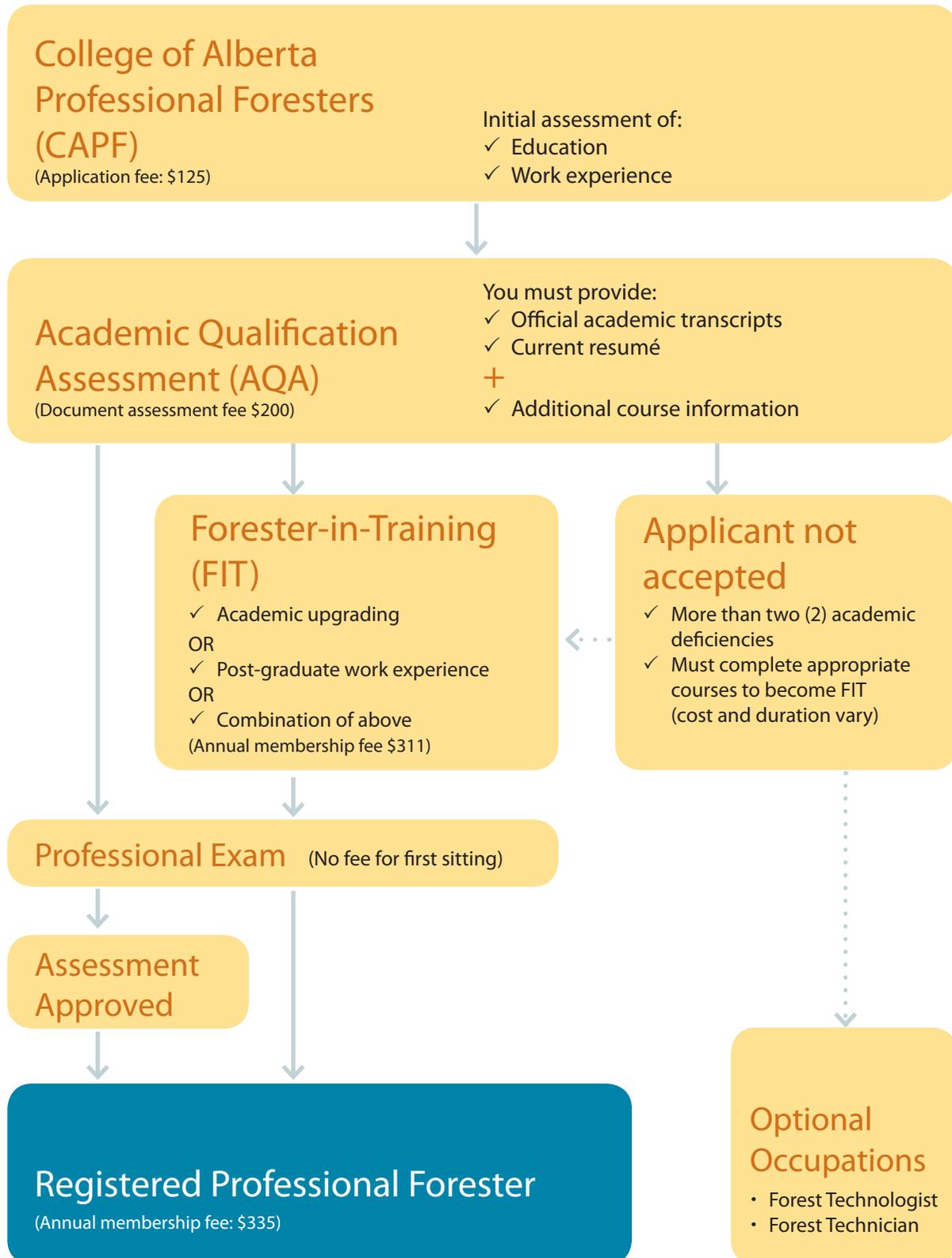


Foresters

Registration Process



Forester

Registration Process

Description of Occupation

Foresters plan, administer and direct programs to manage forested lands and related renewable resources. They work closely with other land and resource management specialists to ensure that forests are managed wisely. They optimize production of forest resources and minimize adverse impacts on land, water and wildlife.

Obtaining Registration in Alberta

In Alberta, Foresters must be registered with the College of Alberta Professional Foresters (CAPF) in order to use the Registered Professional Forester (RPF) title. Registration is mandatory if you meet identified competency requirements and intend to practice forestry on public lands.

To obtain the RPF designation you must:

- Have your academic credentials assessed by CAPF.
- Complete a minimum twenty-four (24) months post-graduate work experience.
- Pass the CAPF Professional Examination
- Apply for a Practice Permit

Links to Application Forms and other resources are at the end of this document.

Residency Requirement

You must be a Canadian citizen or have a valid work permit. You can start the application process from outside Canada.

Requirements

Internationally educated Foresters must meet the following requirements:

1. *Academic Qualifications Assessment*

You must have a bachelor of science degree in forestry. Graduates from a university forestry program outside Canada must obtain an Academic Qualifications Assessment (AQA). The AQA determines your educational equivalency in twenty-one (21) core subject areas (see Registration Policy below for list of subject areas). Work experience and other professional upgrading courses will also be considered.

- Complete the **Academic Qualification Assessment (AQA) Application Form** found on the CAPF website. Send the completed AQA to the CAPF office, along with a letter asking for an assessment. Make sure the information you provide is accurate. You must include the following documents:
 - Official academic transcripts. If transcripts are not in English, you must have them translated by a certified translator.
 - A current resumé with details of forestry work experience and dates of employment.

You can also provide additional information to help the Registration Committee make its decision. This may include:

- Examples of academic course information, such as textbooks used.
- Course content descriptions from calendar or course syllabus information.

- Post-secondary institution website links.

The Registration Committee will review your application to determine your academic equivalency. There are several possible results of the AQA:

No academic deficiencies:

- If you have no academic deficiencies, but less than twenty-four (24) months of post-graduate work experience, you can register as a Forester-in-Training (FIT). You must also complete twenty-four (24) months of post-graduate work experience under the supervision of a Sponsoring Forester (SF). You must write the Professional Examination within four (4) years, after your work experience is complete.
- If you have no academic deficiencies and at least twenty-four (24) months of post-graduate work experience, you can register as a FIT. A SF is not required. You must write the Professional Examination within four (4) years.

Academic deficiencies:

- If you have two (2) or fewer academic deficiencies, and less than twenty-four (24) months of post-graduate work experience, you can register as a FIT. You will have two (2) years to complete academic courses to remove the deficiencies. You must also complete twenty-four (24) months of post-graduate work experience under the supervision of a SF. You must write the Professional Examination within four (4) years, after you have completed the required courses and work experience.
- If you have two (2) or fewer academic deficiencies, and at least twenty-four (24) months of post-graduate work experience, you can register as a FIT. You will have two (2) years to complete academic courses to remove the deficiencies. A SF is not required. You must write the Professional Examination within four (4) years, once you have completed the required courses.
- If you have more than two (2) academic deficiencies, you must complete upgrading before you can register as a FIT. CAPF will recommend appropriate courses.

Notes

- You may receive credit for relevant post-graduate work experience outside of Canada. CAPF will determine if your experience is applicable.
- You are responsible for finding a Sponsoring Forester (SF), if required. CAPF may assist you in finding a SF. The SF must have a minimum of three (3) years experience as a RPF.
- If CAPF is not able to determine your educational equivalency, you may be asked to get an assessment from the International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS). IQAS compares educational qualifications from other countries to provincial educational standards. You are responsible for paying the assessment fees. For details on how to obtain an IQAS assessment and to download an application, visit the IQAS website at the address provided at the end of this document.
- If you are not eligible to register with CAPF, you can still work in forestry in Alberta. However, you cannot use CAPF protected titles such as RPF, and you cannot do professional signoffs in forestry or environmental areas.

2. Examinations

You must pass a Professional Examination to demonstrate your knowledge as a forestry practitioner. Before you can write the exam, you must complete the twenty-four (24) months post-graduate work experience, and any required upgrading. To write the exam, you must provide:

- A resumé showing your practical work experience since registration.
- Official transcripts to confirm successful completion of any academic deficiencies in the AQA.
- A report from your SF on your readiness to write the exam (if applicable).

The exam is held once a year on the first Friday in May. The exam is in English. It is four (4) hours long and is broken into three (3) sections:

- Section A is on professional ethics.
- Section B is on forest tenure and management.
- Section C is on federal and provincial legislation relating to forest management.

You must get a mark of 65 per cent, or better, on sections A and B, and have an aggregate grade of 65 per cent or better.

After you have passed the exam, you can apply for a Practice Permit from CAPF. You can then use the Registered Professional Forester title.

English Language

English is the working language in Alberta. While there is no English language requirement to become a Registered Professional Forester, proficiency in English can help you find a job.

Good Character and Reputation

You may be required to provide details of any conviction for a criminal offence or an offence related to the practice of forestry, including professional misconduct, incompetence or incapacity.

Payment

The following fees may apply for internationally educated applicants. All fees are in Canadian dollars. Fees are subject to change. See association websites for most up-to-date fees.

CAPF Fees	
Application Fee	\$125
Registered Professional Forester Annual Membership Fee	\$335
Forester-in-Training Annual Membership Fee	\$311
Academic Qualification Assessment Fee	\$200
Exam Fee	Free for first exam; \$50 for second or third sitting
IQAS Fees	
Basic Assessment	\$100

Average Earnings

The overall average earnings for all Foresters, according to the Alberta 2009 Wage and Salary survey:

Average hours worked per week	38.5
Average wage per hour	\$28.89 to \$39.73
Average salary per year	\$71,832

Employment Options

You can also consider working in Alberta in related occupations such as Forest Technologist and Forest Technician.

For more information about additional employment options, go to the following website:

[Alberta Learning Information Service \(ALIS\) Occupational Profiles — Forester](http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo)
(www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo).

Contact Information

College of Alberta Professional Foresters
#200, 10544-106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5H 2X6
Telephone: 780-432-1177
Fax: 780-432-7046
Email: registrar@capf.ca
Website: www.capf.ca

Resources

This information is an overview of the registration process. For the most current information on Forester registration visit the CAPF website at www.capf.ca.

Application Forms and Information:

- [Mandatory Registration](#)
- [Registration Policy](#)
- [Academic Qualifications Assessment Application Form](#)
- [Forester-in-Training Application Form](#)
- [Sponsoring Forester](#)
- [Application Fees](#)
- [Professional Examination Application Form](#)

Academic Credentials:

- [Academic Requirements](#)
- [International Qualifications Assessment Service \(IQAS\)](#)

Work Experience:

- [Work Experience Requirements](#)

Examinations:

- [Professional Exam](#)