

## Guidelines for Membership of AIMS

as at 5 March 2024

Guidelines for membership are supported by the standards and competencies established by the profession of medical (laboratory) science / laboratory medicine and are periodically reviewed to ensure the criteria are current and relevant.

The AIMS Membership Committee determines an applicant's membership category based on evidence of the qualifications and work experience submitted with their application.

### Clinical Scientist Member (CSAIMS)

An applicant must be an Australian citizen and have at least five (5) years of relevant diagnostic laboratory experience and possess one or more of the following qualifications by examination:

- A Fellowship of AIMS; or
- A Doctorate of Philosophy (†AQF level 10 or equivalent) doctoral level degree in a subject relevant to the scope of diagnostic testing of the laboratory they are supervising and assessed as compliant with current AIMS membership criteria; or
- Holds **one or more** of the following qualifications and assessed as compliant with current AIMS membership criteria;
  - Fellowship of Australasian Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine
  - Fellowship of the Australian Society for Microbiology (Medical Microbiology or Clinical Microbiology)
  - Fellowship of the Human Genetics Society of Australasia (Biochemical Genetics, Cytogenetics or Molecular Genetics)
  - Fellowship of the Faculty of Science of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
  - Fellowship of the Australian Society of Cytology.

### Professional Member (MAIMS)

#### 1. AIMS Accredited Qualification

An applicant who has completed an AIMS accredited bachelor or master's degree in medical laboratory science / laboratory medicine and one (1) or two (2) years\* full-time (or part-time equivalent) postgraduate medical pathology laboratory experience, is eligible for the professional category of **Member** (MAIMS).

An applicant with an AIMS accredited qualification, who has **not** completed postgraduate medical pathology laboratory experience, is eligible for the professional category of **Graduate Member**.

\* *The period of postgraduate experience for a graduate of an AIMS accredited program will depend on the program studied.*

For information on AIMS accredited university programs, go to: [www.aims.org.au/services/university-accreditation](http://www.aims.org.au/services/university-accreditation)

OR

#### 2. Doctoral Degree (PhD †AQF level 10 or equivalent doctoral level degree)

An applicant may be eligible for the professional category of **Member** (MAIMS) if they have completed:

- An †AIMS acceptable science degree; and
- A Doctoral degree with a thesis that is assessed by the AIMS Membership Committee as relevant to pathology; and
- Two (2) years full-time (or part-time equivalent) postgraduate professional experience in a medical pathology laboratory.

*An applicant who does not have two (2) years of postgraduate professional experience in a medical pathology laboratory, may be eligible for the professional category of **Member (Research)** if they have sufficient appropriate medical research experience.*

OR

#### 3. AIMS Membership Examination (applicants with a qualification that is **not** accredited by AIMS)

An applicant that meets the eligibility criteria (see below) may be invited to sit an AIMS Membership Examination.

Passing an AIMS Membership Examination qualifies for classification as a Professional **Member** (MAIMS). AIMS offers a multidiscipline membership examination and single discipline membership examinations.

##### AIMS Membership Examination (Multidiscipline)

Applicants who pass the multidiscipline examination are eligible for the category of **Member** (MAIMS).

The AIMS multidiscipline membership examination has seven (7) sections: Anatomical Pathology, Chemical Pathology, Genomic Pathology, Haematology, Immunopathology, Medical Microbiology, and Transfusion Science.

##### *Multidisciplinary Examination eligibility criteria*

- Graduate with an †AIMS acceptable science degree
- Two (2) years full-time (or part-time equivalent) postgraduate professional experience in a NATA accredited laboratory, or other laboratory determined acceptable by the AIMS Membership Committee completed within the five-year period immediately prior to applying for membership
- Must meet the English language requirements that are outlined in the AIMS Membership Multidiscipline Examination Pack.

† AQF (Australian Qualifications Framework) or equivalent based on the Australian Department of Education, Country Education Profiles (CEP) criteria

## AIMS Membership Examination (Single Discipline)

The AIMS single discipline exam is only available for Australian residents. Applicants who pass a single discipline examination are eligible for the category of **Member** (MAIMS) e.g. MAIMS (Haematology).

The AIMS single discipline membership examination is available in the following disciplines: Anatomical Pathology, Chemical Pathology, Haematology, Immunopathology, Medical Microbiology, or Transfusion Science.

Applicants must meet the English language requirements contained in the AIMS Membership Single Discipline Examination Pack.

### Single Discipline Examination eligibility criteria - Option A

- Graduate of a science degree (comparable to †AQF level 7 or above) with subjects assessed as relevant to pathology; and
- More than five (5) years full-time (or part-time equivalent) working in a single discipline medical pathology laboratory and application of the discipline skill set in specialised fields

### Single Discipline Examination eligibility criteria - Option B

- Graduate of a science degree (comparable to †AQF level 7 or above); and
- Employed as a Medical Laboratory Scientist for eight (8) or more years full-time (or part-time equivalent) in a single discipline medical pathology laboratory and application of the discipline skill set in specialised fields; and
- Employment must be current at the time of application.

For information on AIMS membership examinations, go to: [www.aims.org.au/membershipinformation/membership-examination](http://www.aims.org.au/membershipinformation/membership-examination)

## Exemption from the AIMS Membership Examination

An applicant may be classified as a Member (MAIMS) without sitting the AIMS Membership Examination if they are an Australian citizen and have:

- Completed a science degree, with subjects determined by the AIMS Membership Committee as relevant to pathology, that is comparable to the educational level of an Australian bachelor degree (†AQF level 7 or above) and have at least two (2) years full-time (or part-time equivalent) postgraduate medical pathology laboratory experience and;
- Passed an examination of **one or more** of the following:
  - The Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemistry & Laboratory Medicine (AACB) Membership or Fellowship examination
  - The Australian Society of Cytology (ASC) Certificate or Fellowship examination
  - The Fellowship examination in Clinical / Medical Microbiology of the Australian Society for Microbiology (ASM)
  - The Membership or Fellowship examination of the Human Genetics Society of Australasia (HGSA)
  - The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) Faculty of Science Fellowship.

### OR

- Completed at least two (2) years full-time (or part-time equivalent) postgraduate medical pathology laboratory experience and;
- Successful completion of **one or more** of the following:
  - The Fellowship by examination of the UK Institute of Biomedical Sciences (FIBMS)
  - The Fellowship examination of the New Zealand Institute of Medical Laboratory Science (FNZIMLS)
  - Registration as a Clinical Scientist with the UK Health and Care Professions Council.

## Member (Research)

The Member (Research) category is a professional membership category that recognises members who conduct research within a medical laboratory science or pathology related field.

An applicant is eligible for the professional category of **Member (Research)** if they have completed:

- A science degree, with subjects determined by the AIMS Membership Committee as relevant to pathology, that is comparable to the educational level of an Australian bachelor degree (†AQF level 7 or above)
- A doctoral degree with a thesis which is assessed by the AIMS Membership Committee as relevant to pathology
- Two (2) years full-time (or part-time equivalent) postgraduate or post-doctoral professional medical research experience wholly within the five-year period immediately prior to applying for membership.

## Intermediate Member

To be assessed as an **Intermediate Member**, an applicant must have completed:

- A science degree (at least †AQF level 7) which is assessed as meeting the requirements of an †AIMS acceptable science degree and two (2) years full-time (or part-time equivalent) experience in a NATA accredited laboratory or other laboratory that is determined acceptable by the Committee; or
- a science degree (at least †AQF level 7) which is assessed as containing subjects meeting the criteria of being relevant to pathology and five (5) years full-time (or part-time equivalent) experience in a single discipline, NATA accredited laboratory or other laboratory that is determined acceptable by the Committee; or
- a science degree (at least †AQF level 7) which is assessed as not meeting the criteria of being relevant to pathology and employed as a Medical Laboratory Scientist for eight (8) or more years full-time (or part-time equivalent) in a single discipline NATA accredited laboratory or other laboratory that is determined acceptable by the Committee; or

† AQF (Australian Qualifications Framework) or equivalent based on the Australian Department of Education, Country Education Profiles (CEP) criteria

- a postgraduate science degree (at least †AQF level 9) which is assessed as containing professional discipline-specific program content and a research component topic (and techniques) that have application in the diagnosis, treatment, monitoring and prevention of disease; and two (2) years full-time (or part-time equivalent) postgraduate work experience in a NATA accredited laboratory or other laboratory that is determined acceptable by the Committee; or
- a qualification at the minimum of a diploma (at least †AQF level 5) in medical laboratory science / laboratory technology with pathology specialisation and two (2) years full-time (or part-time equivalent) experience in a NATA accredited laboratory or other laboratory determined acceptable by the Committee.

An individual, who meets the requirements for Intermediate Membership, but has **not** completed the required period of professional experience is eligible for the membership category of **Technical Associate**.

## Student Member

An individual meeting the following criteria is eligible for **Student** membership:

- Enrolled full-time or part-time in an AIMS accredited undergraduate or postgraduate program \*\*; or
- enrolled full-time or part-time in an undergraduate program which is determined by the AIMS Membership Committee as leading to a Professional or Intermediate classification of membership; or
- enrolled full-time in a postgraduate program which is determined by the AIMS Membership Committee as being related to pathology and who does not hold any qualifications leading to a higher classification of membership.

\*\* Student membership is free for individuals enrolled in an AIMS accredited program.

For information on AIMS accredited university programs, go to: [www.aims.org.au/services/university-accreditation](http://www.aims.org.au/services/university-accreditation)

## †AIMS Acceptable Science Degree

An acceptable science degree is an †AQF level 7 or above qualification (or equivalent) with subjects relevant to pathology that meets the following AIMS minimum subject requirements;

### Foundation subjects:

The degree should include full units (not part units) in the following subjects:

- Biochemistry
- Cell and tissue biology (including Anatomy and Physiology)
- Chemistry
- Microbiology
- Genetics and Molecular Biology
- Statistics

### Professional disciplines:

The degree must include studies in all of the following areas, with advanced studies in **no less than two (2)** of the professional disciplines that are indicated by \*:

- Pathophysiology (general / systemic pathology with emphasis on the relationship between disease process and laboratory diagnostic techniques)
- \* Anatomical Pathology / Histopathology (including where possible, Cytopathology)
- \* Chemical Pathology
- \* Haematology (including Haemostasis)
- \* Immunopathology
- \* Medical Microbiology
- \* Genomic Pathology
- \* Transfusion Science

## Professional Development

Further professional development is available for Professional Members through the **AIMS Fellowship Program**, which recognises sector leaders for their experiences and commitment to advancing the medical science profession.

To be eligible for enrolment in the AIMS Fellowship Program an applicant must be a Professional Member of AIMS for a minimum of two (2) years and must have a minimum of five (5) years professional practice approved by the AIMS Examinations Council.

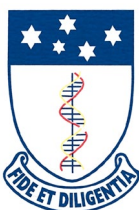
For more information on the AIMS Fellowship Program, go to: [www.aims.org.au/membershipinformation/fellowship](http://www.aims.org.au/membershipinformation/fellowship)

Members also receive access to the APACE Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme.

- The APACE scheme is a voluntary program that recognises continuing education, formal courses and a wide range of professional activities that contribute to professional growth.
- APACE scheme participants can now also apply for **Certification** through AIMS as part of your membership.



## IMPORTANT NOTES



- AIMS Membership is not suitable for migration purposes.
- The AIMS Membership Examination cannot be used for migration purposes.
- By submitting an application for membership of AIMS, applicants agree to accept the membership category determined by the AIMS Membership Committee.
- These guidelines are periodically reviewed to ensure the criteria is current and relevant. Please refer to the AIMS website for the current version of the 'Guidelines for Membership of AIMS'.

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† AQF (Australian Qualifications Framework) or equivalent based on the Australian Department of Education, Country Education Profiles (CEP) criteria