

The Assessment of Professional Competence (APC), written in December of each year, is the second and final of SAICA/ICAN/ICAZ's two Qualifying Examinations for CA's. In order to be able to write the APC, you are required to have completed 20 months of traineeship, passed the ITC and completed and passed a Professional Programme accredited by SAICA/ICAN/ICAZ.

**Our Programme is accredited by SAICA, ICAN and ICAZ.**

APT is Southern Africa's leading presenter of preparation courses for the APC Examination, having prepared the vast majority of candidates since inception and a combined total of over 37 000 candidates for the APC and the previous PPE and Part 2 Board Examinations.

APT is more than a Board Course. We are a Professional Organisation with a balanced team of academics and practitioners from the profession, commerce and industry.

## Highlights

One of our greatest strengths is our flexibility and adaptability to meet candidates' needs. We are able to quickly and seamlessly modify the delivery of our Programme as was the case in 2020 under COVID Lockdown and when candidates faced adverse circumstances in 2021/22. Our Programme evaluations have always reflected Median Scores above 5 on a 6 point Likert Scale where "6" is Excellent and "5" is "Very Good".

Our candidates are core to the APT Family and we will do whatever is necessary to provide the service they need. We leverage Information Technology to the maximum to optimise our candidates' experience.

We supplement our candidates' Exam Readiness through our unique "Me Reinvented" soft skills programme and Critical Thinking interventions. We look forward to positive results for the 2023 APC.

Since the inception of the APC in 2014:

- Most of the Honours Candidates in the APC completed the APT Programme.
- We are a supportive home for all candidates irrespective of where they studied or where they are doing their training contracts.
- We have no restrictions or waiting lists.
- The vast majority of recently qualified CA's are APT Alumni.
- APT has made the greatest contribution to transforming the CA(SA) profession.

Our APT Team includes over 20 qualified and experienced senior presenters. These professionals are available to our candidates for consultation and mentorship. We are deeply committed to transformation and support the Thuthuka initiative. We also cater for candidates writing the ITC in June 2024.

## Enrolment & Fees

Enrolments will open on 30 November 2023. Given the difficult current economic situation, APT has decided not to increase the Programme fee for 2024. Our 2024 Programme Fee is R12 160, excluding VAT.

## Who is APT?

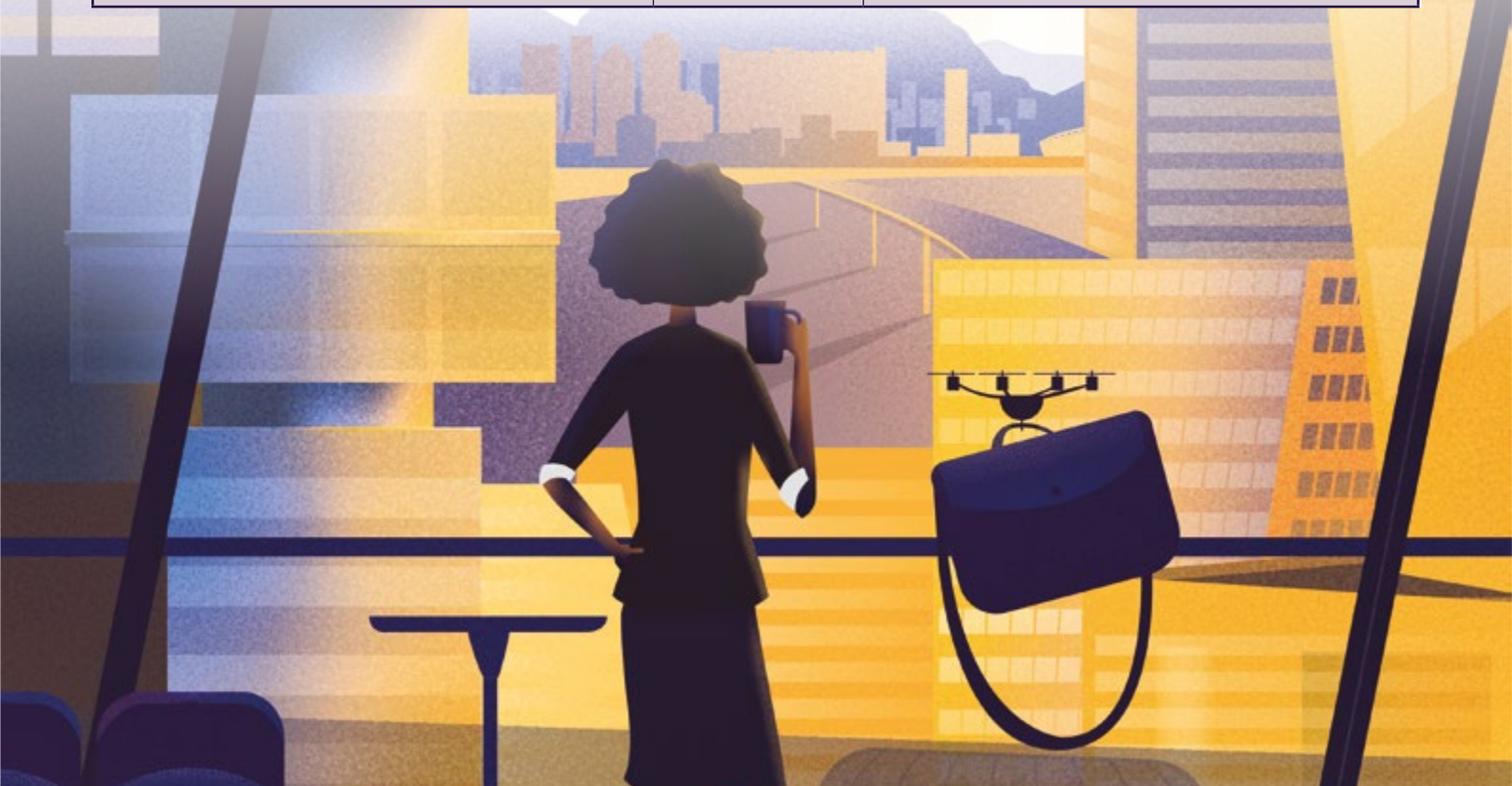
- Our Professional Programme specifically addresses your requirements and offers you a top-class opportunity to develop your professional competence and the best possible chance of passing the APC.
- We have run SAICA, ICAN and ICAZ Accredited APC Professional Programmes since the inception of the APC in 2014. We are Southern Africa's leading presenter of APC Programmes and have operated successfully as the market leader in our field for 24 years in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.
- We have consistently met our goals in preparing candidates for entry into the accountancy profession.
- Our Programmes have always been well received and supported by the market, candidates and employer firms.

## Nature of the APC?

- Our Programme is designed to enable you to develop a level of Professional Competence in order to pass the SAICA, ICAN, ICAZ APC.
- The first SAICA, ICAN and ICAZ Qualifying Examination, the ITC (Part 1), focuses on the assessment of technical competence and is a standard setting examination written after candidates complete a university programme (CTA or equivalent).
- The APC is the second and final formal assessment before a candidate may register as a CA.
- The APC is an assessment of professional competence and focuses on the integration of technical skills within 'real life' circumstances, on pervasive skills such as communication, on understanding the 'big picture' (the business and the environment in which the business operates) and on strategy, risk management and governance.
- Whilst aspects of professional competence are developed in the university programmes and in training programmes, our Programme focusses fully on developing your competence to the level required of a CA.
- The APC assesses professional competence to the full extent possible in a written examination and has been very carefully designed to do so.

## Important Dates

Month	Location	Description
Enrolment Opens	Online	30 November 2023
Programme Commences		25 March 2024
Assessment 1	Online	8 June – Simulated Mock Assessment
Assessment 2	Online	22 June – Formative Assessment
<b>Assessment 3 examination</b>	<b>In Venue</b>	<b>28 August – Summative Assessment</b>
Assessment 3 supplementary	Online	12 October - Summative Assessment
Programme ends		Two weeks before the APC
APC		Early December



# Our APC Programme

- Our Professional Competence Programme is of eight months duration and meets all requirements set by SAICA, ICAN and ICAZ.
- Our 2024 Programme will commence during March 2024 and will end shortly before the 2024 APC.
- Our Programme is designed to achieve the learning objectives set out in relevant SAICA, ICAN and ICAZ APC Guidelines, specifically with regard to the development of professional competence.
- Our Programme incorporates four formal Assessments. The first two are formative and the final and supplementary are summative Assessments. You need to pass either the final or supplementary in order to pass the Programme.
- Each of these Assessments simulates a “real” APC Assessment.
- Our Programme has a Professional focus rather than an Academic or Technical one.
- The primary objective of our Professional Competence Programme is to develop the professional competence of candidates to a level appropriate for new entrants to the Chartered Accountancy profession.
- A secondary, but very important, objective of our Programme is to prepare you for the APC. Professional competence is developed through a series of 7 Case Study simulations of real life assignments and tasks. You develop your professional competence through practice by working through these Case Studies.
- Each of our Case Studies is a simulation of a “real” APC Assessment.
- We offer a fully online Programme, supported by Blended Learning.
- Through Blended Learning, we support our online workshops with physical, face-to-face contact sessions related to critical workshops. These are held in all major centres.
- As the acquisition of professional competence is so fundamentally different from the skills most candidates have already developed in their academic programmes, we believe that candidates benefit significantly from the Blended Learning Programme’s direct interaction with presenters.
- Our programme is supported by additional interactive Zoom sessions, including Candidate Information Sessions, Guided Self-Assessment Sessions and Small Group Consultations. Recordings are made available for candidates who are unable to attend these live sessions.
- Mentorship is provided on an appointment basis.
- We work closely with CAA Zim and ICAZ in Harare and Bulawayo and ICAN in Windhoek.

- We are innovators who constantly leverage technology:
  - Our new, significantly upgraded and user-friendly Learning Management System was introduced in 2023.
  - Our Marking App, which provides candidates with details of Assessment Gradings.
  - Artificial Intelligence Applications that enable us to run assessments online as Non-Venue-Based.
  - Our HelpDesk App that enables us to assist candidates with Exam Software issues.
- Our formative and Supplementary Assessment are planned as Non-Venue-Based Assessments, whilst we run our summative Assessment in formal Exam Venues so that our candidates experience a realistic simulation of the actual APC.
- Our Programme also offers Value Added through our CPD Modules, which provide technical updates in new topics and enables candidates to determine their personal development needs and address those needs. Certain CPD topics are compulsory and you are required to log this CPD

## eWriting

- Candidates write the APC on their own laptops using Exam Software prescribed by SAICA, ICAN and ICAZ (“eWriting”). Importantly, we require our candidates to use the same software to minimize the possibility of IT problems in the APC.
- We provide extensive guidance and support to ensure that our candidates are fully ready for this by the time they write the APC.

## Candidates who will be writing the ITC in June 2024

- Candidates writing the ITC in June 2024 should register for our programme now. Once these candidates have written the ITC, we offer special interventions to facilitate them catching up. Fees will only become payable on passing the ITC. Candidates who are unsuccessful in the ITC will withdraw from the programme and no fee will be payable.
- Whilst this Programme requires intense effort on the part of candidates, it provides candidates who have the prescribed 20 months’ traineeship with the opportunity to write the APC in 2024 provided they pass the ITC and the APT Programme.

# AdAPTability

## Continual Innovation

We are fully committed to our candidates and respond to our candidates needs swiftly and effectively.

Our recent innovations include:

- Online Interventions to assist candidates. Feedback from candidates was incredibly positive with a significant number indicating that they felt professionally empowered by our workshops, which included:
  - Our “Me Reinvented” soft skills programme.
  - Our Critical Thinking interventions, which focus on problem identification and problem solving in an unstructured informational context. Without a deep understanding of the problem, it is neither possible to generate an effective solution nor demonstrate professional competence.
  - Public Sector workshops.
  - Technical workshops for CIMA candidates converting.
- Implementing the technology necessary for a fully online Programme with additional Value Added support.
- Online guided marking sessions where candidates are trained to reflect and improve their skills.
- Supplementing our Programme offerings with the innovations referred to earlier, including interactive Zoom workshops and Small Group Consultations.
- Developing the necessary IT applications to enable us to run Non-Venue-Based Assessments.
- Increasing the level of eWriting support that we offer to our candidates.
- Implementing the eWriting HelpDesk for our Assessments.

## What do our Students think?



**Our mission**  
is to provide high  
quality professional  
Programmes that  
enable candidate  
accountants to realise  
their own excellence.

# Provisional Programme

## Overview

- The 2024 Programme runs from the end of March and culminates two weeks prior to the SAICA 2024 APC.
- The Programme draws on the positive developments of previous programmes and the very positive feedback that we have received from past candidates.
- The Programme includes a number of interventions which are designed to give candidates the support they need. Major interventions include the Me Reinvented, Auditing and Ethics, and Critical Thinking Workshops.
- The Programme is based on 7 Case Studies which are used to guide candidates through a self-development journey. Case studies include both APT case studies and past SAICA/ICAZ/ICAN APC assessments.
- The Programme will have some physical workshops which candidates have the option to attend. All workshops are offered online so there is an alternative to physical attendance.
- There are 4 assessments, two are formative (designed to give candidates feedback on their development of professional competence) and two are summative (designed to measure a candidate's professional competence).
- The first assessment is an online simulated individual assessment. All assessments are followed by a guided marking session where candidates develop the skills to assess their own work.
- The second assessment is an online individual assessment. This requires candidates to work in their groups in the pre-release period but complete the work on the day individually.
- The third assessment is an in-venue assessment which replicates the SAICA/ICAZ/ICAN APC. Candidates who are borderline competent in assessment 3 have the opportunity to write the assessment 3 supplementary. A pass in either of these assessments is required for an APT certificate of competence.

Month	Description
30 Nov 2023	Programme registration opens
25 March	APT Programme commences
<b>Module 1 – Needs analysis and developing an understanding of professional competence</b>	
Week of 2 April	Workshop 1: Online interaction – small break away groups
29 April	Workshop 2: Online guided grading session
6 May	Online networking event
20 May	Online Chatgpt session
Week of 20 May	Workshop 3: Online interaction – small break away groups
<b>Module 2 – Development of professional competence</b>	
8 June	Assessment 1 - Non-venue-based
Week of 10 June	Workshop 4: Online and optional face-to-face Guided grading session
<b>Module 3 – Assessment of professional competence</b>	
22 June	Assessment 2 - Non-venue-based
26 June, 3 and 10 July	Workshops 5 to 7: Online guided grading sessions
16 July	Online Public Sector session
22 July	Workshop 8: Online Critical Thinking workshop
<b>Module 4 – Reflecting on professional competence</b>	
30-1 July/Aug	Online ewriting sessions
7 August	Workshop 9: Auditing workshop
Week of 12 August	Workshop 10: Online interaction – small break away groups
19 August	Online exam information session
<b>Modules 5 and 6 – Summative assessment</b>	
28 August	Exam - Assessment 3: Venue-based
4 September	Workshop 11: Online guided grading session
Week of 9 September	Workshop 12: Online and optional face-to-face Guided grading session



18 September	Workshop 13: Online guided grading session
3 October	Workshop 14: Online supplementary intervention
12 October	Exam - Assessment 3 Supplementary: Non - venue-based
16, 23 and 30 October	Workshop 15 to 17: Online guided grading sessions
<b>Module 7</b>	
31 October	Module 7 – SAICA APC case study
25 November	Online Send-off session
<b>SAICA APC</b>	

### Additional interventions that take place throughout the programme

#### Me Reinvented:

- Mental wellness and coaching
- Self-assessment
- Goal Setting & Time Management
- Eliminating Anxiety
- Laws of Success
- Leading myself and others

#### Guided marking sessions following the assessments

#### Group work guidance sessions

#### Focus group consultations

#### Exam information sessions

#### Auditing and ethics technical workshop

**We look forward to  
you passing the APC!**

**Enrol Online**

