

New Criteria for BCIA Membership - effective January 1, 2018

With the ongoing development of National Entrance Standards by Agrologists/Agronome Canada for the profession of Agrology, BCIA's Council upon the recommendation of its Credentials Committee has revised the BCIA entrance requirements to approximate the proposed National Entrance Standards.

Current criteria for membership: A Bachelors' level degree from an accredited post secondary educational institution the course work of which must consist of the following:

- a minimum of 2 foundational science courses at a 100 or 200 level as listed on the current academic worksheet;
- 1 course at any level in at least 1 of the 4 Academic element disciplines as listed on the current academic worksheet;
- At least 15 courses in natural sciences and/or agricultural and resource economics that relate directly to agrology (as defined in the Agrologists Act, 2003);
- At least 11 courses at the 300 or 400 level (these courses can be within the above noted 15 course requirement) of which 8 must be in natural sciences and/or agricultural and resource economics that relate directly to agrology (as defined in the Agrologists Act, 2003).

Effective January 1, 2018 the new criteria for membership will be: A Bachelors' level degree from an accredited post secondary educational institution the course work of which must consist of the following:

- A minimum of 8 entry level foundational knowledge courses at 100 or 200 level, in the subject matters listed on the new Academic Worksheet (applicants can have more than 1 entry level course in the same subject matter);
- At least 20 courses in natural sciences and/or agricultural and resource economics that relate directly to agrology (as defined in the Agrologists Act, 2003);
- At least 11 courses at the 300 or 400 level (these courses can be within the above noted 20 course requirement) of which 8 must be in natural sciences and/or agricultural and resource economics that relate directly to agrology (as defined in the Agrologists Act, 2003).

This move towards meeting the proposed National Entrance Standard expands acceptable subject matter for foundational courses and increases the number of agrology courses required for acceptance, by 5 extra courses. One advantage of this new approach is to reduce the current situation where applicants with graduate degrees in agrology subjects could be required to take very basic science course(s) prior to acceptance if they don't meet the current foundational science requirements.

If an applicant is short courses in meeting the minimum criteria for membership, the hope is that they will be short in the agrology section of the worksheet and the applicant will benefit more in taking courses in their field of interest/expertise prior to being accepted in to membership.

Transitional Period: The BC Institute of Agrologists will allow a 6 month transition period from the current criteria to the new criteria for membership, *expiring on June 30, 2018*. This should accommodate those potential applicants that are currently attending a post secondary institution and have customized their 4th year coursework to the current criteria for membership. This will also allow for those that have



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been in discussions with staff in the last 6 months regarding the application process and how they fit into the current membership criteria.

If you have any questions please direct them to the Deputy Registrar, Laurena Olsen at Laurena@bcia.com.

JP Ellson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JP Ellson', written in a cursive style.

Executive Director and Registrar