

ICAgile Certified Expert Agile Testing (ICE-AT)

Certification Information



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CERTIFICATION OVERVIEW

ICAgile expert-level certifications are competence-based credentials granted directly by ICAgile. Individuals are eligible for these certifications once they have completed all learning objectives for the relevant agile discipline and have met the associated experience requirements. To obtain the Agile Testing track's expert certification (the ICE-AT), the candidate needs to demonstrate competency in agile testing and test automation to a review committee of three industry-recognized experts. This is done via an interactive virtual session, the details of which are described in the sections below.

CERTIFICATION COST AND RENEWAL

CERTIFICATION COST

\$1275 (\$300 payable to reserve a spot with the panel and the balance payable upon successful completion of Expert Panel assessment.)¹

RENEWAL

12 Mentoring hours per year OR \$1000 per year – ICAgile strongly prefers the mentoring hours. Helping other ICE candidates prepare and serving on ICE-AT evaluation committees are the primary ways to log mentoring hours.

CERTIFICATION PREREQUISITES AND REQUIREMENTS

CERTIFICATIONS

- ICAgile Certified Professional (ICP)
- ICAgile Certified Professional in Agile Testing (ICP-TST)
- ICAgile Certified Professional in Agile Test Automation (ICP-ATA)

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE BEFORE APPLYING

Recommended 1 year of agile testing experience and the two Continuing Learning Certifications OR 6 months active practice after completing the two knowledge-based certifications within ICAgile's Agile Testing track.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Once the applicant feels s/he has satisfied the requirements for applying, s/he should contact ICAgile to express interest in applying for the ICE Certification.

To apply, candidates need to submit 3 references who can speak directly to his/her testing experience and expertise. ICAgile needs each reference's:

- **Full name**
- **Company / Organizational Affiliation**
- **Current Title**
- **Contact Email**
- **Contact Phone Number**

Upon receipt of the references, ICAgile will begin working with the candidate to schedule the assessment session with the industry-expert panel. The assessment session is 90-minutes conducted via videoconference. Candidates will receive feedback from the expert panel on the same day as the session, normally 20-30 minutes after completing the activities.

Please note that it is not uncommon for candidates to go through **more than one assessment** session before meeting all criteria to receive the ICE-AT.

CERTIFICATION SESSIONS

PREPARATION FOR CERTIFICATION SESSION

ICAgile will contact the references provided by the candidate. References will complete an initial survey. At the end of the survey, references are informed that ICAgile would like permission to contact them via phone for additional details or clarification.

ICAgile will provide the candidate with the latest evaluation rubric. The candidate is responsible for reviewing it and making arrangements to provide the necessary evidence for each element. ICAgile will discuss these requirements with the candidate in more detail on a conference call.

During the certification session, the expert panel expects to see a video recording of the candidate conducting an agile testing session, participating in a collaboration session, or working with a developer or business person in an agile testing pairing session. The recording should take no more than 10 minutes to review. It is okay to submit a longer recording as long as the candidate can point to specific portions/time markers for review.

Once the candidate has the recording, the next steps are to break it down by time markers, and highlight what coaching and facilitation skills were in use. Candidates are invited to submit this in advance of the review (ICAgile will provide a link for submission) so that the panel has time to review it prior to the session. ICAgile also recommends submitting supporting materials such as meeting materials, “wallware” from sessions, etc.

To help meet the automation requirements in the evaluation rubric, the candidate is invited to submit automation evidence such as screen shots, log files, automated test scripts (any language), etc. The candidate should be prepared to speak to any artifacts submitted and answer questions about them.

CERTIFICATION SESSION SPECIFICS

The goal of the certification session is for the applicant to **demonstrate** to the committee that they have the necessary competencies to be an Agile Testing Expert. The committee does not want to **hear** the applicant talk about what they would do as a tester; rather, they want to **see** the applicant in action.

The certification session is divided into 4 parts. The first part will be a review of the video material, the second part will be a live demonstration of test planning, the third will be a demonstration of testing skills,, and the last part consist of open Q&A.

1. VIDEO MATERIAL

The committee will ask the applicant to show around 10 minutes of the video. No editing is required. They will ask the applicant to jump to certain time markers. They will watch the section and then ask questions about it.

The applicant may recommend to the committee certain scenes from the video to the help illustrate the relevant skills to the committee.

2. LIVE DEMONSTRATION OF TEST PLANNING

The applicant will be asked to conduct a 15-minute planning session with a review committee member.

The planning session will be about coverage of the quality requirements for a release or project.

During the planning session, the applicant will be expected to discuss and highlight key quality approaches to the delivery of the solution including early testing (static testing), test execution at various levels by various team members, appropriate automation techniques and the application of the testing beyond the current release.

3. LIVE DEMONSTRATION OF TESTING

The applicant will be asked to conduct a 15-minute testing session with one of the review committee members.

The review committee member will select a story or feature of their choice.

The applicant is expected to engage in a testing conversation with them using testing skills (such as risk analysis, functional decomposition, test design techniques, quality coverage, test method –manual or automation - assessment) to demonstrate testing skills.

The applicant is expected to identify which tests are candidates for automation and why. They will need to explain the level, type and target defects that the automation will find. They will need to discuss the type of tool and data sets needed to support the automation. They should also outline specifics of their approach to automation (how often and where would tests run, how would this fit into continuous integration, etc.)

4. Q & A

This is an open question and answer session with the committee.

They will have access to candidate reference responses and any supplementary materials. The committee's primary goal in this segment is to ask any open questions they have that are material to their evaluation of the candidate against the rubric.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

After completing the Q&A session, the session facilitator will ask the candidate to drop off of the videoconference while the panel deliberates. The facilitator will then contact the candidate to rejoin approximately 20-30 minutes later.

At that time, the panel will provide direct feedback in alignment with the evaluation rubric. If the candidate passes, ICAgile will talk to him/her about official steps to award the certification. In the event that the candidate falls short in certain areas, the panel will provide specific feedback on what needs to be done for the candidate to pass. ICAgile will then work with the candidate in the days following the session on next steps.