

# **AIA Withdrawal and Switchover Policy**

*Rules and guidance for current and future students  
undertaking Accountancy and RPQ Audit  
qualifications*

## AIA Withdrawal and Switchover Policy

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## 1.0 Introduction

This document explains the process that the Association of International Accountants (AIA) is following in withdrawing the current Professional Qualification and introducing the new Professional Qualification (PQ), which is examinable from 2021.

How these changes will affect you will depend on how far you have progressed in your study. AIA is here to make sure the transition to the new PQ is as simple as possible; for any queries not answered by this guidance, please use the contact details are at the end of the document.

## 2.0 AIA Withdrawal Policy

**The new PQ will be launched in 2021 and be publicly examinable from November 2021.**

The updated qualification structure is illustrated in Appendix 1. For programme details, including syllabuses, please refer to the new Professional Qualification Programme (PQ). The examination rules, which apply to all students, refer to the website Online Exams webpage.

The following table presents an overview of the withdrawal plan.

Calendar Year	Current PQ	New PQ
<b>2020</b>	Examinable November.	
<b>2021</b>	Examinable May. November withdrawn. (Students currently undertaking professional qualification are switched to new PQ.)	New PQ – all levels offered at November exam sessions.

- Currently registered students must complete any remaining exam papers in November 2020 and May 2021 under the current Professional Qualification syllabus. The May 2020 exam session was postponed due to the impact of the Covid-19 virus, but online exams with remote access took place for the November 2020 exams session.
- Following the May 2021 online exams, all students will automatically transfer to the new PQ under AIA's Switchover Policy.
- Newly registered students **after 30 April 2021** will sit the new PQ exam papers examinable from November 2021.

## 3.0 AIA Switchover Policy

If you are a currently registered student there are six things you need to know about the new Professional Qualification (PQ):

- (1) Previously completed exam papers are retained
- (2) Transferring to the new exam syllabus and exams is easy
- (3) New learning material is available covering the new PQ
- (4) We are offering a new Achieve Academy Course of Study
- (5) Assessment is by computer based examinations in Rogo, a cloud based platform
- (6) You can continue to enter the exams online via the AIA website

The pass students have obtained for a paper under the current syllabus (exams) will be deemed to be a pass for the corresponding paper (where applicable) in the new Professional Qualification. Students therefore receive a credit for the past papers they have attained. Should you have any queries about this process please use the contact details are at the end of the document

Previously registered students of AIA who are no longer on the student register, including graduates, will be entitled to re-apply to AIA and have the past exams and/or exemptions credited to their records. To fulfil this condition previously registered students should apply to be re-instated, paying the requisite fee. Should you have any queries about this process please use the contact details are at the end of the document.

Applicants who register to become students with the AIA from January 2020 will study for and sit the examinations under the Current Syllabus (Exams) and sit exams in May 2021 exam sessions.

In transitioning to the new PQ currently registered students are permitted the following time in which to complete the PQ examinations:

- Foundation Level – two years
- Professional 1 Level and Professional 2 Level – eight years
- Students registered on AIA's Recognised Professional Qualification (Audit) are permitted five years on completion of the Foundation Level.

AIA will inform students when the transition period becomes effective for them.

To understand how AIA's Switchover Policy affects your qualification pathway you should select the level you are currently studying for, and then the papers you are required to sit under the new PQ.

Exemptions are permitted at the Foundation and Professional 1 Levels, refer to the Exemptions Policy.

Level	Current Syllabus (Exams)	New PQ	
<b>Foundation</b>	Completed level – papers are retained	Enter PQ at the Professional 1	Pass the Professional 1 Level before progressing to Professional 2 Level

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	<p>Foundation Level papers not attempted</p> <p>Papers passed at this level are retained</p> <p><b>Combinations for part completed papers:</b></p> <p>Completed papers 1, 2, 3, 5 &amp; 6, with paper 4 to be taken</p> <p>Completed papers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 with paper 6 to be taken</p> <p>Completed papers: 1, 2, 3, 5, with papers 4 &amp; 6 to be taken</p> <p>Completed papers 1,2,3,4,6 with paper 5 to be taken.</p> <p>Any other combinations of outstanding papers not defined above</p>	<p>Enter PQ at Foundation Level</p> <p>Allows progression to Professional 1 Level</p> <p>Allows progression to Professional 1 Level</p> <p>Allows progression to Professional 1 Level</p> <p>Allows progression to professional 1 level</p> <p>Enter PQ at Foundation Level</p>	<p>Pass Foundation Level before progressing to Professional 1 Level</p>
<b>Professional 1</b>	<p>Completed level – papers are retained</p>	<p>TAX* to be taken before progressing to the Multi-disciplinary Case Study at Professional 2.</p>	<p>Pass Professional 1 Level before progressing to Professional Level 2</p>
	<p>Professional 1 Level papers not attempted</p>	<p>Enter PQ at Professional 1 Level</p>	<p>Pass Professional 1 Level before progressing to Professional Level 2</p>
	<p><b>Partly completed</b></p> <p>Any passes from papers 7, 8, 11 and 12 are retained.</p>	<p>TAX* to be taken before progressing to the Multi-Disciplinary Case Study at the Professional 2</p> <p>Papers to be taken (comparable old papers) if not already passed</p> <p>PGA (paper 7)</p> <p>BLA (paper 8)</p>	<p>Pass Professional 1 before progressing to Professional Level 2</p>

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		FAR 1 (paper 11) MA (paper 12)	
<b>Professional 2</b>	Completed level – papers are retained	Students having completed the exams for the current or new PQ progress to graduate status. A graduate with three years IPD is entitled to apply for Associate membership	
	<b>Partly completed</b> Any passes in papers 13, 14, 15, 16 are retained	Papers to be taken EPP MDCS Papers to be taken** (comparable old papers) if not already passed FAR 2 (paper 13) BFM (paper 14) DAA (paper 15)	Pass Professional 2 Level before progressing to graduate status

### Notes:

\*students who have a relevant UK degree (obtained within the last five years) which included significant study of UK Tax, may be eligible during the period 2021 to apply for an exemption from this paper. (Not applicable for Audit Qualification students).

\*\*Students have the option to select one from two of these papers: DAA and BFM. (Not applicable for Audit Qualification students).

Students sitting in non-UK jurisdictions may have the option to sit a different version of the Taxation (UK).

Students sitting in non-UK jurisdictions have the option to sit Auditing and Corporate Governance for Islamic Financial Institutions paper instead of Developments in Assurance and Accountability.

## 4.0 Qualification outline and comparison

In the qualification structure for the new PQ the papers have been streamlined. In part this comes about because of the introduction of an integrated Foundation level exam, made up of four components. This reflects developments in the business environment and in students' educational background, such as familiarity with basic packages and elements of computer information systems. Equally Taxation and Business Law are each assessed through single examinations, and a greater recognition has been given to developments in Corporate Governance and to the integration of Management Accounting with other elements of business decision making.

	Current Syllabus	New Professional Qualification (PQ)
<b>Foundation</b>	Financial Accounting 1 (Paper 1)	Foundation Unit - 4 components: Financing Accounting Management Accounting Corporate Governance & Audit Business Management
	Business Economics (Paper 2)	
	Management Accounting 1 (Paper 3)	
	Law (Paper 4)	
	Auditing & Taxation (Paper 5)	
	Information Processing (Paper 6)	
<b>Professional 1</b>	Auditing (Paper 7)	Financial Accounting & Reporting 1 (FAR 1)
	Company Law (Paper 8)	Principles of Governance & Audit (PGA)
	Management Information (Paper 9)	Management Accounting (MA)
	Business Management (Paper 10)	Business Law for Accountants (BLA)
	Financial Accounting 2 (Paper 11)	Taxation (UK) (TAX)
	Management Accounting 2 (Paper 12)	
<b>Professional 2</b>	Financial Accounting 3 (Paper 13)	Financial Accounting & Reporting 2 (FAR 2)
	Financial Management (Paper 14)	Developments in Assurance & Accountability (DAA)
	Professional Practice (Paper 15)	Business and Financial Management Accounting (BFM)
	Taxation & Tax Planning (Paper 16)	Ethics and Professional Practice (EPP)
	Multi-disciplinary Case Study (MDCS)	



## 5.0 Policy Review Arrangements and Contact

These policies are reviewed as part of AIA's continuous improvements activities and revised as appropriate in response to feedback from students, stakeholders, changes in our practices or the outcome of the switchover.

If you have further questions or would like additional advice on how the policy outlined above will affect you and your studies, please contact:

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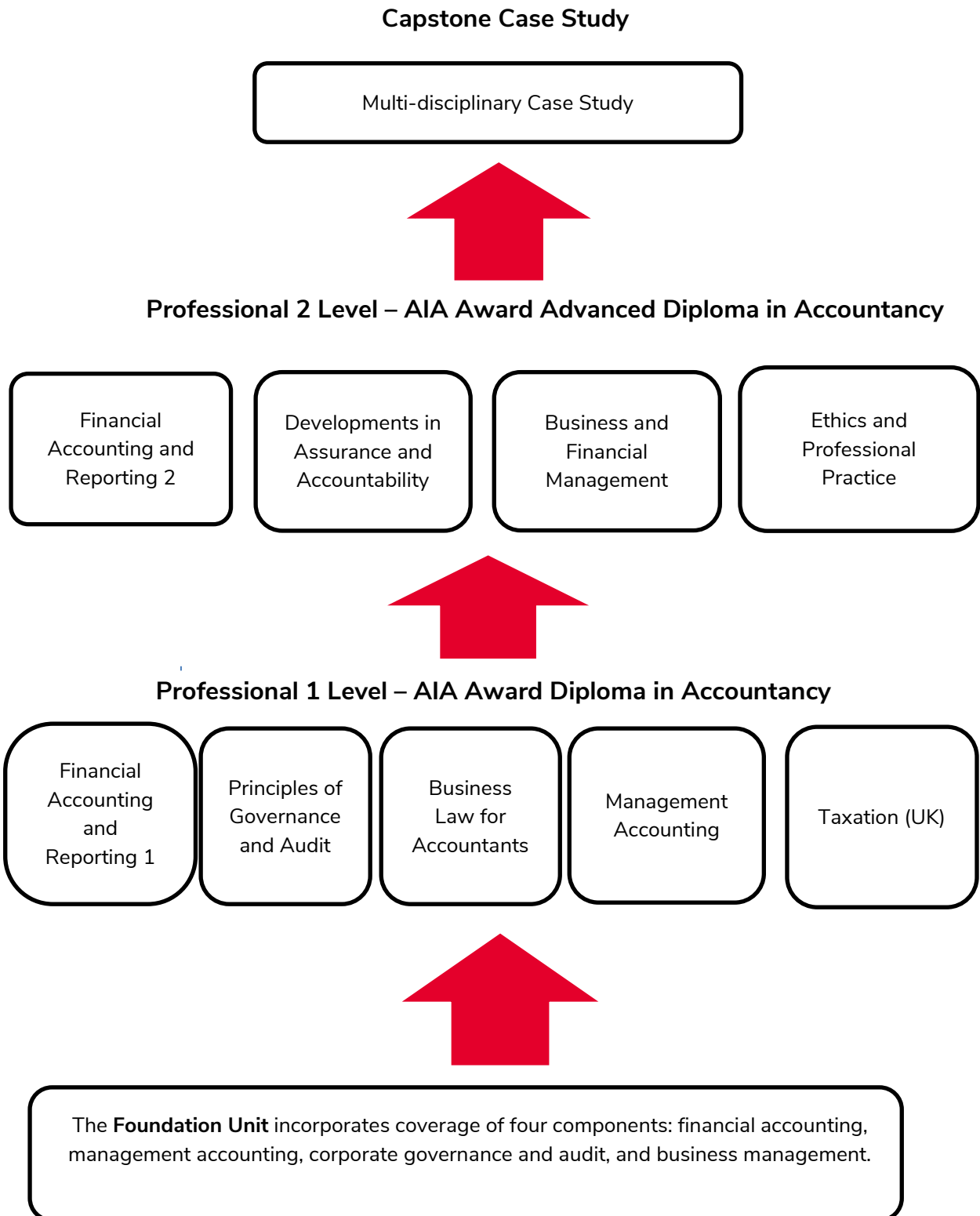
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## 6.0 Appendix 1

### Updated Professional Qualification Examination Structure





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