

# CIPAG Certification Guide

Your complete roadmap to global credentials in public administration and governance

CIPAG offers a suite of internationally recognized certifications designed for public sector professionals at every career stage. Whether you are a policy analyst, financial manager, anti-corruption specialist, or digital governance leader, our credentials validate your expertise and accelerate your impact.

## Chartered Public Administrator CPA®

Professional Level

Flagship credential for public administration excellence

The CPA® certification equips public administrators with advanced skills in policy analysis, public financial management, ethical leadership, and organizational strategy. Ideal for mid- to senior-level civil servants, agency heads, and policy advisors.

- ✓ Eligibility: Bachelor's degree + 3 years public sector experience
- ✓ Exam domains: Policy design, budgeting, ethics, public law
- ✓ Renewal: 40 CPD credits every 3 years

### Benefits:

- ✓ Chartered status after full membership
- ✓ Access to global policy network
- ✓ Digital badge & verification service
- ✓ Eligibility for senior roles in multilateral organizations

[Learn more →](#)

## Chartered Governance Professional **CGP®** Governance Focus

Specialist credential for governance, risk, and compliance

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Designed for board secretaries, compliance officers, and corporate governance professionals in public entities. Covers board dynamics, regulatory frameworks, stakeholder engagement, and integrity management.

- ✓ Eligibility: Relevant degree + 2 years governance experience
- ✓ Exam: Governance frameworks, risk oversight, ethics

### Benefits:

- ✓ Recognized by international corporate governance networks
- ✓ Pathway to Fellowship (FCIPAG)
- ✓ Access to CIPAG Governance Toolkit

[Learn more →](#)

## Certified Anti-Corruption Specialist **CACS®** Integrity Track

Gold standard for integrity and forensic governance

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CACS® professionals lead anti-corruption efforts, design prevention systems, conduct forensic audits, and advise on whistleblower frameworks. Endorsed by UNODC and G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group.

- ✓ Eligibility: Degree or 5 years integrity-related work
- ✓ Modules: Corruption risk mapping, asset declaration systems, procurement red flags

### Benefits:

- ✓ Recognized by international development agencies
- ✓ Priority for anti-corruption roles in government & NGOs
- ✓ Annual CACS® summit invitation

[Learn more →](#)

## Public Financial Management Expert PFM™

Finance Track

Mastery of public budgeting, accounting, and fiscal transparency

PFM™ credential holders drive fiscal discipline, performance-based budgeting, and compliance with international public sector accounting standards (IPSAS).

- ✓ Eligibility: Accounting/finance degree + 2 years public finance experience
- ✓ Exam: Budget cycle, treasury management, audit readiness

### Benefits:

- ✓ Pathway to senior PFM roles (e.g., Director of Budget)
- ✓ Access to CIPAG PFM community of practice
- ✓ Eligible for chartered status after exam

[Learn more →](#)

## Certified Digital Governance Leader

Digital Track

AI, open data, and citizen-centric digital transformation

Future-proof your institution with skills in AI ethics, GovTech procurement, digital identity, and service design. Aligned with UN e-government benchmarks.

- ✓ Eligibility: Bachelor's degree + 1 year digital government experience
- ✓ 10-week online program with capstone project

### Benefits:

- ✓ Stackable with CGP® for Chartered status
- ✓ Access to Digital Maturity Assessment Tool
- ✓ Priority for digital transformation consulting roles

[Learn more →](#)

## Certified Governance Strategist

Executive Level

Advanced strategic governance for senior leaders

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For senior executives who design governance systems, lead institutional reforms, and align public sector organizations with sustainable development goals.

- ✓ Eligibility: 8+ years leadership experience + master's degree
- ✓ Assessment: Case study + portfolio review

### Benefits:

- ✓ Direct entry to Fellow membership (FCIPAG)
- ✓ Invitation to global governance roundtables
- ✓ Executive coaching package

[Learn more →](#)

## Certified Public Administration Executive **CPAE** Executive

Top-tier credential for permanent secretaries and agency directors

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CPAE recognizes seasoned leaders who have demonstrated transformative impact in public administration. It is awarded through a combination of professional portfolio, peer review, and executive assessment.

- ✓ Eligibility: 10+ years senior leadership + endorsement
- ✓ No examination – portfolio & panel interview

### Benefits:

- ✓ Use of CPAE title
- ✓ Mentorship from CIPAG Distinguished Fellows
- ✓ Lifetime access to leadership resources

[Learn more →](#)

## Chartered Public Administration Consultant **CPAC**

For independent advisors and consulting professionals

### Consulting

CPAC validates your ability to advise governments, multilateral agencies, and NGOs on public sector reform, institutional strengthening, and policy implementation.

- ✓ Eligibility: CPA or CGP + 3 years consulting experience
- ✓ Requirement: Submission of 2 client case studies

### Benefits:

- ✓ Listing in CIPAG Consultant Directory
- ✓ Pre-approved for World Bank/UN consulting rosters
- ✓ 20% discount on CIPAG continuing education

[Learn more →](#)

## Certification Pathways & Fees

Credential	Typical Duration	Exam Fee (USD)	Annual Renewal
<b>CPA®</b>	6 months	\$350	\$95
<b>CGP®</b>	6 months	\$350	\$95
<b>CACS®</b>	4 months	\$300	\$85
<b>PFM™</b>	6 months	\$350	\$95
<b>Digital Gov Leader</b>	10 weeks	\$400	\$95
<b>CGS / CPAE / CPAC</b>	Portfolio review (2-3 months)	\$500	\$120

\* Fees for candidates in developing economies may be reduced by up to 40%. Contact your regional agent for details.

## How to Apply for Certification

1. **Check eligibility** – Review the specific requirements for your chosen certification.
2. **Create an account** on the CIPAG certification portal ([register here](#)).
3. **Submit application** with academic transcripts, experience letters, and identification.
4. **Pay the exam fee** – secure online payment via credit card or bank transfer.
5. **Prepare using official study guides** and practice exams (available in your dashboard).
6. **Schedule your proctored exam** – online or at an approved test center.
7. **Receive digital badge and certificate** upon passing (results within 10 business days).

## Frequently Asked Questions

▶ **Can I take multiple certifications?**

▶ **How long is certification valid?**

▶ **Is there a recognition of prior learning (RPL) route?**

▶ **Do you offer group discounts for organizations?**