FTR24-4: One CIA Fellowship exam required for Pathway 3B candidates from the SOA or CAS who took US-specific Fellowship examinations in life, retirement, group benefits and property and casualty. Not required if Canadian exams were taken as part of FSA or FCAS.</p> <p>b. November 15, 2025 deadline as per transition rule FTR25-1 for FCIA applications for Pathway 3B candidates via former MRA route (therefore other than SOA/CAS) with Canadian experience accrued before achievement of the first Fellow designation and using SOA or CAS Canadian content examinations (applies to ILA, RET, GB and P&C candidates).</p>
4. PEC until December 31, 2023	Administered until December 31, 2023, and provides credit for FCIA Module 2 as per transition rule FTR23-1 .
5. APLC	Replaces the PEC effective June 2024.
6. Experience	<p>FSA and FCAS: Three years experience in the last six years, including 12 months Canadian experience accrued after achievement of first Fellow designation.</p> <p>FIA, FASSA, FAIA, FSAI (former MRA system): Three years experience in the last six years, including 12 months Canadian experience accrued after achievement of first Fellow designation (for applications received until November 15, 2025) as per transition rule FTR25-1.</p>

6. I want to obtain my FCIA as well as another Fellow designation. Which qualification pathway is best to obtain my FCIA?

You should pursue either Pathway 3A (Canadian experience) or Pathway 3B (fast-track). See FAQ 4 for Pathway 3A requirements and FAQ 5 for Pathway 3B requirements.

7. The SOA had a PA requirement for FSA if not taken for ASA. Is there a similar requirement for FCIA?

Yes. December 31, 2023, is the deadline for candidates in the SOA education system using Pathway 1 or Pathway 2 to complete Fellow-level education, including the PEC (but not the SOA FAC and DMAC), to be exempt from SOA exam PA or ACIA Module 2.

8. I am an FSA who wishes to fast-track to FCIA by using Pathway 3B. Do I need to take an FCIA exam?

No, if:

- a. You took Canadian exams as part of your FSA in the ILA, RET or GH tracks.
- b. You completed your FSA in the CFE or QFI tracks.
- c. You completed your FSA in the GI track using CAS exam 6-C.

Yes, if:

- a. You took US exams as part of your FSA in the ILA, RET or GH tracks.
- b. You completed your FSA in the GI track using US exams.

Please see FAQ 5 for more details on Pathway 3B requirements.

9. I am an FCAS who wishes to fast-track to FCIA by using Pathway 3B. Do I need to take an FCIA exam?

No, if you took exam 6-C as part of your FCAS. Yes, if you did not complete 6-C as part of your FCAS.

10. I am an ACIA who passed some Fellow SOA or CAS exams. Will these continue to be recognized by the CIA?

If you plan to use only SOA/CAS activities, your complete FCIA application must be received by November 15, 2025, under Pathway 2 transition. To find out what credit you may have achieved with your SOA or CAS exams and modules, please [consult this document](#).

[Transition rule FTR25-3](#) provides the opportunity to candidates to extend recognition of achieved Fellow level SOA or CAS educational activities beyond November 15, 2025, on the condition that they successfully complete at least one FCIA exam by November 15, 2025. It is important to note that SOA and CAS Fellow level activities only successfully completed prior to passing this one FCIA exam will be subject to credit.

11. I used UAP credits to achieve my ACIA and I passed some SOA Fellow level exams. Pathway 3 is not available to me as I can't get my FSA. What happens after November 15, 2025?

We will consider such situations on a case-by-case basis. Until then, if you are in this situation, we recommend that you aim to complete your Fellow level education with CIA activities when they are available and/or SOA activities before November 15, 2025, or to use [transition rule FTR25-3](#).

12. Do I need an ACIA designation before becoming a Fellow of the CIA?

Yes, if you plan to qualify under Pathways 1 or 2.

No, if you plan to qualify as a Fellow from one of the recognized actuarial organizations. You will have to meet Pathway 3A or 3B requirements, regardless of holding an ACIA designation.

Please see Fellow FAQ 4 and 5 for details on Pathway 3A and 3B requirements.

13. How can I apply for FCIA?

All [membership applications](#) must be submitted through our website. Once you've established that you meet the requirements for FCIA according to your Pathway, including any exemptions, you can submit your full application for FCIA. Confirmation of requirements will be assessed based on the documentation you provide.

Be sure to provide all information upon application such as transcripts of actuarial exams passed and proof of membership from an actuarial organization.

14. Do I need to apply for any of the exemptions?

No. See FAQ 13 for details.

15. Who do I contact if I have more questions?

If you'd like to consult with one of our education experts, please contact education@cia-ica.ca.

Join us every Friday 12-12:30 ET on [Zoom](#) (Meeting ID: 868 6517 9998, Passcode: 684536) to ask us your questions live.

Useful links

[CIA Policy on Qualification Requirements](#)

[CIA Education page](#)

[Transition rules](#)

[Appendix to the transition rules](#)

[ACIA modules and Capstone Exam syllabuses](#)

[FCIA syllabuses](#)

[FCIA Application Guidelines](#)



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