

CA CTA Joint Programme

How to become an ICAS Chartered Accountant (CA) and a Chartered Tax Adviser (CTA)



CA CTA Joint Programme

ICAS is delighted to work in partnership with CIOT to bring together two high quality designations. Students can study towards two prestigious qualifications in accountancy and tax. The joint programme allows students to select either a direct or indirect tax route, with a specialist tax paper from a selection of those offered through the CTA.

The programme allows students to fast track their CA and CTA studies. How long it takes overall depends on how the student phases their studies. It might take some students four years to complete, for example, whereas others might take longer.

The Benefits

The main benefits of the joint programme to both students and employers is the reduction in study time, letting students qualify earlier and reducing overall costs. The exemptions available will ensure that students will still cover the full CA and CTA syllabus but with a reduction in overlap when compared to sitting the qualifications individually.

Two qualifications achieved in one joint programme:

- reduced time
- reduced costs
- reduced syllabus overlap
- become a specialist in tax and accountancy

Joint Programme Structure

Students must complete all course requirements and pass all of the exams as well as the relevant practical experience components of both the CA and CTA qualifications. The CTA structure allows students to specialise from a wide range of areas. Once successfully completed, students will be eligible to apply for membership of both ICAS and CIOT.

Registration

Registration for the CA CTA Joint programme 2026+ is not yet open on the CIOT's online portal. This will be open before the end of June 2026, in time for November 2026 exam registrations. The first sitting of the Tax Knowledge & Skills paper will be November 2026.

ONE

Complete, or be exempt from, compulsory ICAS Knowledge and Skills Level courses and assessments:

K Knowledge

Reporting and Performance 1

Assurance

Business Management and Finance

Taxation

Business Law

S Skills (Core)

Reporting and Performance 2

Advanced Reporting and Performance

Advanced Assurance

Corporate Finance and Modelling

Data, Risk and Technology

The CTA Tax Knowledge & Skills paper can be sat after students have passed Knowledge RP1 and Taxation. Students can sit Integration once they have passed (or been exempt from) all Knowledge, Skills and the initial CTA Tax Knowledge & Skills paper.

TWO

Register with CIOT for the CA CTA Joint programme and choose your CTA Tax Knowledge & Skills paper from the following two routes:

Route 1
Direct Tax

Route 2
Indirect Tax

Tax Knowledge & Skills paper will become available from November 2026. Students need to pass the first CTA paper to be eligible for stage 3.

THREE

All specialisms to complete two compulsory ICAS courses and assessments:

I Integration

Case Study

Professional Ethics

FOUR

All students to complete compulsory CTA examination:

Professional Responsibilities and Ethics

Students need to pass this before entering for the final CTA written paper.

FIVE

All routes to choose a further CTA paper from the two columns shown below:

Direct Tax

Owner-Managed Businesses

Advanced Technical paper

OR

Application and Professional Skills paper

OR

Large Companies and Groups

Advanced Technical paper

OR

Application and Professional Skills paper

Exams available May and November.

Indirect Tax

Domestic Indirect Taxation - Advanced Technical paper

Cross Border and Environmental taxes - Advanced Technical paper

VAT And Other Indirect Taxes - Application and Professional Skills paper

Exams available May and November.

Email students@icas.com to find out more