



SAIGA

The Southern African Institute
of Government Auditors
Advancing Auditing and Accountability



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INVITATION GASP 2018

Enrolment for the Government Auditing Specialism Programme (GASP) & Registered Government Auditor Qualifying Examinations (RGA QE)

SAIGA would like to extend an invitation to Auditing firms who perform Public Sector Audits to enrol **their trainees with a minimum of 18 months' practical experience** as well as accredited public sector institutions with CAA Academies (i.e. National Treasury & Provincial Treasuries, Public and Municipal Entities and State Owned Entities i.e. Rand Water, SARS, Tshwane into our GASP Programme for 2018 as part of our pilot project. This is to make our designation more accessible to trainee auditors and already qualified professionals who are interested in becoming Registered Government Auditors. The entry requirements are stated below and a revised fee structure for the GASP Programme 2018 is attached to this letter as Annexure.

BACKGROUND

The RGA –QE is a professional examination specifically designed to test the public sector knowledge and skills and assess if a candidate has the required competencies to function as Registered Government Auditor. The examination covers topics such as the PFMA, Treasury Regulations, MFMA, Public Audit Act, Modified Cash Standard, IFRS & GRAP as applicable to public institutions, Ethics, Auditing Theory & Standards (ISA's), Applied (Practical) Audit, Audit of Performance information (AoPI), ICT Auditing and Forensic Auditing.

FORMAL EDUCATION AT A TERTIARY INSTITUTION

The prospective RGA has to obtain a three-year Commerce Degree or equivalent on NQF level 7 from a tertiary institution registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training in South Africa and meet certain subject requirements. The three-year qualification provides the general and basic knowledge and skills needed to function in an interdependent economy.

The specific subject requirements are:

- Financial Accounting. (final year undergraduate level)
- Auditing (final year undergraduate level))
- Management Accounting / Financial Management
- Taxation
- Corporate Law / Commercial Law

Note: SAIGA acknowledges that tertiary institutions may use different names for the above generic subjects.

GOVERNMENT AUDITING EXPERIENCE

The prospective RGA must gain his/her practical experience in a public sector auditing environment. This specifically defined (public sector) auditing experience is referred to as public sector (previously government) auditing experience (GAE). To qualify as an RGA, the prospective candidate has to complete three years of GAE. The practical experiences have to be gained whilst working for an Accredited Provider of Public Sector Auditing i.e. audit firms performing public sector audits or Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) i.e. AGSA). The SAIGA accredited workplace training provider should generally offer three-year training contracts and during this time the RGA candidate is referred to as a trainee auditor.

GOVERNMENT AUDITING SPECIALISM PROGRAMME (GASP)

In short, the RGA entry requirements can be broken-down into the following phases:

QUALIFYING CRITERIA

Candidates are allowed to enrol for GASP if they meet the following criteria:

1. ACADEMIC

- A three-year Commerce degree or equivalent on NQF level 7 from a tertiary institution registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training in South Africa or their foreign equivalent with core subjects as stated above.

2. PRACTICAL

- At least 18 months of practical experience of SAIGA Articles or
- Completed training programme from accredited professional accounting body or
- 3 years of verifiable experience (Recognition of Prior Learning)

All successful GASP applicants have to be registered as trainee auditors for at least the duration of GASP. So, even if a candidate has completed his/her CA articles, or another learnership or practical work period, they still have to register as trainee auditors for 2018 to be able to do GASP 2018

Successful completion of the Government Auditing Specialism Programme (GASP) is a formal requirement that all persons who wish to qualify as RGA's have to meet. GASP is specifically designed to address certain shortcomings in the academic programmes of tertiary institutions. Currently the universities' academic programmes do not include all the public financial management and related topics that form the foundation of the public sector auditor's competencies or where they do, they do not do so in-depth i.e. The PFMA, the Treasury Regulations, the MFMA, GRAP, GAMAP, the National Treasury's Guide on How to Prepare Annual Financial Statements for Government Departments, the Public Audit Act, Performance Auditing, Forensic Auditing, Auditing of Performance Information.

To successfully complete GASP, required minimum of 50 % pass on each paper must be achieved and the overall aggregate must be 50%.

THE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION FOR RGAS: RGA-QE

All prospective RGAs have to pass the Qualifying Examination for Registered Government Auditors (RGA-QE) with the required 50 % pass per Paper and aggregate pass rate of 50%. The RGA-QE consists of three four - hour written examinations papers which are reviewed and evaluated by the Institute's Examination Board (EB). The Qualifying Examination consists of the following parts / papers;

PAPER 1:

The first paper focuses on the regulatory framework for public sector auditors. The Constitution, PFMA, MFMA, Treasury Regulations, Public Audit Act, INTOSAI Code of Ethics, current developments in auditing, the Codes of Corporate Governance as applicable to public institutions.

PAPER 2:

The second paper focuses on public sector accounting topics. Modified Cash Standard, GRAP for departments and local authorities, preparing annual financial statements for government departments, basic accounting principles as well IFRS as it pertains to the public sector institutions.

PAPER 3:

The third paper focuses on public sector auditing and related topics.

International Accounting Standards (IAS), IAS applied to the AGSA's audit manuals and public sector, performance auditing, auditing of performance information, forensic auditing and information technology- auditing as well as the practical audit perspectives.

After passing the RGA-QE and completing three years of GAE, the candidate has to apply to the Southern African Institute of Government Auditors for registration as an RGA and pay the necessary registration fees. After registering, the RGA has a professional duty to maintain his/her competence levels and to stay informed of current developments. This is achieved through a compulsory system of continuing professional development (CPD) which conforms to international standards set by the International Federation of Accountants.

Your response in the above matter will be highly appreciated. Kindly submit responses and applications of interested candidates by the 30th of June 2018 to ceo@saiga.co.za / admin@saiga.co.za / manager@saiga.co.za or call our offices on 012 004 0741. Application form and Fee breakdown for the GASP Programme is attached to the letter as Annexure B.

Kind Regards,



Manfred Moses
Chief Executive Officer of SAIGA