

The Chartered Governance Institute of Southern Africa

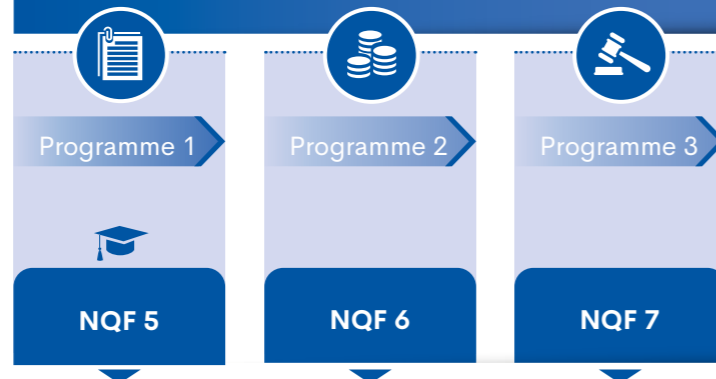
is the chartered membership and qualifying body for people working in company secretaryship, governance, risk, compliance and legal.

over 110 years' experience in Southern Africa.

develops the skills, knowledge and experience through our qualification, training, high-quality guidance and technical know-how.

represents Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Eswatini.

Governance Practitioner



Communication

Intro to Financial Accounting

Intro to Law

Intro to Corporate Governance

Managing Information Systems

Principles of Business Law

Advanced Financial Accounting

Principles of Corporate Governance

Management Principles

Advanced Business Law

Advanced Corporate Governance

Why

should I belong to an international institute?

The CGISA is an integral part of the Chartered Governance Institute, which was founded in London in 1891. Southern Africa is the oldest division, which was established in 1909. There are eight other divisions: Australia, Canada, China, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, UK and Zimbabwe.

The CGISA is also a member of Corporate Secretaries International Association ("CSIA"), which is a global federation of corporate secretaries and governance professionals. Member organisations include five of the divisions above and the United States, India, Kenya and Nigeria. All share a common interest in the promotion of good governance. CSIA represents approximately 90 000 governance professionals.

Exemptions Entry to board exams via other qualifications



Applied Governance

Finance for Decision-making

Corporate Law

Risk and Compliance

Company Secretary

Company Secretarial Practice

Development of Strategy

Governance Professional

Enterprise Risk Management

Public Sector Governance

Associate (ACG) Member



Relevant work experience & CPD

3 – 6 years

Fellow (FCG) Member



Relevant work experience & CPD

5 – 8 years

In accordance with the Charter and byelaws

Chartered Secretary or Chartered Governance Professional

What

are the entry requirements?

Governance Practitioner (NQF 7)

The following learners are eligible to enter the programme at NQF 5:

- Learners who have passed the National Senior Certificate Examinations with an NQF 4 pass in English and Mathematics/Science/Mathematical Literacy;
- Learners who achieved another registered NQF 4 qualification with English and Mathematics;
- Learners who have passed the age of 23 years of age and who have been working in a related field for at least two years should apply for special entry;
- Foreign learners who have equivalent qualifications. These must be accompanied by a SAQA Foreign Evaluation letter.

Company Secretary or Governance Professional (NQF 8)

Access to the Board Examination is via two main routes:

- Route 1: Learners who have passed the 11 modules as presented in the Governance Practitioner (NQF 7) qualification.
- Route 2: Submission of completed degree to obtain credits.

Note: all degrees for which exemption is sought must be issued by a public university or Private Higher Education Institution (PHEI) accredited by the Council of Higher Education.

Please refer to the website for further information on exemptions.

The CGISA is the home of good governance and has a premier qualification recognised in more than 80 countries.

What

is a Chartered Secretary and a Chartered Governance Professional?

Chartered secretaries are senior professionals trained in law, finance, governance and strategy. They principally work as company secretaries. Highly valued by employers for their training, chartered secretaries are the primary source of advice on governance to their board.

Chartered governance professionals have a deep understanding of governance usually across the listed company, public and/or not-for-profit sectors. They also have a deep understanding of risk management and how to apply it across their organisation. Chartered governance professionals are also skilled in public sector governance. Chartered governance professionals often have roles as risk managers, compliance managers, legal counsel or non-executive directors.

What

skills do I need?

- a keen interest in business and the legal and regulatory environment within which it operates;
- strong strategic instincts;
- an ability to absorb and digest technical knowledge;
- highly developed numeracy and literacy skills;
- the confidence to communicate with and influence stakeholders at all levels, including board members and shareholders;
- impeccable organisational skills;
- ability to focus on detail and work to a high level of accuracy while balancing competing priorities; and
- well-developed integrity and a belief in the importance of transparency.

Why

become a Chartered Secretary or Chartered Governance Professional?

Becoming a Chartered Secretary or Chartered Governance Professional represents a sound achievement and opens doors to a variety of career opportunities.

- You'll stand out from the competition with an enhanced professional identity – those with professional qualifications instantly stand out to prospective employers.
- It gives instant recognition of your professional and academic achievement – being Chartered shows that you have reached a level of academic achievement and professional experience.
- The qualification is recognised around the globe and CGISA members in good standing are welcome anywhere in the world should they decide to emigrate.
- There is currently a shortage of qualified and experienced Chartered Secretaries and Chartered Governance Professionals, with demand on the increase in light of the Companies Act and the King code. This means that members can command competitive remuneration packages.
- If you are studying or starting out in your career, belonging to a professional body will give you a good head start and support structure.
- The benefits of belonging to a professional organisation can enhance your professional life and far outweigh the disadvantages of an annual fee.
- The CGISA is:
 - a registered professional body with SAQA;
 - a recognised controlling body for tax practitioners with SARS;
 - represented on the King Committee; and
 - recognised by the CIPC for accounting officers.

How

do I become a member of the Chartered Governance Institute of Southern Africa and what are the different levels of membership?

Membership of the CGISA evidences not only academic qualifications but also practical experience, character, integrity and responsibility. Membership also ensures remaining at the forefront of global developments and best practice in governance. It involves a career-long relationship with the Institute – from a professional qualification and beyond via Continuing Professional Development ("CPD") and ongoing technical support.

To become a full member of the CGISA and a Chartered Secretary or Chartered Governance Professional, you need to demonstrate a certain level of experience. Many students study while they work and are able to gain their professional experience at the same time as studying.

Once you have successfully completed the exams and paid your first graduate fee you will be given the designation GradCG, which you can use after your name.

There are three levels of membership – **Graduate Member (GradCG)**, **Associate (ACG)** and **Fellow (FCG)**.

Upon gaining the necessary practical experience and if deemed to be of appropriate upstanding character, graduates are admitted as **Associates** and are entitled to use the post-nominal ACG.

Upon admission as a **Fellow**, the most senior grade of membership, granted on more extensive experience, a member may include the prestigious FCG designation after his/her title.

Qualifying periods can be reduced subject to the Institute's Charter and byelaws.

Membership offers employers 'watchdog' accountability with recourse to the Institute's disciplinary proceedings in the case of misconduct and/or breach by a member of the Institute's Code of Professional Ethics and Conduct.

As the CGISA is a professional body, membership is not automatic and is granted on the basis of academic achievements, personal and professional ethics, working experience and CPD.

What

are the current tangible benefits of membership?

- Weekly emails – you'll continuously be updated with the latest thinking in the profession.
- Quarterly e-zine.
- Quarterly *boardroom* magazine.
- Discounts on conferences, webinars and CPD seminars.
- A guarantee to employers regarding the member's character, integrity and accountability.
- Adherence to a code of ethics and conduct.
- Up-to-date technical support.
- Networking opportunities.
- Access to Chartered Governance Placements should you be in need of a job or career guidance.
- Commissioner of Oaths status (ACG & FCG).

What

career choices are there?

Some possible careers that can be pursued:

Company secretary

Governance adviser

Risk and compliance manager

Legal counsel

Finance manager

Non-executive director



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