

Guide to Studentship Admission and Exemption under the Chartered Governance Qualifying Programme

There are five (5) categories of recognised qualifications for entry to HKICS studentship, all of which require a degree (or equivalent).

Holders of relevant recognised university degrees and/or professional qualifications will be eligible for exemption upon assessment by the Institute. Relevant qualifications include law, accounting, finance, management and corporate governance.

(i) Categories of Admission Qualification for entry to HKICS Studentship

- **Category 1 (Standard entry)** is for students holding a non-relevant degree (or equivalent). No exemption is granted.
- **Category 2 (Collaborative Course Agreement programme entry)** is for graduates of HKICS Collaborative Course Agreement (CCA) programmes offered by certain universities in Hong Kong at master degree level. Full exemptions are available to graduates of all CCA programmes, subject to meeting the required conditions. The curriculum of these programmes covers the same Chartered Governance Qualifying Programme (CGQP) syllabus (i.e. eight (8) modules, including the two (2) electives).

As of late 2019, four (4) CCA programmes are recognised under the HKICS International Qualifying Scheme (IQS). Please refer to the respective universities for announcements on the launch of the new CCA programme under the CGQP.

- **Category 3 (Partnership Bachelor Programme (PBP) entry)** is for graduates of partnership bachelor degree programmes with HKICS. As with the current exemption policies under the IQS, exemptions from four (4) modules are allowed under the CGQP, subject to assessment by the HKICS.

As of late 2019, there are seven (7) PBPs under the IQS. Please refer to the respective universities for announcements on the launch of the new PBP programme under the CGQP.

- **Category 4 (Related degree/professional qualification entry)** is for graduates or holders of professional qualifications in law, accounting/finance or management/business disciplines. Exemptions from a maximum of three (3) modules are granted. Relevant courses taken at undergraduate studies for bachelor's degrees other than law, accounting and management may be eligible for exemption on a case-by-case basis.
- **Category 5 (Master degree entry)** is for holders of a master's degree, e.g. an MBA. Exemption is granted on a case-by-case basis.

(ii) Summary of allowable exemption(s) for each admission qualification category

Admission Qualifications		Cat. 1	Cat. 2	Cat. 3	Cat. 4				Cat. 5	
					(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)		
Module		Non-relevant studies	CCA graduate (Note 1)	PBP graduate (Note 2)	Law degree (Note 3) / Qualified lawyer (Note 4)	Accounting or Finance degree (Note 3) / Qualified accountant (Note 4)	Management or Business degree (Note 3)	Other degree with relevant courses studied	Master degree	
1	Corporate Governance	NO exemption	FULL exemption					Case-by-case basis	Case-by-case basis	
2	Corporate Secretaryship & Compliance									
3	Hong Kong Company Law			X	X					
4	Interpreting Financial & Accounting Information			X		X				
5	Strategic Management			X	X	X	X (Note 6)			
6	Risk Management									
Electives (Choose one module only)										
7A	Boardroom Dynamics									
7B	Hong Kong Taxation			X (Note 5)	X	X				

Note:

1. Refer to the master degree programmes under the Collaborative Course Agreement (CCA) between HKICS and respective universities.
2. Refer to the Partnership Bachelor degree Programmes (PBP) that have been pre-assessed by HKICS.
3. Subject to relevant course(s) taken.
4. Block exemption for recognised professional qualifications.
5. Exemption for Module 7A may also be considered in lieu of Module 7B, upon satisfactory assessment by HKICS.
6. One (1) additional exemption may be granted for Module 3; OR 4; OR 7B, subject to relevant course(s) taken.
7. All exemption applications are subject to the final decision of HKICS.

Additional remarks:

Category 2 – Collaborative Course Agreement (CCA) programme entry

CCA programmes currently available under the IQS:

Institution	Programme
City University of Hong Kong	Master of Science in Professional Accounting and Corporate Governance (CG Stream)
Hong Kong Baptist University	Master of Science in Corporate Governance and Compliance
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Master of Corporate Governance
The Open University of Hong Kong	Master of Corporate Governance (Distance learning)

CCA programme currently available under the CGQP:

Institution	Programme
The Open University of Hong Kong	Master of Corporate Governance (Face-to-face)

Category 3 – Partnership Bachelor Programme (PBP) entry

PBP programmes currently available under the IQS:

Institution	Programme
Caritas Institute of Higher Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) in Corporate Management
Hong Kong Shue Yan University	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) (Corporate Governance concentration)• Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) in Law and Business (Corporate Governance and Management concentration)
The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) in Corporate Governance and Compliance (Formerly Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) in Corporate Governance)
The Open University of Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) in Corporate Governance• Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) in Corporate Administration• Bachelor of Business Administration in Corporate Administration

Category 4(A) – Law degree; Qualified Lawyer

- i. Bachelor of Laws and Juris Doctor degrees from recognised universities in Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas countries are considered to be relevant legal qualifications for exemption assessment.
- ii. Relevant legal qualifications for exemption assessment purpose refer to those qualifications (e.g. Bachelor of Laws and Juris Doctor degrees) whose holders are eligible to take the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) examination.

Category 4(B) – Accounting or Finance degree; Qualified Accountant

- i. Relevant professional accounting qualifications refer to qualified members of:
 1. Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA)
 2. Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)
 3. CPA Australia
 4. Chinese Institute of Certified Public Accountants (CICPA)
 5. American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
 6. Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)
- ii. Membership of the Association of International Accountants (AIA) is NOT considered to be a relevant accounting qualification for exemption assessment purpose.
- iii. The Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) qualification is considered to be a relevant finance qualification for exemption assessment purpose.

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