

Chartered Agricultural Professional Scheme – Outline of the Process for Divisions

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Outline

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Overview

The Chartered Agricultural Professional Scheme:

- will provide a new mark of professionalism for people working in and supporting the agricultural sector.
- is as an umbrella mechanism for recognising agricultural and natural resource management professionals at the highest level, above CPD-based certification systems e.g. CPAg.
- will be open to AIA members and others who are recognised by a professional body or association and meet the criteria (of the Scheme).
- specifies a range of requirements (criteria) for applicants to demonstrate that they are sector leaders.
- will enable professionals to be **acknowledged** for their industry- and sector-level contributions to agriculture.
- provides AIA members with another professional grading that they can aspire to.
- will benefit both members, the AIA and the wider industry.

Recent History

- In April 2017, AIA organised a briefing of industry stakeholder organisations on AIA's proposed Chartered Agricultural Professional Scheme.
- The AIA sought viewpoints of CCA, SSA, ASAP, GAIAC, APEN, DAWR, Private Sector.
- Amongst these organisations, while each with their own accreditation scheme (typically CPD-based), there was a common need for a professionally-focused, chartered program, recognising sector and industry leaders (not just recognition for the specific areas these organisations are experts in).
- Agreement amongst the parties to explore a national scheme, complementary but at a higher level, to the existing schemes, with an agreed national code of ethics/code of conduct, administered by the AIA.
- AIA to draft a workable scheme, which now has a working title called Chartered Agricultural Professional Scheme.

Why?

- Agriculture requires an understanding of science and technology, and giving rigorous advice covering numerous knowledge domains (for policy/RD&E/production)
- Client, collegiate, public and government expectations of professionals working in their chosen professions are increasing.
- Increasing the **protection** and the **reputation and service delivery capability** of those working in the agricultural and resource management sector, and the clients the sector serves.
- Prepares the sector for a future which is likely to be more regulated for active professionals, including advisors, planners, scientists, and others.
- For AIA Members, it provides another grading to work towards.



What is it?

- It recognises other affiliated, complementary or allied professionals.
- It has the following **foundational** components and requirements:
 - **Continuing Professional Development (CPD) i.e. CPAg**
 - **Benchmarks for meeting professional standards**
 - **Qualifications/experience requirements**
 - **Professional ethics and code of conduct (exam)**
 - **Membership of a professional association or profession e.g. must have CPAg or equivalent**
 - **Evidence of applying reflective learning**
- The AIA Board has been listening to feedback and considering the elements of what should be in the Scheme. In early September 2018 the National Office will release a working draft for Divisional and Member comment.

Building on Accreditation and Certification

- AIA re-introduced its CPAg scheme in 2017. Note that CPAg is a CPD-based scheme and doesn't require meeting other criteria such as those proposed in the Chartered Scheme.
- The Chartered Agricultural Professional Scheme is a new product at a higher professional grading. It is the next step along the professional recognition path after CPAg.
- CPAg is professional development (i.e recognising CPD), whereas the Chartered Professional scheme is aimed at a higher, chartered level (& also has CPD) for industry/sector leaders.
- The Chartered Agricultural Professional Scheme provides professionals in agriculture, including current members of the AIA, an opportunity to be further recognised for their investment in their professional development.
- CPAg and Chartered Agricultural Professional schemes will be kept operational as long as there is a demand for both these products.
- **Note for AIA Members: CPAg will be a requirement for Professional and Chartered Member categories from 2019 but not for the other membership categories.**

Chartered Agricultural Professionals

AIA (CAP)

Eg CPSS (CAP)

Eg Other Professionals (CAP)

CPAg

Eg CPSS

Eg Engineers,
Safety Professionals

Members

Members

Members

AIA Members

Affiliated Organisations

Other Professionals

Details of Eligibility

- **Entry Requirements:** meet a benchmark of professional standards, pass an ethics exam, & provide evidence of reflective learning (one-off requirements).
- **Experience:** 5 year's with a minimum of 3 years in a senior management position.
- **Qualifications:**
 - Formal qualifications of AQF of 9 or above (i.e. Masters level) are required (Masters in Agriculture or related field)
OR
 - Bachelor Honours, Graduate Diploma in Agriculture or related field **plus** a Masters in any other field.
OR
 - **Alternative pathways** for meeting this requirement are also available.
- Alternative pathways include active board level representation, executive work experience, author of submissions to government inquiries or industry guide/book relevant to sector, research lead on recognised project, expert witness (relevant to sector), significant consultancy report/output (de-identified), industry/guest lecturer and others (further details: http://www.aginstitute.com.au/data/Membership_Categories_for_AIA_in_2019_Rev_2.pdf).

Details of Eligibility (Continued)

- The re-established CPAg Scheme is the entry point into Chartered Professional Scheme.
- Every 3 years a Chartered Professional must complete 60 points of CPD (continuing professional development). Note that CPAg will be re-aligned to this.
- As of January 2019, all new Professional and Chartered Members of the AIA will need to apply for the CPAg status as part of their membership application.
- Transitioning provisions are being developed for current CPAg holders.
- Note that you do not need to be a CPAg to be a member of the AIA!
- See the member categories for 2019:
http://www.aginstitute.com.au/data/Membership_Categories_for_AIA_in_2019_Rev_2.pdf

Summary of Chartered Scheme Requirements During Transition¹ period

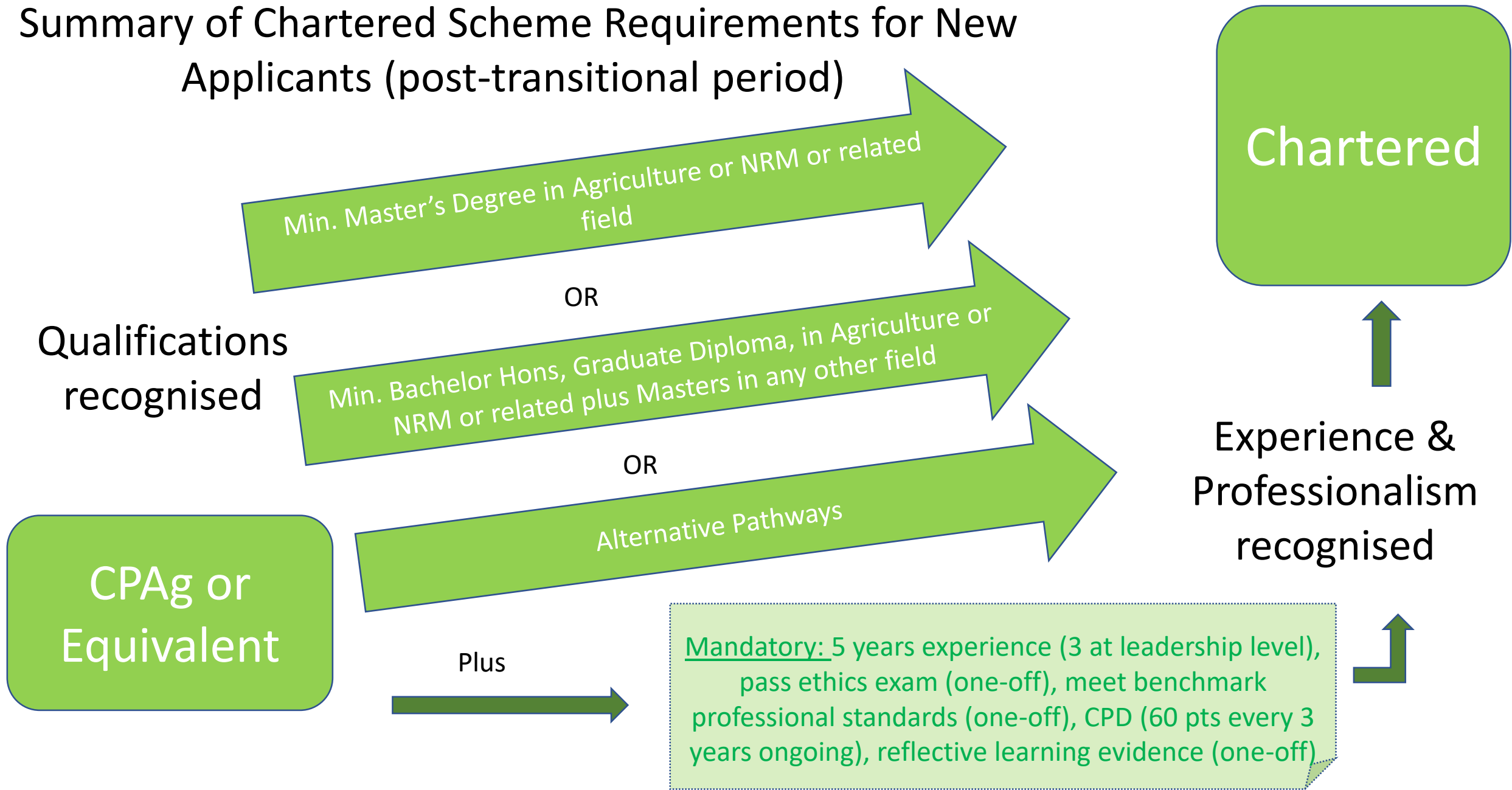
CPAg

Current CPAg members will be granted Chartered status

Chartered

1. Transition period will run for a set period into 2019. Note all currently graded members will transition to at least an equivalent grading to what they have been currently on.
2. Note: Membership gradings for 2019 are at:
http://www.aginstitute.com.au/data/Membership_Categories_for_AIA_in_2019_Rev_2.pdf
3. Note: Support will be provided to members to transition to CPAg where members have been active in gaining CPD but are less active (or inactive) currently.

Summary of Chartered Scheme Requirements for New Applicants (post-transitional period)



What Next?

Process timeline:

- Divisional, Member and Industry engagement with details of scheme in **August – September 2018**
 - **Division and Member feedback on Chartered Scheme documentation will be open for 3 weeks in September**
- Pilot (beta) testing in **October 2018**. There will be a call to the Divisions for further volunteers (several nominations have been received already)
- Announcement/soft launch at AIA National Conference in Sydney (**November 2018**).
- Supporting the transition of current members to CPAg and Chartered membership categories from **January 2019**
 - **This will include workshops/online/teleconference sessions for supporting members and other interested (potential) applicants to get assistance in making an application**
- We are reviewing the designation name/title to eliminate confusion in **August – September 2018**