



Global AI  
Certification Council



# GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 FOUNDATION CERTIFICATION

Examination Content Outline –  
February 2026

Global AI Certification Council (GAICC)

## Examination Content Outline February 2026

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# Introduction

The **Global AI Certification Council (GAICC)** offers the **GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Foundation Certification** as the entry-level credential for professionals seeking formal recognition of their understanding of **Artificial Intelligence Management Systems (AIMS)**.

This certification demonstrates **awareness and comprehension** of the fundamental principles, structure, and terminology of **ISO/IEC 42001:2023**, the world's first international standard for the governance and responsible management of artificial intelligence.

The **GAICC Foundation Certification based on ISO/IEC 42001** credential is designed for individuals who participate in or support AI-governance initiatives within their organisations, including compliance teams, AI practitioners, auditors, project managers, data professionals, and policy specialists.

It validates the holder's ability to interpret the essential components of an AIMS and understand how ISO/IEC 42001 integrates with other ISO management frameworks such as **ISO 9001 (Quality Management)**, **ISO/IEC 27001 (Information Security Management)**, and **ISO/IEC 27701 (Privacy Information Management)**.

GAICC develops all certifications in alignment with **ISO/IEC 17024: Conformity Assessment – General Requirements for Bodies Operating Certification of Persons**, ensuring global credibility and psychometric integrity.

This **Examination Content Outline (ECO)** defines:

- The **domains of competence** assessed in the Foundation examination.
- The **tasks and enablers** that reflect foundational knowledge areas.
- The **relative weighting** of each domain in the exam structure.

The GAICC Foundation examination evaluates the candidate's **knowledge and conceptual understanding** of AI governance, AIMS requirements, and responsible-AI principles.

It is not an implementation or audit qualification but serves as a **preparatory step toward** professional-level credentials such as the **GAICC Lead Implementer and Senior Lead Implementer Certification based on ISO/IEC 42001**

Questions are developed and validated by experienced subject-matter experts from academia, industry, and government to ensure accuracy, fairness, and international applicability.

Each exam item is referenced to authoritative GAICC materials and ISO/IEC 42001 itself, ensuring that the certification maintains its alignment with global best practices in ethical and transparent AI governance.

# Exam Content Outline

The **GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Foundation Certification** examination evaluates a candidate's **knowledge and comprehension** of the principles, structure, and terminology of the **Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS)** defined in **ISO/IEC 42001: 2023**.

It focuses on awareness—understanding what the standard requires and why those elements are important—rather than hands-on implementation or audit practice. The outline below identifies the major **domains of foundational competence** and the **approximate percentage of questions** that appear on the exam.

## Domains and Weightings

Domain	Description	Approximate Weight on Exam
<b>I. Fundamentals of AI Governance and the ISO/IEC 42001 Framework</b>	Understanding the purpose, structure, terminology, and key concepts of ISO/IEC 42001; recognising the relationship between AI governance and organisational strategy.	40 %
<b>II. Core Components of the Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS)</b>	Comprehending the major clauses of ISO/IEC 42001 (4 to 10) including policy, risk, impact assessment, lifecycle control, documentation, and continual improvement.	40%
<b>III. Responsible AI, Ethics, and Stakeholder Awareness</b>	Identifying ethical principles, transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement fundamentals that support trustworthy AI use.	20 %
<b>Total</b>		100%

# Domain, Task and Enablers

In the **GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Foundation Certification** framework, each **domain** represents a core knowledge area required to understand how an Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS) operates.

A **task** describes what a competent foundation-level candidate should be able to recall or explain.

An **enabler** gives typical examples or evidence that illustrate this understanding in practice.

At this level, the focus is on recognition and explanation rather than implementation.

## Domain I – Fundamentals of AI Governance and the ISO/IEC 42001 Framework (≈ 40 %)

### Purpose:

To provide an understanding of the context, objectives, and structure of ISO/IEC 42001 and the role of AI governance in modern organisations.

Task	Illustrative Enablers / Examples
1. Explain the purpose and scope of ISO/IEC 42001.	Identify why organisations adopt AIMS; recognise alignment with ethical AI principles and sustainable digital transformation.
2. Describe the key terms and definitions related to AI governance.	Awareness of terminology such as AIMS, accountability, bias, transparency, lifecycle, and continual improvement.
3. Outline the structure and clause sequence of ISO/IEC 42001.	Recognise Clauses 4–10; explain the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) cycle.
4. Recognise the relationship between ISO/IEC 42001 and other management standards.	Identify similarities with ISO 9001, ISO/IEC 27001, and ISO/IEC 27701.
5. Explain the concept of risk-based thinking in AI governance.	Describe how AI risks are identified, assessed, and mitigated within organisational objectives.

## Domain II – Core Components of the Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS) (≈ 40 %)

### Purpose:

To understand the essential elements of an AIMS, including planning, operation, performance, and continual improvement.

Task	Illustrative Enablers / Examples
1. Identify the main requirements of Clauses 4 to 10 of ISO/IEC 42001.	Context of the organisation, leadership, planning, support, operation, performance evaluation, and improvement.
2. Describe the purpose of an AI policy and its relationship to organisational values.	Recognise that policy expresses leadership commitment to fairness, transparency, and risk management.
3. Explain the role of AI risk and impact assessments.	Awareness of AI System Impact Assessment (AI-SIA) concepts and documentation.
4. Outline key operational controls and documentation requirements.	Examples include data-governance procedures, model-change records, and incident logs.
5. Recognise the importance of performance evaluation and continual improvement.	Understand monitoring, internal reviews, and corrective actions as part of PDCA.

## Domain III – Responsible AI, Ethics, and Stakeholder Awareness (≈ 20 %)

### Purpose:

To introduce the ethical and social foundations that support trustworthy and transparent AI management.

Task	Illustrative Enablers / Examples
1. Identify the key ethical principles that guide responsible AI.	Fairness, accountability, non-discrimination, privacy, and human oversight.
2. Explain the concept of transparency and explainability in AI systems.	Recognise why users and regulators require understandable AI decisions.
3. Describe stakeholder roles in AI governance.	Awareness of internal stakeholders (leadership, developers, compliance teams) and external stakeholders (customers, regulators, society).
4. Recognise how communication and engagement build trust.	Examples: AI ethics statements, responsible AI policies, public disclosures.

## Cognitive Depth and Assessment Approach

The Foundation exam focuses on two levels of cognitive performance:

- **Knowledge** – recall of ISO/IEC 42001 concepts, terminology, and clause intent.
- **Comprehension** – understanding relationships among AIMS elements and ethical AI principles.

Questions are designed to test recognition and conceptual clarity rather than technical configuration or audit judgement.

# GAIC Application & Payment

## GAICC Eligibility Requirements

The **GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Foundation Certification** is designed for all professionals who wish to develop a formal understanding of Artificial Intelligence Management Systems (AIMS) and responsible-AI governance.

There are **no professional-experience requirements** for this level.

Educational Background	Professional Experience	Formal Training Requirement
Open entry (no specific prerequisite)	Not required.	Completion of at least 16 contact hours (CPDs) of structured GAICC-approved Internal Auditor training OR delivered by GAICC-authorized providers or equivalent recognised institutions

## Additional Notes

- Training may be completed online or face-to-face through any GAICC-accredited partner.
- Participants are expected to demonstrate basic familiarity with AI concepts, data ethics, and organisational governance prior to the exam.
- The Foundation certification serves as a recommended prerequisite for higher-level credentials such as **GAICC Lead Implementer** and **Senior Lead Implementer**.

# GAICC Examination Information

The **GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Foundation Certification examination** is a **knowledge-based assessment** designed to evaluate a candidate's understanding of the concepts, principles, and structure of **ISO/IEC 42001: 2023**—the international standard for Artificial Intelligence Management Systems (AIMS). It focuses on comprehension of terminology, purpose, and relationships among AIMS components rather than implementation skills.

## Exam Structure

Component	Description
Total Questions	40
Format	Multiple-choice and scenario-based questions delivered through the GAICC Online Testing Platform.
Allotted Time	60 minutes (1 hour).
Pre-Exam Tutorial & Post-Exam Survey	A short tutorial precedes the exam and an optional survey follows it. Neither counts toward the official exam time.

## Exam Delivery

The **Foundation exam** is available as **online AI-proctored or centre-based** testing. Questions are presented in random order, and once a section is submitted, answers cannot be revisited.

The GAICC testing environment provides:

- A built-in timer and progress bar.
- Flag-for-review functionality.
- Automatic submission at time expiry.

## Scoring and Results

- Each scored question carries **one mark**.
- Results are reported **immediately upon completion**.
- Feedback is provided by **domain** (Governance Fundamentals, AIMS Core Components, Responsible AI and Ethics).
- A **minimum scaled score of 70 %** is required to achieve a passing grade.

Scores are validated through GAICC's psychometric process to ensure fairness and consistency across sessions.

## Retake Policy

Each candidate is granted **one(1) free retake**. Paid retakes are permitted without limit, subject to payment of the applicable resit fee for each attempt.

## Additional Information

GAICC conducts regular **psychometric reviews** to preserve exam validity, reliability, and global relevance.

If an exam session is affected by confirmed **technical issues or system irregularities**, the candidate will be offered a **free re-examination** without penalty.

# GAICC Foundation Certification based on ISO/IEC 42001– Fees

The fees for obtaining the **GAICC Foundation Certification based on ISO/IEC 42001** are determined according to regional pricing zones and membership status. GAICC membership is **optional**, but it provides discounted examination pricing and access to additional learning resources and global networking opportunities.

## Membership Fees

Membership fee is 99 USD.

## Examination Fees

Exam Fee – Member (USD)	Exam Fee – Non-Member (USD)
149	249

## Notes

- All fees are quoted in **USD** and may be subject to local taxes or bank-processing charges.
- **Membership is optional**, but members benefit from discounted exam fees and GAICC-exclusive resources.
- Payments may be made via **credit card** or **international bank transfer** through the **GAICC Certification Portal**.
- Renewal and re-examination fees are published annually on the GAICC official website ([www.gaicc.org](http://www.gaicc.org)).

# GAICC Certification Maintenance and Renewal Requirements

## Certification Validity

The **GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Foundation** certification is valid for a period of **three (3) years** from the date of initial certification.

To remain active, certified individuals must demonstrate a continued commitment to learning in the areas of **AI governance, responsible AI, and ISO/IEC 42001 awareness**.

## Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Requirements

During each three-year certification cycle, candidates must earn and record a minimum of **20 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours**, distributed across the following categories:

CPD Category	Description	Minimum Hours
<b>1. Professional Learning</b>	Participation in GAICC-recognised courses, webinars, or workshops on AI governance, ethics, and emerging ISO standards.	8
<b>2. Awareness &amp; Knowledge Application</b>	Involvement in AI-related organisational initiatives, responsible-AI campaigns, or professional discussion groups.	8
<b>3. Contribution &amp; Community Engagement</b>	Sharing knowledge through presentations, blogs, mentoring, or community events supporting AI governance awareness.	4

**Total Minimum Required:** 20 CPDs over three years.

## Renewal Process

To renew the Foundation certification, candidates must:

- Submit a **Renewal Application** through the GAICC Certification Portal before the expiry date.
- Provide verified evidence of **20 completed CPD hours** earned within the certification cycle.
- Pay the applicable **renewal fee** according to the current GAICC fee schedule.
- Confirm agreement to the **GAICC Code of Professional Conduct** and **Ethical AI Principles**.

## Lapsed Certifications

- If renewal requirements are not completed by the expiry date, certification status will change to **“Lapsed.”**
- Lapsed holders may **reinstate** their credential by completing renewal requirements within **12 months** of expiry.
- After 12 months, reinstatement requires retaking the full Foundation examination.

## Audit and Verification

GAICC performs periodic **CPD audits** to confirm the authenticity of reported activities. Candidates selected for audit must provide supporting documentation such as **attendance records, completion certificates, or official confirmation** from organisers of recognised activities.

# GAICC Code of Conduct and Ethics Statement

## Purpose

The Global AI Certification Council (GAICC) upholds the highest standards of **integrity, accountability, and professional behaviour** in the certification and practice of Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS) professionals.

All GAICC-certified individuals must demonstrate ethical leadership and responsible stewardship in the development, deployment, and governance of AI systems.

## Commitment to Ethical Practice

By applying for and maintaining GAICC certification, candidates agree to:

1. **Act with Integrity and Fairness** – Conduct all professional activities honestly, without bias, conflict of interest, or misrepresentation of competence or credentials.
2. **Protect Human Rights and Wellbeing** – Ensure that AI systems under their influence respect human dignity, fairness, privacy, and non-discrimination.
3. **Ensure Transparency and Accountability** – Promote explainable and auditable AI outcomes; disclose limitations, risks, and decision criteria in plain language.
4. **Safeguard Data and Information** – Uphold confidentiality and data-protection principles consistent with ISO/IEC 42001, ISO/IEC 27701, and applicable laws.
5. **Exercise Professional Competence** – Maintain up-to-date knowledge through continual learning, professional development, and adherence to recognised standards and best practices.
6. **Report and Mitigate Misuse** – Take appropriate action when encountering unethical AI practices or violations of applicable regulations or standards.
7. **Respect Intellectual Property and Diversity of Perspectives** – Value collaboration, cultural sensitivity, and inclusiveness across disciplines and communities.

## Disciplinary and Enforcement Process

Violations of this Code may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or revocation of GAICC certification.

Complaints or ethics concerns may be submitted confidentially to the **GAICC Ethics and Compliance Committee**, which oversees investigations, recommendations, and fair resolution procedures.

## Acknowledgment

All GAICC-certified professionals are required to confirm their acceptance of the **Code of Conduct and Ethics** during application, renewal, or recertification.

Adherence to this Code reinforces global confidence in GAICC-certified practitioners and the responsible governance of Artificial Intelligence technologies.

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Foundation Certification Examination Content Outline – February 2026 Global AI Certification Council (GAICC)

### 1. GAICC ISO/IEC 42001 Foundation Certification?

It is an **entry-level, internationally recognised credential** that validates understanding of the core concepts, structure, and ethical principles of **ISO/IEC 42001: 2023**, the global standard for Artificial Intelligence Management Systems (AIMS).

The certification confirms foundational awareness of AI governance, risk, and responsible-AI practices.

### 2. Who should apply for this certification?

This certification is ideal for:

- Professionals seeking a formal introduction to AI governance and ISO standards.
- Team members supporting AIMS initiatives within organisations.
- Students, researchers, or early-career practitioners entering the AI ethics, compliance, or risk domain.
- Individuals preparing to pursue GAICC Lead Implementer or Senior Lead Implementer credentials.

### 3. What are the eligibility requirements?

- **Education:** Open entry – no specific qualification required.
- **Experience:** Not required.
- **Training:** Completion of at least **16 contact hours (CPDs)** in ISO/IEC 42001 fundamentals through GAICC-approved training or recognised institutions.

### 4. How many questions are in the exam and how long does it take?

The exam consists of **40 questions** (35 scored + 5 unscored pre-test items). Candidates have **60 minutes** (1 hour) to complete it.

### 5. What is the passing score?

A minimum scaled score of 70 % is required to pass.

## 6. How often can I take the exam?

Each candidate is granted **one(1) free retake**. Paid retakes are permitted without limit, subject to payment of the applicable resit fee for each attempt.

## 7. What is the certification validity period?

The Foundation certification is valid for **three (3) years** from the date of issue.

## 8. How do I maintain or renew my certification?

Certified professionals must complete a minimum of **20 Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** hours within each three-year cycle and submit a renewal application with the required fee.

## 9. What does the exam cover?

The exam assesses knowledge across **three domains**:

1. Fundamentals of AI Governance and the ISO/IEC 42001 Framework
2. Core Components of the Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS)
3. Responsible AI, Ethics, and Stakeholder Awareness

## 10. What is the exam format?

The exam uses **multiple-choice** and **scenario-based questions** delivered through the **GAICC Online AI-Proctored Testing Platform** or at approved test centres.

## 11. How much does the exam cost?

Exam fee is 149 USD for Members and 249 USD for non members.

Membership is optional but provides discounted exam fees and access to GAICC learning resources.

Membership is optional but provides discounted exam fees and access to GAICC learning resources.

## 12. How much is the membership fee?

Standard (USD)	Student (USD)
99	39

### 13. How long does GAICC take to process an application?

Online applications are reviewed **within five (5) calendar days**, provided all training documents are complete.

If selected for audit, additional verification may extend processing time.

### 14. What happens if I fail to renew my certification?

If renewal requirements are not met by the expiry date, your status becomes **“Lapsed.”**

You may reinstate within **12 months** by completing renewal steps; after that period, full re-examination is required.

### 15. Does GAICC provide digital credentials?

Yes. Upon certification, you receive a **digital badge and certificate** that can be shared on LinkedIn, résumés, and professional profiles.

### 16. How can I contact GAICC for support?

#### **Global AI Certification Council (GAICC)**

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