

BC Institute of Agrologists

APPLICATION GUIDE

For Limited License Agrologist / LLA_g

October 2022 - Final Version

September 2025 - Edited

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Are You Eligible?

The BC Institute of Agrologists (“BCIA”) is the regulatory body for agrology professionals in BC, including Professional Agrologists (PAg), Articling Agrologists (AAg), Technical Agrologists (TAg), and Articling Technical Agrologists (ATAg).

You must be registered with the Institute as a Registrant to practise professional agrology in BC. The alternate route of entry for those seeking the right to practice professional agrology on a restricted basis, who cannot meet the requirements for any of the professional designations, is through a Limited License.

Refer to the process below to determine if you are eligible. The work specified in the Limited License application must fall within the regulated practice of agrology.

The following are exemptions to be registered:

- a normal farm practice, as defined in the Farm Practice Protection (Right to Farm) Act, by a person on the person’s own land; or
- a person, or their agent, who gives advice based on information provided to them by a practicing Registrant, regarding the quality or use of a product or service that is offered for sale.

What is a Limited License?

BCIA has initiated the category of Limited License Agrologist, “LLAg” to increase regulatory oversight of the practice of agrology in accordance with its mandate to protect the public interest in British Columbia's environment and natural resources.

This category of registration is for individuals who may not have the educational qualifications to become an agrology professional as a PAg or TAg but have gained several years of experience in a defined scope of agrology work and wish to take professional responsibility for that work. The Limited License is designed for those who are qualified to practice a limited scope of agrology at a professional level.

The practice of the Limited Licensee is governed by the *Professional Governance Act*, (“PGA”) and Regulations, BCIA Bylaws, and the BCIA Code of Ethics.

What is the Practice of Agrology?

The *Agrologists Regulation* defines the practice of agrology as:

- 1(a) Advice or services that
 - i are based on agricultural or natural sciences or agricultural or resource economics and
 - ii relate to:
 - (A) Cultivation, production, improvement, processing, marketing or management of aquatic or terrestrial plants or animals,
 - (B) Classification, management, use, conservation, protection or enhancements of aquatic, terrestrial or atmospheric ecosystems that are affected by, sustain or have the potential to sustain the cultivation or production of aquatic or terrestrial plants or animals, or
 - (C) Restoration, reclamation or remediation of aquatic, terrestrial or atmospheric ecosystems
- (b) Advice or Services that are ancillary to those described in paragraph (a)

For purposes of the stipulation of reserved practice, the above-noted provisions can be referred to as “agrology purposes”.

What is an Agrologist?

Agrologists are leaders in environmental protection that provide business information and services based on their knowledge of resource economics. Agrologists work across a spectrum of industries, including food production, agro-tech, and ecosystem sustainability. Agrologists are in many vital roles, e.g. scientists, educators, inspectors, technicians, consultants, and managers. Agrologists are:

- regulated by legislation
- sworn to a code of ethics
- mandated to protect the public interest
- committed to continuing professional development

How is a Limited Practice Area Defined?

A limited practice area must fall within the definition of agrology as defined by the *Agrologists Regulation*. Only a Registrant with one of the four (4) protected professional designations as per the *Agrologist Regulation*, PAg, AAg, TAg, and ATAg, can assume responsibility for the services prescribed in legislation. The services of a limited licensee may not be able to be substituted for those of a PAg, AAg, TAg or ATAg; however, as conflicts arise the Institute will review appropriately.

The professional services, which the holder of a limited license may perform, are defined and described in terms of a specialized function, or an activity confined to a specific product or application. In order to write your limited practice area, refer to the form “Intended Practice Area”. The practice area must be task oriented, clearly defined, specific, quantifiable to common standards, and state the inclusions and exclusions to your limits of practice. The completed form must be submitted with your application.

What are the Academic Requirements?

The primary requirement for the LLAG designation is to have been employed in the regulated practice of agrology for a minimum specified amount of time. If some form of higher education has been completed, applicants must indicate this in the application package. This information will determine if a higher-level application (at a minimum ATAg or TAg) is more suited to the education attained or a possible credit of time (see below). If applicable, it may be requested to have original sealed transcripts sent to the Institute directly from the academic institution of all completed coursework that may include a bachelor's degrees, diplomas and/or certificates and post graduate degrees obtained. Transcripts should show courses taken, marks and credits received, and the qualification awarded.

In some cases, the Institute may request course descriptions as part of the application package.

What are the Experience Requirements?

Every applicant for the LLAG designation must have a minimum of five (5) years of full-time equivalent experience within the regulated practice of agrology, of which:

- a) a minimum of two (2) years must be within the scope of work to which the prospective Limited Licence will apply; and
- b) at the discretion of the Registrar, up to one (1) year of accredited education in the practice of agrology may be counted toward the required five (5) years of experience.

Work Experience Details – Recommended Format

The Work History form must be completed plus a detailed resume with month/year, and both are required as part of the application package. Please be as detailed as possible using the following recommended format:

Period Number:

Start Date: (month/year)

End Date: (month/year)

Name of Company:

Applicant's Title:

Supervisor's Name:

Supervisor's Position

Activities:

Describe your major activities during this period including duties performed, your skills and techniques used and your level of responsibility. If there were periods of time when you were not employed or not employed in agrology, please indicate this. Be sure to provide the name, title and address of your supervisor in each position.

References

Applicants are required to nominate a minimum of two references with first-hand knowledge of the applicant's work (supervisory or in a review capacity). One of these must be a Registrant in Good Standing with one of the professional organizations under the PGA, which includes BCIA.

If there is experience outside of Canada it must be verified, and additional references will be requested.

References are expected to be capable of verifying the level and performance of the applicant's work in agrology and to endorse the proposed practice area of the license. Prior to nominating their references, applicants must contact their nominated references to ensure their willingness to provide a reference. It is the responsibility of the applicant to distribute the reference forms, indicating the proposed practice area and with their summary of work details attached, to the nominated references. The completed form must be returned to the applicant for it to be included as part of their application package.

Next Steps After Applying

Once all of your documents have been received by BCIA, an experience and education review will be conducted to determine whether one qualifies as a limited licensee. Please note that deficiencies in meeting the requirements *may* be addressed by the imposition or assignment of additional experience or competencies by the BCIA Credentials Committee at the discretion of that Committee.

All successful applicants are required to complete certain duties and responsibilities in a specified time frame which includes:

- BCIA Ethics for Professionals Course

- Foundational Indigenous Cultural Awareness Training
- Orientation to BCIA Course
- Professional Negligence and Regulatory Offences Webinar
- Attend a Branch AGM or BCIA AGM
- Sign a Professional Oath

Upon registration with the BCIA, a notification email, and a certificate of registration will be sent. The new Registrant will be eligible to use the title of Limited License Agrologist (LLAg) and have use of a professional seal (purchased separately).

As a new Registrant, a registration fee will be charged for the year joining and annually thereafter. This charge is based on the current Fee Schedule as posted to the BCIA website and may be pro-rated on the quarterly schedule depending on the date of registration. The LLaG fee matches the Professional Agrologist (PAg) and Technical Agrologist (TAg) fees.

Term of the License

The license is renewed annually upon payment of the annual registration fee. Required PD hour minimums must be met annually and over a three-year reporting period, ending with the current year. ***Please note the LLaG designation is considered transitional and only applies to the individual and not the position itself. Once a LLaG leaves the position, the employer must ensure the position is filled with an appropriate agrology professional registered with BCIA under one of the other four regulated designations.***

Professional Liability Insurance

It is highly recommended that new Registrants seek out professional liability insurance; BCIA offers an insurance package through HUB International Insurance. Details are behind the new registrant's account log-in.

Checklist

The following items are submitted as part of your application for the LLaG designation:

- ☐ Completed application form, including payment
- ☐ Intended Practice Area form
- ☐ Work experience form – chronology and details of work performed in each position, noting month/year for each
- ☐ Resume, noting month/year for each
- ☐ Copy of a List of Projects on which you have worked that would demonstrate experience in your limited practice area (if asked for)
- ☐ Reference forms that were sent to your nominated references for completion along with a copy of your work experience details, resume, and intended Practice Area for them to refer to
- ☐ If applicable, applicants are required to provide original transcripts, which are to be sent directly from the academic institution to the Institute