POLICY FOR
RECOGNITION OF PRIOR
LEARNING (RPL)

ISACA®

South Africa Chapter

ISACA South Africa Policy on the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for Professional Designations

1. Introduction

The legacy of unfair discrimination in terms of access to work and education, in particular, is still prevalent in South Africa today and, consequently, positive measures must be taken by all institutions to enable the formerly disadvantaged members of society to take their rightful place in society and the workplace. These measures are also applicable to people from all groups in our society whose personal circumstances such as poverty and disability have prevented them from gaining the type of education and qualifications they need to enter and/or progress in their chosen careers.

One such measure is the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) which is an underlying principle of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The NQF Act, Act 67of 2008 requires SAQA and the Quality Councils to develop a national policy and sub-framework policies respectively for RPL. [Sections 13(h) (iii) & 27(h) (ii)] These policies must be implemented in the development of and the admission and the assessment of the competency of learners in NQF registered qualifications [SAQA: Policy and Criteria for the Registration of Qualifications and Part Qualifications on the NQF: Sections 26 & 38(m) and the National Policy for the Implementation of the Recognition of Prior Learning.]

RPL must be included as a general requirement in the awarding of professional designations by professional bodies [SAQA Policy and Criteria for the Recognising of Professional Bodies and the Registering of Professional Designations for the Purposes of the NQF Act, Act 67 of 2008: Section 42(viii) and the National Policy for the Implementation of the Recognition of Prior Learning: Sections 26, 30, 32 & 53].

ISACA South Africa ("ISACA SA") embraces RPL in its recognition of having a responsibility to promote, oversee, support and develop individuals and organisations in the ICT sector in which it operates. The development process would include the evaluation of the designee/applicants ability to perform their claimed experience. ISACA SA also endeavours to implement SAQA's policy on RPL which states the following in Section 53:

That SAQA-recognised professional bodies must:
1. "Comply with the national SAQA Policy and Criteria for the Recognition of Professional Bodies and the Registration of Professional Designations (2012).
2. Include an RPL route as an integral requirement for attainment of its professional designations as stipulated in the SAQA Policy and Criteria for the Recognition of Professional Bodies and the Registration of Professional Designations (2012).
3. Collaborate with SAQA, the Quality Councils and the relevant providers to incentivise and advance quality RPL provisioning in the sector.
4. Progressively develop and enhance its capacity to initiate and support RPL provision in accordance with this policy."

2. Implementation of RPL for the Awarding of Professional Designations

RPL will be considered by ISACA SA for the two designations; Information Security Chartered Manager (ISCM) and Information Systems Chartered Auditor (ISCA) as well as for Continuous Professional Development (CPD).

1. A general requirement for the granting of membership of ISACA South Africa and the awarding of one of its professional designations is the possession by the applicant of one of the prescribed

qualifications related to the profession as described in the criteria for the awarding of each professional designation.

2. There are many people working in the sector, or who wish to work in the sector, who do not have one of the prescribed NQF registered qualifications, but require one of the professional designations to be able to practice in the sector.

3. In addition ISACA South Africa will:
    *   ensure RPL is a focus area for the association;
    *   collaborate with SAQA, the Quality Councils and relevant providers of education and training to incentivise, advance and promote RPL and its quality provisioning as well as knowledge the NQF in the sector; and
    *   progressively develop and enhance its capacity to initiate and support RPL implementation in accordance with this policy.

3. Requirements for RPL

The application for RPL would only be considered for evaluation if the designee has the relevant and appropriate qualifications and/or experience. Applicants will need to prove their qualification and previous experience by submitting relevant documentation as specified in the procedures for each professional designation.

Procedure:

ISCM Application for RPL:
1. ISCM applicants must hold the CISM certification, a relevant ICT qualification recognised on the NQF, have a minimum of 5 years' experience in the Information Security/Assurance or related and signed the ISACA membership code of conduct.
2. ISCM applicants must provide evidence of working in the sector, this evidence must be reflective of the work they have been involved in linked to the CISM certification.
3. In order to receive the benefit of RPL the designee must to hold a minimum of the National Senior Certificate and have been operating in Information Security/Assurance or related sector for at least 10 years.

ISCA Application for RPL:
4. ISCA applicants must hold the CISA certification, a relevant ICT qualification recognised on the NQF, have a minimum of 5 years' experience in the Information System Auditing or related and signed the ISACA membership code of conduct.
5. ISCA applicants must provide evidence of working in the sector, this evidence must be reflective of the work they have been involved in linked to the CISA certification.
6. In order to receive the benefit of RPL the designee will need to hold a Senior Certificate and have been operating in Information System Auditing or related sector for at least 10 years.

The ISACA South Africa Scholarship & Education committee will make decisions regarding the outcomes of learning interventions including RPL. These decisions may result in the applicant receiving or being declined of the professional designation.

Where an applicant feels they have been unfairly treated, unfairly discriminated against or that the facts/factors affecting the decision have not been fairly taken into account they may appeal against such decision. Should they wish to appeal, they must follow the Appeal process as set out in the Appeals Policy which is managed by the Ethics Committee.

This policy only relate to the official business of ISACA South Africa. Members and representatives are not bound by this policy outside the official ISACA South Africa business matters.

7. Review

This Policy shall be reviewed annually or when necessary.

8. Amendment History

Revision Number	Date	Author Name & Designation	Amendment comment
0.1	11 December 2018	Arlene-Lynn Volmink (President)	Document Created
0.2	7 October 2019	Tania Rhode (Consultant)	Peer Review
0.3	15 November 2019	Board of Directors	Approved

9. Approval

This policy document was approved by the ISACA South Africa Board of Directors on 15 November 2019.