

# CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP FEE REQUIREMENTS FOR CRITICAL SKILLS VISA APPLICATION LETTERS

The Institute of Bankers in SA has for the past four years been issuing letters to applicants who:

- Meet the requirements of skills and expertise and experience in a particular category
- Within certain categories which are relevant to the banking and broader financial services field
- Join the Institute as the Professional Body for the sector
- Are employed or will be employed within the banking and financial services sector

One of the requirements for the attainment of the critical skills visa contained in the Act and per critical skills category states:

- Proof of application for certificate of registration with the accredited professional body, council or board recognised by SAQA
  - It has come to our attention over the past years that there is a continuing failure on the part of many successful applicants who do in fact hold the critical skills visa as a result of applying using the IOBSA letter, that they do not retain their membership of the Professional Body.
  - They join initially and then when the annual renewal letters are sent out, they fail to renew.
  - They only again renew when they require a duplicate letter or when they are trying to apply for the Permanent Residence Visa.
  - This places them in default with the requirements of the ACT

In view of this the Institute has decided that as of 1 September 2019 applicants applying for a critical skills visa letters will be required to pay membership fees for two years.

The Institute has a ruling that applicants who join as a member from 1 July of a year are eligible to pay the half year membership fees for that year of application. This will also be applied to new applicants for Critical Skills letters

This therefore means that a new applicant will be required to pay the half of the previous year fee and the full year current membership fees.

Applicants already in possession of a critical skills letter and who have failed to renew their membership at the beginning of a year, should they wish to apply for a duplicate letter or changes to an existing letter, will be charged the **full year** membership for the year as well as the full year membership fee.

Applicants who already hold a critical skills visa as a result of obtaining the initial letter from the IOBSA and who are now applying for the **permanent residence letter** will only be required to pay the fees for the year in which they are applying for the letter. However, should they have failed to renew their annual membership during the period that they held the Critical Skills Visa and were members in arrears with the IOBSA, they will be required to pay the fees for the years when they did not renew.

**For information the fees for 2020 please check under the Fees tab.**

Please note that this ruling will take immediate effect and will therefore ensure that holders of critical skills visas are compliant with the requirements of the Immigration Act.

The normal letter charge will still be levied by the Institute and the change is only in connection with membership fees.