global expertise

in public financial management
The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) is the world’s only professional accountancy body to specialise in public services, and our portfolio of qualifications is the foundation for a career in public finance.

Our members work across public services in national audit agencies, major accountancy firms, and other organisations and companies around the world where public money needs to be effectively and efficiently managed.

**Supporting global best practice**

Globally, CIPFA leads the way in public finance. We support best practice in the management of public sector resources, and use our values and expertise to help UK and international public financial managers as they grapple with sovereign debt issues and austerity programmes and the range of responses these require.

We champion high performance in public services, and offer advice and guidance as well as practical products and service solutions in areas such as financial management, financial reporting and governance.

**Our unique whole system approach**

Our unique public sector ‘whole system approach’ gives public finance managers a model of public financial management that outlines the necessary measures and controls to promote wise spending, tackle corruption and contribute to economic growth and long-term stability.

Whatever the level of a country’s development, its citizens will rightly keep raising their expectations of public service delivery, and we help public finance professionals develop the necessary policies, programmes and procedures to anticipate and exceed those expectations.

**Supporting our members to reach new heights**

The ongoing reconfiguration of public services means CIPFA members are increasingly working across public and private sectors, in a public finance environment that requires multiple skills and agility. Our partnership with ICAS provides opportunities for CIPFA members and finance professionals to enhance their skill set and support their career ambitions. Qualified CPFAs, aspiring accountants and audit professionals can find more information on our website and on page 8 of this brochure.

"Being a CIPFA member for me has meant rapid career progression and fantastic networking opportunities throughout the public sector finance community."

**Hamza Yusuf CPFA** (front cover centre)
Head of Finance
London Borough of Hackney
CIPFA Member since 2008
Ranjit Solomon CPFA
Senior Finance Manager
Public Health England
CIPFA member since 2011

“Being a member of CIPFA means I have my finger firmly on the pulse of public services finance.”
Our mission is to be the leader in public financial management in the UK and around the world. Improving public services is the key to changing lives for the better – and good public financial management is central to achieving that. It ensures public money is raised and spent with the highest degree of openness and efficiency and that critically important services are provided efficiently and effectively. There is now an urgent need to improve the quality of financial management in governments around the world, and the accountancy profession has an essential role to play in helping to do so.

How we are helping
CIPFA is extremely well placed to be a leading force in the development of this reform. Some of the ways we are helping include:

- Leading domestic and global debate on good public financial management and governance.
- Supporting our members and the wider public finance profession throughout their careers and adding value to the organisations for which they work.
- Providing information, insight, advice and training to our members and other public service leaders.
- Championing and supporting improvement in standards of public financial management and governance in the UK and around the world.
- Increasing social value and upholding the public interest through ensuring the proper management of public resources.
Being a CPFA has meant I’ve stood out from the crowd, and I’m proud to have a qualification that represents integrity, professionalism and above all, dedication to public finance.

Judith Savage CPFA
Finance Partner
Newcastle City Council
CIPFA member since 2007
CIPFA is only as strong as our members – and we continue to nurture and support them throughout their careers with world-class training.

We’re the only accountancy body in the world that focuses on government finance and the public sector, and as a result our global qualifications, training and lifelong learning solutions are highly specialised and respected.

We offer the gold-standard professional qualification for public sector accountants, as well as postgraduate certificates and diplomas for people already working in leadership positions.

And now, as part of our partnership with ICAS, qualified CIPFA members can benefit from the CPFA to CA Top Up which offers joint membership of CIPFA and ICAS and the dual designation of Chartered Public Finance Accountant (CPFA) and Chartered Accountant (CA). This career enhancing opportunity is available for all UK CIPFA qualified CPFAs, through the ICAS Pathways route.

Training global leaders in public services

Our members lead the way around the world in work throughout the breadth of public services, from public audit agencies and major accountancy firms, to healthcare, local government, defence, education, and in many other bodies where public money needs to be effectively and efficiently managed.

“CIPFA launched me on the career path that got me to where I am today. I ran the £7 billion building project associated with the Olympics, which was also probably the biggest regeneration scheme in Europe. So getting a CIPFA qualification doesn’t mean getting a dull job. Far from it. In fact the public sector in particular is full of diverse and challenging roles.”

Dennis Hone, Group Finance Director, Mace

“If you want to work in the public sector, CIPFA is a very good route to take and provides numerous opportunities. In today’s world, gaining public sector skills and experience appeals to those who are more adventurous and commercially focused. Roles for life are a thing of the past and people move around a lot more across both public and private sectors.”

Frank McCabe, Senior Auditor BBC
“CIPFA’s PQ syllabus provided me with a solid grasp of finance in the context of public services, as well as increasing my professional knowledge base and skills.”

Precious Akinmoju
Senior Finance Policy Officer
Ministry of Justice
CIPFA Member since 2013
CIPFA’s Professional Accountancy Qualification (PQ)

We offer the benchmark accountancy qualification for the public finance profession – the only specialist qualification for the sector.

The new and improved syllabus now reflects the changing needs of the contemporary public services environment:

- Increased focus on the full range of commercial skills needed by UK public finance professionals.
- Greater portability between the public and private sector.
- Additional entry routes for holders from other qualifications.
- Enhanced Practical Experience Portfolio (PEP) with greater emphasis on the needs of public sector employers.
- Increased flexibility around blended and online learning.
- Online exam sittings offer convenience for students and employers.

CIPFA’s PQ is trusted by public sector organisations in the UK, delivering rapid proficiency in CIPFA students whilst they study to become a qualified Chartered Public Finance Accountant (CPFA).

The Integrated Qualification in Audit (IQA)

Unrivalled ICAS audit expertise and CIPFA’s industry-leading public sector knowledge are combined to deliver the Integrated Qualification in Audit (IQA). Preparing the next generation of finance professionals for leading global finance and audit roles across the public and corporate finance sectors.

The integrated qualification of 15 modules comprises 11 ICAS modules which, alongside the relevant practical experience requirements, make up the CA element of the qualification, as well as covering relevant content in the CIPFA syllabus. The remaining four modules are specialist CIPFA modules, which allow the student to become CPFA qualified.

Fast track options for CAs or CPFAs are also available and can be completed in as little as 12 months.

Fast track routes for CAs and CPFAs to become audit qualified

Building on the joint relationship, fast track routes have been established for CIPFA members who wish to build on their Chartered Public Finance Accountant status to become Company Audit Qualified and for ICAS members who wish to build upon their Chartered Accountant status to become Public Audit Qualified. Members from both bodies will be required to take three modules plus demonstrate a number of days of audit experience. These fast track routes can take as little as 12 months to complete.

CIPFA can also tailor specific training packages related to the IQA to meet specific organisational needs. Individuals and organisations with an interested in the IQA are invited to contact customerservices@cipfa.org to discuss requirements.
The CIPFA professional qualification was an essential foundation for me to build my career on.

Richard Blakey CPFA
Director of Finance – Housing and Community Investment
Peabody
CIPFA member since 2004
We’ve been making a positive impact on public financial management for over 125 years, and have helped to deliver outcomes that really matter.

With public services around the world constantly changing, CIPFA influences and shapes the public finance landscape, playing an active role in developing, setting and promoting standards of public financial management and governance, and acting as a positive force for change.

**How we are helping**

CIPFA has been responsible for some important developments in the improvement of public financial management around the world:

- At the July 2009 International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) G20 Summit the World Bank highlighted the urgent need to develop and strengthen the accountancy profession in emerging economies as a key step in achieving financial stability. Supported with funding from the UK’s Department for International Development we developed our *Whole System Approach to Public Financial Management* (PFM) with a view to assisting the global improvement of PFM and public service delivery.

- To this end and in conjunction with the Nigerian Federal Government, CIPFA has been working to modernise the Federal Treasury Academy (FTA) of Nigeria by providing PFM training to staff, helping to increase their capacity to teach students within government.

- And in Tajikistan, in conjunction with WYG International and with funding from the World Bank, CIPFA has delivered a training programme, materials and competency frameworks for the Ministry of Finance covering the areas of budget, treasury and accountancy.

- Post the Bosnian crisis, to help create financial stability in the region, CIPFA began working with the Center of Excellence in Finance (CEF), in Slovenia to provide training and awards in PFM to students in CEF’s member countries.

- CIPFA and EY have joined forces to help organisations and governments around the world to improve their PFM standards after the recent global financial crisis exposed the consequences of sub-standard reporting by governments. The alliance provides support in implementing the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), and helps transfer skills and experience to relevant staff through training and development. Ian Ball, Chairman of CIPFA International in the CIPFA report *Taking Responsibility* calls on the global accountancy profession as a whole to act to build unity within the profession and to support governments in bringing about change.
I have found the training at CIPFA Education and Training Centre (CETC) to be of a very high standard and believe the qualification to be particularly robust, enabling me to better perform my job as an accountant in the Public Sector.

Kristina Afford
CIPFA Trainee, Corporate Resources
Hampshire County Council
We’re here to support our members and public sector organisations around the world in their efforts and obligations to comply with high standards in financial reporting.

To do this we work with governments and regulatory bodies, providing guidance on best practice, advice and support. Our networks and audit and accountancy panels are responsible for our policy and technical work and produce publications, run events and give advice to support public financial management practitioners across all functions and sectors.

Our work includes:

- Influencing policy through engagement with policy makers and practitioners to enable informed perspectives and insights.
- Providing an authoritative source of information, intelligence, analysis and news.
- Leading and working with partners to develop strategic frameworks and tools for the improvement of public financial management and governance.
- Helping develop and promote relevant tools and techniques to enable organisations manage the challenge of reduced funding.

**How we are helping**

- Our highly-regarded, specialist *Public Finance* (PF) magazine keeps practitioners up to date with the latest news, in-depth articles, advice and tips for management in the public sector. Digital newsletters PF Daily and PF International keep them abreast of change in the public sector both in the UK and abroad.

- Our *Public Money & Management Journal* (PMM) was established over 30 years ago. Today it’s a major international, academic and professional journal covering public finance, policy and management. The journal publishes articles, new developments and contributions to debate, keeping subscribers up to date with best practice, analytical reports, and critical groundbreaking research.

- Our publications are written by expert practitioners and cover a wide range of topics, such as audit, governance and financial management. Our publication *The Role of the Chief Financial Officer* has been adapted for local government, central government, housing and health. It provides guidance on the key levers, qualities, skills and knowledge needed to perform this role successfully and is a reference tool for CFO’s across the public sector.

- We have worked with the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) to jointly develop *The International Framework: Good Governance in the Public Sector*. This important publication outlines a set of core principles for good governance in public sector entities, supplemented by practical implementation guidance.
I’ve been a member of CIPFA since 1991 and have a strong sense of pride in belonging to the world’s leading accountancy body for public services.

Kevin Bartle CPFA
Interim Director of Finance
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
CIPFA Member since 1991
To achieve success, ensure financial stability and sustainability – whether in a climate of austerity or as an emerging country – public sector organisations need adaptable, sound financial management models with clear accountability, robust planning and people with the right skills.

And that’s exactly where we can help. Our expertise and support guides public financial managers through changes as they successfully re-shape public services, while meeting new policy and legislative demands – and review and improve their business models and strategies for the future.

**How we are helping**

Our reputation and public sector ethos enables us to create practical solutions to help practitioners address the challenges that their organisations face:

- The new CIPFA Counter Fraud Centre provides professional training, acts as a best practice bank, and provides professional consultancy to ensure that organisations are protected against the threat of fraudulent practices.

- Our new independent standard of excellence for governance has been developed in response to a collapse in public trust and the increased pressure organisations face to ensure good governance practices. The CIPFA Governance Mark will help organisations minimise the risk of governance failure, and stand apart from the rest in governance practice.

- Our advisory service ‘Dealing with the Cuts’ uses our unrivalled expertise and data banks to help uncover fresh and alternative ways to deliver service strategies while working within budget imperatives.

- Our unique reservoir of customer performance data helps organisations benchmark themselves against their peers, helping them to make evidence-based decisions, improve their performance and deliver value for money services.

- Our Financial Management (FM) Model helps to identify cost-cutting opportunities and efficiency gains by conducting a full review of the strength of an organisation’s financial management strategies. Following a roll out in Central Government in the UK, we have also begun to roll out the FM Model internationally, working alongside CPA Australia, the New Zealand Treasury, The Abu Dhabi Accountability Authority and the Government Finance Officers of America (GFOA) – all examples of how CIPFA is taking the lead and providing tools to strengthen financial stability around the world.
CIPFA embodies leadership, integrity and professionalism. These attributes have provided me with the foundation to pursue a varied and exciting career working with local authorities and government departments in the UK and overseas.

Donna Herdsman CPFA
Director
UK Public Sector
Hewlett Packard
CIPFA Member since 1988
As a membership organisation we encourage members, volunteers and all stakeholders to engage with us to ensure we offer a relevant and appropriate level of support to the whole public sector. Therefore please contact us using the details below:

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