



BC Institute of Agrologists (BCIA) Professional Designations: Articling Technical Agrologist (ATAg), Technical Agrologist (TAg), Articling Agrologist (AAg), Professional Agrologist (PAg)

About the BC Institute of Agrologists

The British Columbia Institute of Agrologists (BCIA) is the principal regulatory body for registered agrologists in British Columbia. Through rigorous accreditation processes, mandatory professional development, and ethical conduct guidelines, BCIA and its registrants protect the public's interests in BC's agricultural, environmental, and natural resource sectors. Legislated by the *Professional Governance Act* (PGA), BCIA licenses professional agrologists, monitors their professional conduct, and safeguards the public from unqualified or fraudulent advice. All registered agrologists commit to a strict Code of Ethics upon graduation or joining BCIA.

Being a Registrant with a designation carries responsibility, authority, and recognition. Only agrologists have the right to practice agrology or be called an agrologist in British Columbia. Once registered with the BCIA, agrology professionals in British Columbia can legally use a title (designation) as outlined below and work within the practice of agrology in British Columbia:

- **Articling Technical Agrologist (ATAg)** must meet mandatory education requirements and be approved for registration by the Credentials Committee. Upon successful completion of the Articling Program, the ATAg is eligible to become a TAg.
- **Technical Agrologist (TAg)** has completed the Articling Program and has at least two years of agrology related work experience after their first eligible diploma, applied degree, or degree. The TAg can use their professional seal on documents.
- **Articling Agrologist (AAg)** must meet mandatory education requirements and be approved for registration by the Credentials Committee. Upon successful completion of the Articling Program, the AAg is eligible to become a PAg.
- **Professional Agrologist (PAg)** has already completed the Articling Program and has at least two years of agrology related work experience after their first eligible degree. A PAg can use their professional seal on documents.
- **Limited License Agrologist (LLAg)** must have at least the equivalent of 5 years of work experience in a specific agrology area of practice and can only provide the specific advice and services as listed in their respective license.

There are many benefits of accreditation with the BCIA. Registrants meet high standards, earning them professional competence in their fields. Being registered grants the use of designations like PAg or TAg and the use of the Institute's Professional "Seal of Approval" as a mark of credibility. This registration signifies professionalism, much like other esteemed professions, fostering public trust due to upheld ethics and competence standards. The Institute offers ongoing professional development, networking opportunities, and connects members to various sectors within agriculture and natural resources. BCIA members actively contribute to industry advancements, and participate in meetings, decision-making, research, and mentoring. Career opportunities exist in all levels of government, education, research, primary production, and agri-tech. In addition, volunteer leadership positions are available on BCIA's council, branches, committees, and working groups.

Graduates from the RNS Diploma Program qualify to apply for the ATAg and TAg designations and covers many of the courses required for the ATAg, TAg, AAg and PAg designations; however, previous courses, and/or additional courses would need to be taken in various areas. Eligibility for registration for the AAg and PAg designations requires a minimum of a four-year (120 credit) Bachelor degree from an accredited university, with a science focus.

This guide will focus on **how to apply to the ATAg, TAg, AAg and PAg designations only**. For information on LLAg and further details on all designation categories, visit the BCIA website at bcia.com.

Application Fees

There are several fees that are required to be paid for your application to be processed and to become registered with the BCIA. All fees are non-refundable and refunds are not provided to applicants if they are declined registration to the Institute. For further details on the Fee Schedule, visit: <https://www.bcia.com/registrants/registant-information/fee-schedules>. Table 1 provides a summary of applicable fees:

Table 1: Summary of fees for PAg, TAg and AAg, ATAg

All fees are in CDN	Articling AAg	Articling ATAg	Full Status PAg	Full Status TAg
Application Fees*	\$275.00	\$275.00	\$275.00	\$275.00
Annual Registration Fees**	\$540.00	\$540.00	\$600.00	\$600.00

*BCIA will waive half of the application fee if a new graduate applies for registration within 180 days (6 months) after official graduation -> \$137.50. If applying prior to official convocation, BCIA will accept an official letter from the university stating that all program requirements have been met.

**The annual registration fee is based on a calendar year and may be pro-rated based on the quarterly schedule.

How to Apply

An individual entering either the Professional Agrologist or Technical Agrologist registration stream **must start as an articling registrant** and complete professional development activities. The new registrant is supported through the Articling Program under the guidance of a mentor. The Articling Program ensures that new registrants understand the role of a professional, the

importance of the Institute, and to provide opportunities to meet established registrants for mentorship and networking, enhancing an articling registrant's understanding of professionalism and ethics as it relates to agrology. Each articling registrant must read the [online Articling Journal](#), which explains the elements and expectations of the [Articling Program](#).

Registration with the BCIA requires the following:

1. Check the admission requirements for [new registrants](#).
2. [Open an Account](#) and follow the steps:
 - a. Set up your [BCIA Account](#).
 - b. Once your account is authorized, you will receive an email.
 - c. Sign in to your BCIA account to complete your application.
3. Include with the online application:
 - a. Resume that includes employment history with month/year
 - b. [Academic Worksheet](#) (for PAg and TAg) (Reference [Approved Listings for Registration](#))
 - c. Request post-secondary institute to mail or email official transcripts
 - d. Official [International Credential Evaluation Service \(ICES\)](#) evaluation (if applicable)
 - e. Term Reduction Request (if applicable)
 - f. [Expedited Admission](#) Request (if applicable)
 - g. Practice Area(s) selection
 - h. Application and Registration Fees

You will receive an email once your payment has been received; you can sign in to your BCIA account to review the progress of your application. Applications will only be reviewed once all applicable documentation is received. Once an application package has been submitted to the Credentials Committee for official review and decision, it is at the discretion of the BCIA Registrar, to which additional information may be requested of the applicant to assist with the review by the Committee.

Application Requirements for Articling Technical Agrologist (ATAg) & Technical Agrologist (TAg)

New applicants for the Articling Technical Agrologist designation, who will become Technical Agrologists, will be assessed on their diploma, applied degree, or degree from an accredited educational institution, and contents of the courses. Eligibility for registration as an Articling Technical Agrologist (ATAg) requires a minimum two-year diploma, applied degree, or degree program, equivalent to a minimum of 60 credits, of which a specified minimum number of courses are required, as set by BCIA's Council.

First steps of the new registrant enrolled in the Articling Program for ATAg:

1. Payment of the annual registration fee;
2. Upload the [signed mentoring agreement](#) to the Articling Program page in the BCIA profile within two months of being notified of acceptance as a new registrant;
3. Download the [Mentor/Mentee Talking Points guide](#) to help facilitate discussions.

4. Need assistance to find a mentor? Check the [Mentor Directory](#). The link is found only within the BCIA account under 'Mentoring'. Your mentor must be a Registrant of BCIA in good standing. A PAg or TAg may mentor ATAgS, but a TAg cannot mentor an AAg.

Upon completion of the required Articling Program elements, articling registrants may advance to full professional status as a Technical Agrologist. The expectation of completing the Articling Program is a maximum of three years (one or two year articling term is assigned); an articling extension fee is applied after three years.

Application Requirements for Articling Agrologist (AAG) & Professional Agrologist (PAg)

New applicants for the Articling Agrologist designation, who will become Professional Agrologists, will be assessed on their Bachelor's degree and the contents of the courses. Eligibility for registration as an AAg requires a minimum of a four-year (120 credit) Bachelor degree from an accredited university, with a science focus. As part of this degree, a specific minimum number of courses are required, as set by BCIA's Council.

First steps of the new registrant enrolled in the Articling Program for AAg:

1. Payment of the annual registration fee;
2. Upload the [signed mentoring agreement](#) to the Articling Program page in the BCIA profile within two months of being notified of acceptance as a new registrant;
3. Download the [Mentor/Mentee Talking Points guide](#) to help facilitate discussions.
4. Need assistance to find a mentor? Check the [Mentor Directory](#). The link is found only within the BCIA account under 'Mentoring'. *Your mentor must be a Registrant of BCIA in good standing. Only a PAg can mentor an AAg; a TAg cannot mentor an AAg.*

Upon completion of the required Articling Program elements, articling registrants may advance to full professional status as a Professional Agrologist. The expectation of completing the Articling Program is a maximum of three years (one or two year articling term is assigned); an articling extension fee is applied after three years.

Approved Course Listings

The BCIA considers coursework from any accredited post-secondary educational institution. Currently, BCIA has listed coursework from eleven BC post-secondary institutions, including courses from the RNS Diploma Program. You can find approved courses for each institution listed under the [Public Resources](#) Library. For courses that are not listed, please submit descriptions with your application to the Credentials Committee for consideration. Stand-alone lab courses, seminar courses, audited courses, and work experience courses/co-ops are not accepted; appropriate directed studies, field studies, special topics, advanced studies, and thesis courses are considered on a case-by-case basis; supporting documentation such as a final paper is required.

Courses in the [approved continuing education courses listing](#) may be used to address any course deficiencies noted by the Credentials Committee or the Registrar after the assessment of applications.

BCIA does not endorse specific post-secondary educational institutions or associated programs. The listings contain approved courses that meet current registration requirements and are subject to revisions and changes.

To be registered as an Articling Agrologist (AAg) leading to the Professional Agrologist (PAg) designation, applicants must have obtained a Bachelor's degree with a science focus from a recognized university of which the course work must consist of the following:

- a) A minimum of 8 entry level foundational knowledge courses, usually at the 100 or 200 level, in the subject matters listed on the [Academic Worksheet](#). Applicants may have more than 1 entry level course in the same subject matter and cannot double count in the other two sections of the worksheet. These can include courses in:

- biology
- biochemistry
- hydrology
- genetics
- chemistry
- earth sciences
- physical geography
- physics
- ecology
- microbiology
- geology

May include courses that are of benefit to the study of natural sciences or agrology:

- math
- statistics
- computer science
- economics
- communications/writing

- b) At least 20 courses in agricultural or natural sciences or agricultural or resource economics that relate directly to agrology (as defined by the [Agrologists Regulation, 2021](#)).
- c) At least 8 senior level courses (can come from within the above noted 20 course requirement) in agricultural or natural sciences or agricultural or resource economics that relate directly to agrology (as defined by the [Agrologists Regulation, 2021](#)). Only senior courses (3rd year level and higher) taught by a recognized university are recognized as senior level courses.

Courses that are considered eligible for meeting the coursework requirements for BCIA registration are listed in the following categories: Agrology, Foundational Natural Science; Mathematics or Statistics; Economics, Communications /Writing and Computer Science. The

Credentials Committee has the authority to limit how many foundational courses are accepted in each subject matter.

Please visit the [University of Victoria Approved Course Listings for Application](#) page where there is an extensive list of applicable courses from the departments of Biology, Geography, Environmental Studies, RNS, and Earth and Ocean Sciences.

The following RNS courses are considered eligible for meeting the coursework requirements for BCIA registration in the 300-400+ level Agrology category.

- ER 311 (ES 341) Principles and Concepts of Ecological Restoration
- ER 312A* Field Study in Ecological Restoration I
- ER 312B* Field Study in Ecological Restoration II
- ER 313 Biodiversity and Conservation Biology
- ER 314 Ethical, Legal and Policy Aspects of Environmental Restoration
- ER 325 Ecosystem: BC, Canada & World
- ER 328 Forest Restoration and Sustainable Forestry
- ER 329 Mining Restoration
- ER 331 Urban Restoration and Sustainable Agricultural Systems
- ER 332 Selection and Propagation of Native Plants for Ecological Restoration
- ER 334 Soil Conservation and Restoration
- ER 335A Restoration of Freshwater Aquatic Systems
- ER 335B Restoration of Marine Aquatic Systems
- ER 338* Special Topics in Environmental Restoration
- ER 338A* Special Topics in Environmental Restoration: Climate Change in Ecological Restoration
- ER 338B* Special Topics in Environmental Restoration: Fire Ecology
- ER 390* Environmental Restoration Project
- ER 411 Advanced Principles and Concepts of Ecological Restoration (Environmental Solutions)

** Course requires supporting documentation; may or may not be accepted depending on subject matter.*

Eligibility for registration as an Articling Technical Agrologist (ATAg) leading to the Technical Agrologist (TAg) designation, requires a minimum two-year diploma, applied degree, or degree program, equivalent to a minimum of 60 credits, of which a specified minimum number of courses are required, as set by BCIA's Council. The RNS Diploma is not yet on the [Approved Diploma Programs](#) list, therefore, registrants who are graduates from the RNS Diploma program will be reviewed in full by the Registrar/Deputy Registrar and the Credentials Committee.

Continuing Professional Development

The BCIA is committed to professional development and standards to assist registrants in maintaining professional knowledge, abilities, and skills. Continuing competence through ongoing

professional development is critical in meeting the agrologists' responsibility to uphold the public interest. Through lifelong learning, registrants remain up-to-date in their specialized areas of practice and are informed about the current issues involving the profession of agrology.

Continuing education will be demonstrated through recorded professional development (PD). The [Professional Development Guidelines](#) (with case study examples) provide detailed information on how to report Professional Development (PD) and the required minimum amount of hours. PD Reporting allows Registrants to record agrology related-activities in these categories:

- Professional Practice
- Continuing Education
- Professional Contributions
- Professional Service

Practicing (PAg, AAg, TAg, ATAg) registrants are required to complete and accurately report a minimum of 125 Professional Development Hours (PDH) over a three-year period (an average of 42 PDH per year), with no less than 30 PDH annually as shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Minimum Professional Development Hours (PDH) required for practicing Registrants.

Minimum Requirements	Annual Hours	Three-Year Period Hours
Continuing Education (CE)	10 PDH	50 PDH
Total PD hours (including CE hours)	30 PDH	125 PDH

Learn more about the [Professional Development Program here](#).

Learn more about the BC Institute of Agrologists

- Learn more about [BCIA](#).
- Learn more about the [Articling Program](#).
- Learn more about the [registration process](#).
- Learn more about the [Continuing Professional Development Program](#).
- Visit the FAQ page [here](#).
- Contact BCIA at 1-877-855-9291 or the [contact us form](#).