



SAICA

THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE
OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

develop.influence.lead.

A PROGRESSIVE
PATHWAY TO
ACCOUNTING
EXCELLENCE

ABOUT SAICA

The **South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA)** is the leading accountancy body in South Africa and one of the prominent institutes globally. SAICA offers three reputable professional accounting and business designations from a foundational to a strategic level of accounting and business competence – **Accounting Technician (AT(SA))**, **Associate General Accountant (AGA(SA))** and **Chartered Accountant (CA(SA))**. These three designations are underpinned by the SAICA Code of Professional Conduct (the SAICA Code) and continuous professional development (CPD) to ensure the highest level of professionalism, discipline and performance.

SAICA is at the forefront of developing, influencing and leading the highest standards of ethics, education and professional excellence in the delivery of quality accountancy skills. This is achieved by safeguarding the professional standards of the designations on offer; advancing and maintaining the relevancy of the profession; and by regulating the members' and associates' professional conduct against the SAICA Code.

01 A REGULATED MEMBERSHIP BODY

The SAICA Code conforms to the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA), a standard-setting board of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). All SAICA members and associates are required to adhere to the SAICA Code. The code serves to guide their professional credibility and conduct in business, enabling them to exercise independence and sound judgement on ethical issues, while maintaining high professional standards. Through the SAICA Code, the Institute is able to establish the standard behaviour and practices expected from members and associates.

The SAICA Code requires all SAICA members and associates to:



Have integrity by acting in an honest way when interacting with others



Abide by laws and regulations and avoid any conduct that would bring the profession into disrepute



Be objective and avoid conflict of interests and undue bias



Respect the confidentiality of information acquired as a result of professional and business relationships



Ensure professional competence by taking due care when practising their skills and knowledge

02

RIGOROUS QUALIFYING CRITERIA

Being a SAICA member and associate is no ordinary feat. All members and associates qualify through a regulated, rigorous education and assessment process that keeps them relevant and ahead in the industry.

The Institute prides itself on its ongoing commitment to ensure that its designations are highly regarded, relevant and reflective of the modern world. This ensures that SAICA members and associates enter the workplace with competitive skill sets that continuously evolve in response to societal, economical and technological changes.

03

A COMMITMENT TO LIFELONG LEARNING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SAICA members and associates maintain their professional excellence and relevance through CPD and lifelong learning. The SAICA Code requires all members and associates to keep their professional knowledge and skills up to date in relation to changes in their working environment as well as acting ethically at all times.

To support the members and associates' growth, SAICA delivers a suite of approved CPD opportunities such as access to quality research, publications, accounting standards and regulations updates, technical and governance guidelines as well as industry leading seminars and events. This enables all members and associates to enhance their skills and stay abreast of industry and business needs.



There is now greater flexibility and choice to support accounting professionals at various stages of their career.

THE **VALUE** OF BEING A **SAICA** MEMBER



LEADING INSIGHTS AND EXPERTISE

SAICA has access to the best minds in business. It offers its members and associates world-leading information resources, technical guidance and other services to enable members and associates to shape and influence business effectively.



CAREER MOBILITY AND RECOGNITION

SAICA members and associates stand out among their peers and are recognised for their credible and quality designations. All three SAICA designations open doors of employment and put members in a privileged position to pursue the most diverse and rewarding career opportunities.



A SOLID ETHICAL GROUNDING

When choosing a SAICA designation, members and associates commit to adhere to the highest standard of professionalism, ethics and lifelong professional development. This means that employers, clients and the public can be assured of their skills, expertise and overall professional conduct.



RELEVANT AND CURRENT

Today's ever-changing business environment presents opportunities for financial professionals at all levels to solve new problems and offer innovative business solutions. SAICA's training programmes and continuous professional development, keeps members and associates abreast with the skills needed in the current environment.



A STRONG NETWORK

Members and associates of SAICA join an influential network with access to numerous value for money products and services; conferences; seminars and networking sessions, enabling them to rise to the challenges of business today. They can also offer their expertise and service on various working committees.



REPUTATION AND CREDIBILITY

SAICA designations enjoy continued public confidence. As a regulated member body, members and associates are bound by a Code of Professional Conduct. This ensures that SAICA is able to maintain the quality of its designations, uphold high standards of professional excellence and ensure that members and associates act with integrity when conducting business as guided by the SAICA code.

CA(SA) IS THE SOUGHT AFTER PREMIER BUSINESS DESIGNATION

The business world is increasingly complex and continues to undergo accelerated change. Today, to stay on top, organisations need high-performing, forward-thinking professionals they can rely on. **CAs(SA)** are highly respected professionals who have deep financial expertise and broad business insight. They lead at the highest level of business as CEOs, Financial Directors, Board Directors, business owners and strategic senior management. CAs(SA) use their deep understanding of complex financial, technical and operational concepts to shape the strategic direction of organisations, often creating long-term value for organisations, communities and economies.



GLOBALY RECOGNISED PROFESSIONALS

The CA(SA) designation is recognised globally in every sector of business and finance. The designation offers career mobility, opening doors to a wide range of career opportunities. The designation denotes a global understanding of accounting standards, methodologies and business expertise to manage an array of universal financial and business needs. Employers can confidently position CAs(SA) to work anywhere in the world.



RESPONSIBLE LEADERS IN BUSINESS

One of the key tenets of the SAICA Code is that all CAs(SA) must act in the best interest of the public and the country. CAs(SA) are trained to exercise good judgement, draw attention to acts of impropriety and to always act to safeguard their independence and the public interest with rigour and integrity. As SAICA members, CAs(SA) are required to be trusted leaders. This means they are mandated to be ethically minded and use their talents and skills to lead organisations responsibly, ensuring that decisions they make are sustainable for their organisations and the country.



VERSATILE SKILL SET FOR TODAY AND THE FUTURE

The influence of CAs(SA) is diverse and spans across public and private sectors, as well as a variety of industries. With a disciplined approach, unmatched financial acumen, broad business and strong analytical skills imparted from their high level of education, training and substantial experience. CAs(SA) have a greater ability to analyse and interpret today's business problems and develop dynamic solutions fit for the future.

CAs(SA) have a breadth of knowledge and competencies that are maintained through ongoing professional development. Chartered Accountants competently progress between their core competencies in handling financial and accounting systems, and organisational strategy to provide innovative approaches to development.



AN INVESTMENT IN YOUR HUMAN CAPITAL

The CA(SA) designation remains one of the world's most prestigious career choices and presents various career progression opportunities. CAs(SA) invest in considerable effort to earn the CA(SA) designation. They undergo extensive education, training and qualifying examination criteria, making them a cut above other professionals.

As strategic financial experts, they adapt to changing environments, and can work across diverse disciplines. When adding a CA(SA) to a team, you can be assured of strategic, business and financial acumen to deliver value to business.



The CA(SA) designation remains one of the world's most prestigious career choices and presents various career progression opportunities

DRIVE FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS WITH AGAs(SA)

AGAs(SA) play key managerial roles within diverse sectors of the economy. Professionals who hold this qualification have successfully completed a SAICA training contract or assessment to ensure they offer a strong set of technical accounting and financial skills required to navigate today's complex and evolving business environment.

AGAs(SA) are technically-minded accountants, who have the ability to bridge operational and strategic management functions. Their expert ability to drive accountancy and financial excellence in organisations enables them to deliver results and accelerate organisational financial performance.

STRONG TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE AND DISCIPLINE

1

AGAs(SA) have the technical and analytical rigour to drive accounting, financial and operational excellence in organisations. They can perform various roles including the following statutory duties: compile financial statements for companies, act as a commissioner of oaths, register as a tax practitioner as well as perform independent reviews. AGAs(SA) add tangible value to organisations. They help improve efficiencies and accelerate progress by assisting organisations perform better.

COMBINE STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES

2

AGAs(SA) combine operational activities, with big-picture perspective to drive action and implementation. They are able to draw on their technical expertise and knowledge to solve multidisciplinary business problems. Through their training journey, they are equipped to integrate diverse areas of knowledge and skills to develop future-focused financial solutions.

RELEVANT AND RESPONSIVE SKILLS

3

AGAs(SA) maintain their relevancy through continuous professional development. This ensures that their skills are up to date and responsive to the changing needs of business. As part of their ongoing training in challenging situations, they are able to identify and define issues and provide appropriate operational solutions to enhance business performance. They can connect across disciplines, and most importantly, are adept to evaluate and decide between alternatives, proposing practical solutions.



AGAs(SA) are technically-minded accountants, who have the ability to bridge operational and strategic management functions.

ATs(SA) PROVIDE PRACTICAL ACCOUNTING SKILLS NEEDED IN EVERY FINANCE TEAM

Accounting, finance and business skills are vital for our economy to thrive. AT(SA) is a competency-based accounting qualification and designation offered by SAICA. Accounting Technicians are at the heart of every business. They are involved in the practical day-to-day work of preparing and producing reliable financial information that enables financial and business leaders to make informed decisions. They perform a broad range of functions which includes preparing, checking and analysing financial information. Entry-level accounting technicians can perform important finance functions like budgeting, credit control and tax returns while more experienced accounting technicians can assist with financial reporting and audits.

AT(SA) is a recognised and respected qualification and professional designation that is job-related, application-driven and meets the need for sound accounting and financial skills in the workplace. With ATs(SA), employers get the assurance and benefit of high quality, practical accounting skills – adding real value in finance teams.

THE PRACTICAL VALUE ATs(SA) ADD TO YOUR ORGANISATION

FINANCE SUPPORT STAFF WHO ARE ATs(SA) ADD CREDIBILITY TO YOUR ORGANISATION

1

AT(SA) is a mark of professional competence. Members show a solid understanding and practical application of accounting and finance skills. The ATs(SA) play a key support role in finance and business, competently working across all sectors of the economy to improve organisational productivity and efficiency. The qualification enables accounting technicians to occupy diverse roles such as: Accounts Administrator, Payroll Administrator, Debtors/Creditors Clerk, Payroll Assistant and Financial Accountant.

2

IMPROVE BUSINESS PROCESSES

ATs(SA) are knowledgeable in managing accounting information systems, preparing financial information, streamlining accounting processes, and in this way are able to contribute to overall organisational efficiency.

3

PREPARE RELIABLE FINANCIAL DATA

ATs(SA) prepare and produce reliable financial information that CAs(SA), AGAs(SA) and other accounting professionals can trust. Most importantly, they increase the accuracy of financial recording and reporting in finance teams. The practical approach of ATs(SA) ensures compliance with regulations and legislation such as tax and VAT.

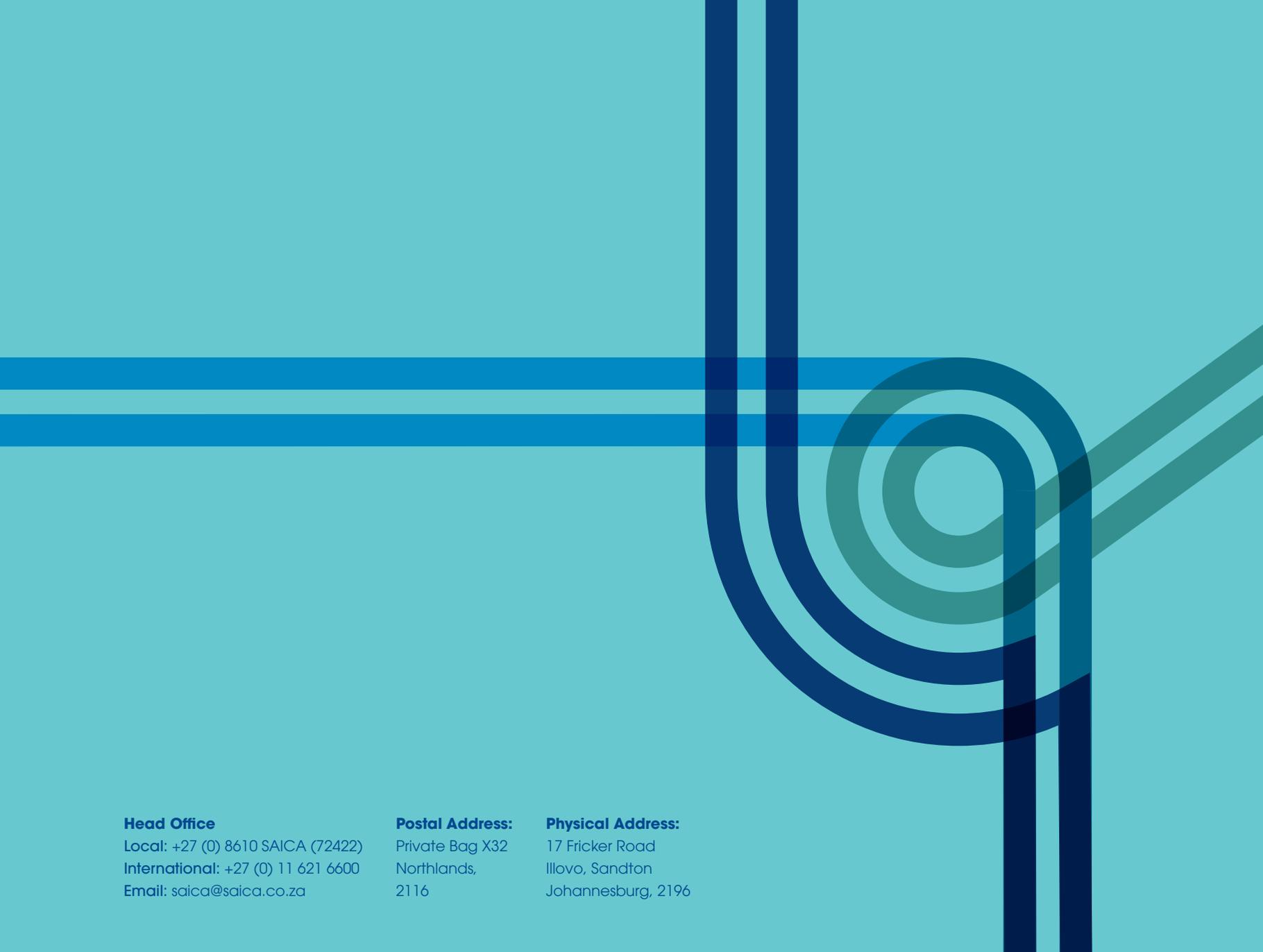
4

A PRACTICAL, FLEXIBLE, READY-TO-WORK APPROACH

AT(SA) training combines accounting theory with real-world practical experience, enabling members to apply newly acquired skills in their own work environment. ATs(SA) integrate work with learning, connecting theory and best practice. This progressive approach takes people from foundational level, through to advanced levels of accounting knowledge, skills and competencies. The outcome is suitably competent employees who make informed decisions and are able to deliver precise work, making a meaningful contribution to financial operations.



**AT(SA) is a competency-based
accounting
qualification and designation
offered by SAICA**



Head Office

Local: +27 (0) 8610 SAICA (72422)

International: +27 (0) 11 621 6600

Email: saica@saica.co.za

Postal Address:

Private Bag X32
Northlands,
2116

Physical Address:

17 Fricker Road
Illovo, Sandton
Johannesburg, 2196