

# Professional Accountant (SA)



| Entry Paths          | Professional Evaluation (PE)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Completed Learnership / Articles                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Completed Project Achiever Program                                                                                                                                  | Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Requirements         | The South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA) confers the designation of Professional Accountant (SA) upon individuals who have met the Institute's academic, practical, and ethical standards. This designation is recognised nationally and internationally as a mark of professional competence and integrity in the field of accountancy.                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Eligibility Criteria | To qualify for registration as a SAIPA Professional Accountant (SA), applicants must meet the following requirements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                      | Register and successfully complete the SAIPA Professional Evaluation (PE). <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hold a SAIPA-recognised accounting qualification (minimum NQF Level 7, e.g., BCom Accounting, BAcc, or equivalent).</li><li>Submit all the required documentation that has been certified, within the last 3 months prior to application, as part of the membership application.</li></ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                     | Do not meet the formal academic qualification requirements.                                                                                                             |
|                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Have a minimum of six (6) years verifiable experience in a financial accounting and tax related environment.</li><li>Be a registered member with another SAIPA recognised Professional body.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Completed the three (3) years Learnership contract at a SAIPA Accredited Training Centre (ATC).</li><li>Completed the first (1) year via the SAIPA Accounting Technician: Work Integrated Learning (WIL) programme at a defined educational body.</li><li>Completed the two (2) years practical training at a SAIPA Accredited Training Centre (ATC)</li><li>Completed Articles from another Professional Accounting Organisation (PAO)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Completed the SAIPA Project Achiever Programme in conjunction with the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Have a minimum of ten (10) years' extensive practical experience in a financial accounting and tax-related environment.</li></ul> |

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# Professional Accountant (SA) ...continued



## Required Documents

Applicants must submit the following documents when applying for Professional Accountant (SA) status. All documents should be certified with the date of certification not older than 3 months.

- Complete the SAIPA Professional Accountant (SA) Application Form.
- Personal Identity Card (ID)
- Matric certificate/National Senior Certificate.
- Academic qualification.
- Full academic transcript.
- Comprehensive CV.
- Accept Terms & Conditions.
- Proof of payment of the Administration fee.

· Letter/s from employer/s confirming a minimum of six (6) years' working experience in a financial, tax and reporting environment. Letters to include:  
o Start Date  
o End Date  
o Brief description of duties.

- Letter/s of Good Standing from another Professional Accounting Organisation (PAO).

- Proof of completion of SAIPA Learnership
- Discharge letter of completed articles/training contract from another Professional Accounting Organisation (PAO)

· Proof of successful completion of the Project Achiever programme.

· Submit a detailed Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Portfolio of Evidence (PoE) aligned to SAIPA's Competency Framework.

## Competency Requirements

Applicants must demonstrate competence across the core professional areas defined in SAIPA's Competency Framework:

- Financial Accounting and Reporting
- Management Accounting and Financial Management
- Taxation and Compliance
- Auditing, Assurance and Internal Controls
- Business Advisory and Entrepreneurship
- Professional Ethics, Governance and Risk Management

# Professional Accountant (SA) ...continued



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| Assessment and Verification | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SAIPA will verify all academic and practical training documentation to ensure compliance with its standards.</li><li>• Applicants may be subject to additional verification interviews or competency checks.</li><li>• SAIPA reserves the right to audit training records and professional conduct before granting full membership.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Benefits                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• International IFAC member body recognition, as a Professional Accountant (SA) with SAIPA</li><li>• Eligibility to offer professional accounting, tax, and business advisory services.</li><li>• Listing on SAIPA’s national register of accredited members.</li><li>• Access to SAIPA’s subscription webinars, CPD programmes, technical support, and exclusive resources.</li><li>• Professional Indemnity Insurance.</li><li>• Opportunities for professional growth through additional SAIPA designations (e.g., Tax Practitioner (SA), Business Advisory, Independent Review).</li><li>• Registered Commissioner of Oaths.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Application Process         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visit the SAIPA website and navigate to the <a href="#">Become a Member</a> or <a href="#">Apply for SAIPA Membership</a> section.</li><li>• Complete the Professional Accountant (SA) application form online.</li><li>• Upload all required supporting documents, including proof of qualification, work experience, and examination results.</li><li>• Pay the non-refundable administration fee.</li><li>• Application will be presented for consideration.</li><li>• The entrance path for admission will be confirmed.</li><li>• The applicable fee will be raised for payment.</li><li>• Meet the entrance path requirements.</li><li>• The applicable membership fee will be raised for payment.</li><li>• Await confirmation of acceptance and issuance of your Professional Accountant (SA) electronic membership certificate.</li></ul> |



**SAIPA** <sup>TM</sup>

**YOUR WEALTH**

|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |   |                           |   |                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Fees PAYABLE 2026 Fee INCLUSIVE OF 15% VAT</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• R1 417.87</li><li>• R1 460.33</li><li>• R0.00</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | ◀ | <i>Administration fee</i> | ▶ | R1 417.87                                                 |
|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | ◀ | <i>PE fee</i>             | ▶ | R0.00                                                     |
|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | ◀ | <i>RPL fee</i>            | ▶ | R1 460.33                                                 |
|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |   |                           |   | Any other fee based on the RPL committee’s requirement/s. |
| <b>Membership Fees on Registration 2026 Fee INCLUSIVE OF 15% VAT</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annual Membership Fee - R8 873.87</li><li>• ½ Year Membership Fee - R4 436.93</li><li>• ¼ Year Membership Fee – R2 218.46</li></ul> <p>Proportionate fees are applicable solely upon first-time registration.</p>                                                                                                                                         |   |                           |   |                                                           |
| <b>Compliance</b>                                                    | <p>The Professional Accountant (SA) designation is regulated under <a href="#">SAIPA’s Constitution and By-Laws</a>.</p> <p>Non-compliance with CPD, <a href="#">ethical</a> or <a href="#">financial</a> requirements may result in suspension or termination of membership.</p> <p>International applicants may apply for membership or via mutual recognition agreements where applicable.</p> |   |                           |   |                                                           |