

CIPFA

the people
in public finance

more opportunities

The professional qualification for a varied and rewarding career



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‘CIPFA launched me on the career path that got me to where I am today. I’m running a £7 billion building project associated with the Olympics, which is 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, Chief Executive, Olympic Delivery Authority



a rewarding career

Satisfaction, progression, adventure, travel, the chance to make a real difference – the CIPFA Professional Qualification can give you all this – and more.

The breadth and depth of available jobs is vast. You can have the pick of a wide variety of employers from the NHS, central and local government to the BBC, charities and NGOs – both at home and abroad. And with CIPFA you are also fully qualified to work in the private sector, too.

As a qualified accountant, a career with CIPFA can take you as high and as far as you want to go – as fast as you like. With built-in leadership training you can quickly scale the heights of any organisation and make a real and lasting difference.

‘As an accountant, public finance is the most challenging, stimulating and rewarding environment that you could ever find yourself working in. No private sector company even comes close to the size and impact that finance has on the public service. So if you can make the grade in the public sector, you can do so anywhere.’

Tom Taylor, CPFA, Director, Finance and Performance, DEFRA

Here are a few things you can expect from a career in finance:

- **A diverse range of employment opportunities** at home and abroad in the public and private sector - for governments, charities, NGOs and any number of private businesses.
- **Job security** – there is always a demand for accountants.
- **Mastery of a broad range of valuable key skills** – including finance, leadership, business strategy, communication, negotiation, influence and management.
- **Respect, standing and status** – CIPFA is a guarantor of professionalism and members are renowned for their integrity.
- **Rewards beyond money** – effective financial management of service delivery has the power to improve the lives of people and communities, giving you immense personal job satisfaction.
- **Variety and challenge** – you’ll find you are often in the limelight in high profile areas such as education, health and the environment, with plenty of challenges to help keep you sharp.
- **Reach the top in your chosen role** – Director of Finance, Resources Director, Head of Audit, Chief Executive, whatever your goal you can reach it with CIPFA.

So for a career less ordinary, choose the CIPFA Professional Qualification.

Suzanne Flynn, CPFA

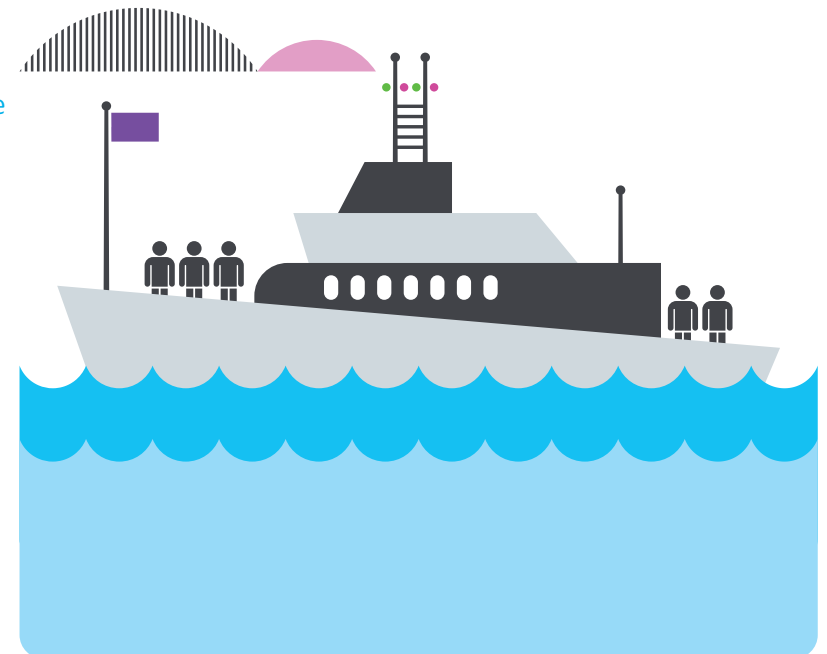
Technical Assistant Adviser, IMF, Washington DC

Suzanne always wanted to work in the public sector as she feels it's such a worthwhile area where service delivery is very important. Although she started work in local government, Suzanne had always wanted to travel, so she knew she wouldn't stay there forever. Gaining her CIPFA qualification was ideal in offering her the opportunity to travel as part of her job, and subsequently her career has taken her all over the world.

As a technical assistant adviser in public financial management she provides advice and support and quality assures the work of other advisers, too. Suzanne feels that in addition to the qualification you choose, it's the jobs you take and the successes you achieve that are just as important in giving you access to further opportunities as you carve your career.

As well as working in the public sector, Suzanne has worked in the private sector for PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Suzanne says: 'If you are thinking of studying with CIPFA, my advice is to go for it! It's a very worthwhile career and if you are interested in travelling to countries with challenging accounting environments you can make a big difference. The public sector gives you endless opportunities. You will gain access to a whole range of places you would never usually go to – a huge bonus that cannot be equalled in the private sector.'



your pathway to leadership

In addition to the core financial skills you need to work as an accountant, the CIPFA Professional Qualification gives you much more. It is unique in also having leadership, management and strategy training built-in. So if you want to reach the top, this is the path for you. You'll quickly find yourself leading a team and taking on high levels of responsibility.

In fact working in the public sector with CIPFA can help you rise to the top far quicker than you could in the private sector. This is because with our qualification you can map out a career pathway in your chosen direction. You can set your own pace and decide on the speed with which you want to progress. As you choose your pathway, it's an individual journey tailored to meet your needs, with a unique outcome.

Whether you choose to carve yourself a career based in the UK, create a future abroad, stay in one organisation or move between several; or work in the private where you will be sought after and valued for your unique understanding of the public sector.

Before long you'll hold a senior title in your organisation. From Partner, to Director of Finance, or even Chief Executive – there's no limit to what you can achieve.

'The public sector continues to offer fantastic careers and challenges, and the one thing you can never say about life in the public sector is that it's boring. Choosing to work in the public sector isn't a narrow career choice because it equips you with a broad range of skills and experience that's recognised across the board. So although I've personally never wanted to work in the private sector there's never been any shortage of opportunities to make the switch had I wished to.'

Steve Morris, CPFA, Director of Finance and Corporate Services, The British Library



Dennis Hone, CPFA

Chief Executive Officer, The Olympic Delivery Authority

Qualifying with CIPFA means you have real ability, and a desire to work with a diverse range of public sector organisations. You can work for non-departmental public bodies, NGOs, the NHS and so on. There are a huge number of diverse employers out there who are actively looking for CIPFA qualified accountants.

As Chief Executive of the Olympic Delivery Authority Dennis is proof that CIPFA can be the first step on the road to a huge variety of opportunities. From gaining experience with your local council to exploring a huge number of opportunities in the public sector you can enjoy an exciting career.

Dennis says: 'CIPFA launched me on the career path that got me to where I am today. I'm running a £7 billion building project associated with the Olympics, which is 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.'



choose to make a difference

Once you are qualified you can put the letters CPFA after your name and be set to shape your future. With the skills to succeed in both the public and private sectors your qualification will take you anywhere you choose. However, with your unique added specialism in the public sector you may wish to focus on working for the public good – in a highly rewarding sector.

From health and education to transport, defence and the voluntary sector the smooth running of our public and voluntary services is crucial to our well being and prosperity. In the UK we are fortunate to have excellent standards and frameworks for delivery. Yet with the constant flux of government policies, change is a byword - and you could take up the challenge to ensure that no matter what changes, the best value for every penny of public money is achieved.

As a CIPFA member you can work to improve service delivery for the good of the community, the country - or even the world. You can work for government, NGOs, and charities – at home and abroad. Wherever you choose to work you may be involved in:

- securing best value for taxpayers by advising managers on funding decisions and reviewing the financial implications of proposals and decisions
- making long-term improvements in public services by looking at new ways of delivering high quality services including establishing joint working initiatives with other organisations
- saving costs through improving financial management strategies and procedures and establishing effective systems and controls
- being part of a senior leadership team overseeing the strategic direction of the organisation
- decision-making and preparing reports, budgets, forecasts, risk assessments and plans to help others make informed decisions

- delivering better outcomes as a result of preparing or auditing accounts
- communicating financial decisions and performance to stakeholders
- interpreting the potential outcome of public services funding announcements, policy and regulatory changes and ensuring everyone understands the possible impact.

Working in public services you can not only see where your own money as a taxpayer is spent, but help to plan it – for the good of all.

Here is a flavour of the organisations in which our members work:

World Bank	KPMG	NHS
Deloitte	BBC	Barnardo's
Metropolitan Police	HM Treasury	Olympic Delivery Authority
Home Office	County Councils	Department of Health
IMF	PwC	UNICEF
Arts Council	Greater London Authority	
United Nations		

Gordon Bird, CPFA

Section Head - Capital Master Plan Audit, United Nations, New York

Gordon has no doubt that CIPFA provided the best foundation possible and always acknowledges that CIPFA is the institute that started him on his career path.

Currently working as internal auditor for the United Nations, Gordon is responsible for a \$2 billion audit of major building renovation and security projects. Although based in New York, the last two years have given him the opportunity to undertake assignments in Haiti and Ethiopia. In the UK Gordon has worked in local government, electricity generation, consultancy and transport.

Gordon believes that when considering professional exams, CIPFA presents a challenging option - but one that brings a rewarding career. You study while gaining work experience so can put your academic progress into action daily. If you want to aim for a senior position in the public sector CIPFA gives you the tools to succeed, as many members become Chief Executive Officers or hold senior financial positions.

Gordon says: 'With CIPFA you are in an ideal position to make a positive difference in a major sector of the economy – with jobs on offer all over the world. CIPFA has enabled me to make positive contributions in the UK and beyond. Some of my previous positions have included Chief Internal Auditor posts for the governments of the Seychelles and the Cayman Islands, and Senior Internal Auditor for the Ministry of Defence in Oman.'



a robust future

With job security in most fields a thing of the past, CIPFA training gives you stability and scope. Public services now account for nearly half the global economy – working in or with the sector will give you unrivalled career prospects. And of course as a qualified accountant, public and private sector consultancy is also open to you.

The CIPFA syllabus is contemporary and future proof. It reflects the latest policies, standards, challenges and opportunities facing public services today as well as the latest audit and accounting standards. With CIPFA you will gain the skills all accountants

require, but you will also gain relevant public service skills that go far beyond financial and management accounts to cover everything from audit, tax and governance to stakeholder relations, policy, funding and more.

The qualification covers:

There are three stages and twelve modules in total and studying takes typically three years. Assessment is through exams for each module and a final log of work place experience.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE

Financial Accounting

Double-entry accounting | ethics | financial statements

Management Accounting

Budgeting | costing | decision-making | sustainability

Financial Reporting

IFRS | company financial statements | consolidation | interpretation and analysis

Audit and Assurance

Audit environment | risk assessment | audit evidence | external and internal audit

PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA

Public Finance and Taxation

Public expenditure | revenue and debt | taxation systems | corporation tax | income taxes | VAT

Public Sector Financial Reporting

Reporting frameworks | financial statements | performance reporting

Governance, Public Policy, and Ethics

Reform and regulation | contemporary issues | policy environment | good governance | ethical behaviour

Financial Management

Treasury management | investments | financial risk | working capital management

Business Strategy

Organisational strategy | environmental analysis | strategic choice | organisational structures | public value

Business Management

Procurement | commissioning | quality | performance management | project management | information systems

STRATEGIC

Strategic Leadership

Contemporary approaches | innovation | communication

Strategic Financial Management

Strategic decision-making | problem-solving | professional judgement | effective communication | ethical dilemmas

Successful completion gives you full membership and the use of the designatory letters – CPFA.

Frank McCabe, CPFA

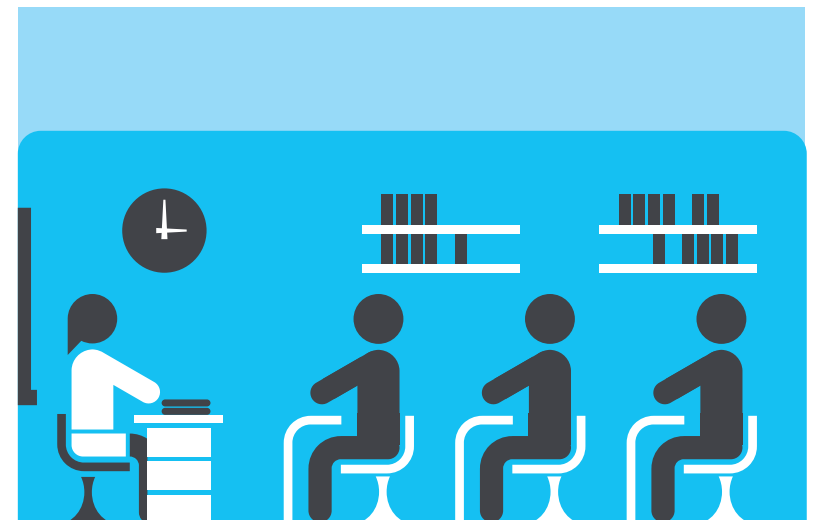
Senior Auditor, BBC

Having graduated with an Economics degree from Bristol University, Frank McCabe was drawn to CIPFA. He was impressed that it covered a wide range of public finance issues – from financing hospitals and schools, to deciding which local services should be provided – subjects which have become even more relevant in the past couple of years.

Frank believes his CIPFA qualification has given him a big advantage over other candidates when applying for public sector roles as it's the number one qualification employers are looking for. There are also opportunities across the big accountancy firms for CIPFA qualified candidates and scope to move into consultancy roles.

Having studied CIPFA, Frank is fully aware of the constant need for publicly funded organisations to achieve more with less – and to demonstrate value for money. The ethos of the public service has changed massively in the last few years, and talented finance professionals are central to achieving the efficiencies required.

Frank says: '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.'



flexible study

With CIPFA, the pace at which you study is up to you. You can complete your studies in as little or as much time as you wish. Simply choose how many modules to study and sit at each exam sitting. Attaining CIPFA membership usually takes around three years to complete, including assessment via exams and a workplace experience log.

You can further speed up your progression if you are already a graduate or an AAT member, or if you are qualified or part-qualified via another professional accountancy body. See the opposite page for details.

Study in the way that suits you best – with support always at hand

With CIPFA you study at your own pace via classroom tuition at a CIPFA Education and Training Centre, Kaplan Live Online or distance learning, choosing the learning style to suit you and structured around work, home and other commitments.

‘CIPFA doesn’t limit you to the public sector. I have worked for both private and public sector organisations transferring with ease. What CIPFA does is give you a unique specialism in public finance and this has enabled me to work in diverse roles for an accountancy firm, government agency, a housing association and now the City of London Corporation.’

Suzanne Jones, CPFA, Business Support Director, Chamberlain’s Department, the City of London Corporation

Tap into the range of CIPFA study support services:

- Day or block release courses – available through our in-house training provider and at conveniently located colleges around the UK.
- CIPFA Live Online – delivered by Kaplan, for online webinar classes, accessible whenever and wherever is convenient for you.
- Revision courses – for intensive, structured study designed to help you prepare for exam success.
- Mock exams – to give you valuable feedback as to how you are progressing.
- Workbooks – structured content to guide you through each module, ideal for distance learning and to supplement courses.
- Exam Essentials – bite-size information focussed on preparing you for the exams.
- One-to-one tuition – for guidance and support direct from the experts.



Exemptions

Depending on your current qualifications, you may be granted exemptions as follows:

AAT qualified

As a fully qualified AAT member you gain exemptions from:

- Management Accounting
- Financial Accounting
- Taxation*

*Please note this is dependent on the AAT modules passed and is only available whilst the Taxation part of the Public Finance and Taxation paper is available as a stand alone exam.

Graduates

If you have a relevant degree you may also apply for exemptions.

Fully qualified accountants

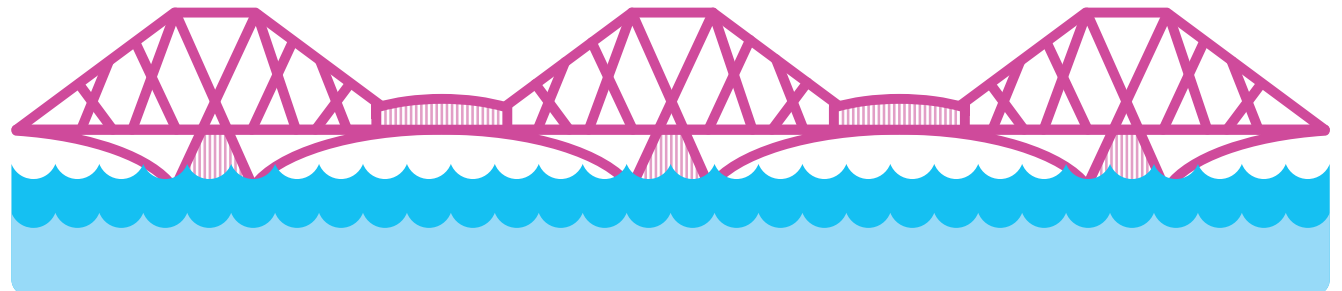
If you have completed all the exams for ACCA, CIMA, ICAEW, ICAS or ICAI you can fast track your qualification in specific public sector finance skills **in under six months**. To achieve this you simply need to complete the following two papers:

- Public Sector Financial Reporting
- Strategic Financial Management

Not only does this mean you will benefit from increased and more relevant skills - but as a CIPFA member you will also have access to our support services for public finance managers. These include technical guidance, CPD events, Public Finance magazine, online resources and a renowned network of public finance professionals.

How to register

Simply visit: cipfa.org.uk/students/registration



trainee vacancies

CIPFA is committed to helping you succeed in your studies – and to finding you a relevant role that gets you on the career ladder through our trainee vacancy service. This offers graduate opportunities via a number of organisations.

‘The challenge of managing public sector finances will be the paramount issue of this era and CIPFA as a qualification is enabling me to be poised to deliver on that challenge.’

Marcus Richards, CIPFA student, KPMG

‘CIPFA equips you with fundamental accounting knowledge in both private and public accounting. As the only qualification to specialise in public finance it gives you an edge in the public sector - which is also one of the largest employers in the country. This gives you wide scope for finding a great job that suits you – and huge opportunities for career progression.’

Eric Cheung, CIPFA student, Home Office

Gain invaluable work experience in a wide variety of roles as a trainee

Our students and employers tell us that as a trainee with CIPFA, you will typically take on a greater variety of roles than you would in the private sector, giving you greater knowledge, faster. These roles can include working in financial accounting, management accounting, internal and external audit, procurement, treasury and investments, advisory activities, project management, risk management and many others – far more variety than within a typical private sector training programme.

What you can expect to earn as a trainee

As a trainee, starting salaries are typically £27,000 and newly qualified accountants can often exceed £40,000.

With a CIPFA qualification under your belt your opportunities are truly unlimited.

For details of the latest vacancies hot off the press sign up for email alerts at

www.cipfa.org.uk/tv



Yukimi Carson, CPFA

Director, Planning, information and performance, Arts Council England

Yukimi originally gained a degree in economics and history before joining PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) as an auditor. Working in a large private firm such as PwC enabled Yukimi to gain a great deal of experience servicing a wide range of clients. Since qualifying she has changed roles a number of times. With her CIPFA training, Yukimi has the broad range of skills needed to work in many areas including operations, business planning and organisational performance management.

Originally drawn to the public sector due to the interesting roles available and the positive impact one can make on society, Yukimi feels she works with likeminded colleagues who all share a commitment to public service and offer loyalty and support.

Yukimi says: 'CIPFA is an excellent choice if you are looking for a rewarding, challenging, fast moving career in public finance. The public sector has to adapt fast to changes in the external environment, and a background in public finance can give you the skills you need to carve an interesting and varied career.'



summary of benefits

With CIPFA you begin your working life with a real advantage. You are not only qualified to work as an accountant, with an added public sector specialism, you have hands on experience, valuable insight, and management training. What's more, your finance, strategy and leadership skills can be put to use in both the public and private sectors, giving you unlimited scope for career progression.

Here's a reminder of what CIPFA offers you:

- **an accountancy qualification** – and the designatory letters CPFA
- **a successful and varied career** – with the opportunity to work in a wide range of sectors in the UK and abroad
- **the chance to make a real difference in the world** – with a positive impact on peoples' lives
- **a well planned career path** – to help you reach whatever position you want
- **a qualification you can rely on** – for life
- **invaluable knowledge** – including financial, management, strategy and leadership skills
- **a guarantor of professionalism** – with the letters CPFA after your name
- **financial and personal rewards** – with huge job satisfaction
- **never a dull moment** – with challenge and variety in every role
- **the ability to move from sector to sector, organisation to organisation** – and from finance to management at any level.

There's no end to the advantages that CIPFA can give you – choice, skills, job satisfaction, rewards and knowledge. Don't settle for anything less when you can have it all with CIPFA.

'With more information available to the public there's a small revolution currently underway in public finance and it's a real challenge to represent the sector in the right way. So if you're just starting out in your career, this is the perfect opportunity to make a difference. CIPFA is definitely the route to go – it has the inside track in public services and gives you vital knowledge above and beyond finance – from management and strategy to cultural knowledge.'

Martin Gomme, CPFA, Enterprise Risk Management, British Council

Mark Lawrie, CPFA

Partner, Head of Local and Regional Government, Deloitte

Mark Lawrie knows that CIPFA is an excellent foundation for a career and gives you plenty of opportunities in finance and senior management, offering a fantastic return on investment.

After leaving university with a degree in geology and geophysics, Mark studied for an MBA and CIPFA qualification with Cheshire Council. Two years later, he moved to Deloitte public sector consultancy.

Mark finds the CIPFA network invaluable and regularly meets people he trained with. Membership offers a sense of community, creates strong bonds and identity, nurtures loyal, consistent relationships and continually contributes to your success.

When planning your career, Mark believes it's important to choose the quality of the organisation you want to work with, and to be realistic about your aspirations. His advice is to give due attention to both your qualification and your career path – and not just rely on your qualification to map out your life for you. Be proactive, manage your career plan and you can quickly get to the top and achieve your goals.

Mark says: 'In public sector recruiting, CIPFA is a benchmark – a vital differentiator in a specialist market. Your qualification gives you standing and a real advantage over your competitors. So if you want to work in the public sector, or wish to work in the private sector to serve the public sector, CIPFA is an absolute must.'



more about CIPFA

CIPFA is the only accountancy body in the world that specialises in public services. This makes us the global authority on public finance matters. As a result governments, councils, NGOs, the NHS and more turn to us and our members for advice.

We stand for sound public financial management and good governance globally. Our focus is on raising standards in public service delivery and we offer:

Knowledge and Leadership

We develop, publish and communicate policies, frameworks, models, standards and guides to influence and drive effective change to improve the financial management of public services.

Education and Training

We provide education and training and award our professional accountants with the letters CPFA after their name. We support developing nations in improving their professionalisation by working with governments, donors and others to deliver training programmes and continuing professional development.

News, Commentary and Debate

As the leading authority on public financial management, CIPFA publishes a monthly magazine *'Public Finance'*. This provides news and incisive analysis, comment and expert opinion on developments that affect the public sector. www.publicfinance.co.uk

Networks and Relationships

CIPFA provides many opportunities to network regionally and nationally via seminars, conferences, award ceremonies and forums. Bringing finance professionals together to facilitate discussion and collaboration is one of our key strengths.

Representation and Influence

At a time of unprecedented reform and change in public services, CIPFA is a key influencer in the development of public policy. We represent our members at the highest levels and work to develop and support the accountancy profession nationally and internationally.

CIPFA has over 14,000 members who work throughout the public services. This includes local government, central government, the third sector, audit firms and the NHS. We are members of the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies (CCAB).



your next steps

Here's how you can find out more about your opportunities with CIPFA:

Professional Qualification

For more information about the CIPFA qualification - including syllabus, study support, costs and the answers to frequently asked questions visit:

cipfa.org.uk/career

Exemptions and Entry Routes

Contact one of our Student Advisers to discuss your circumstances and requirements:

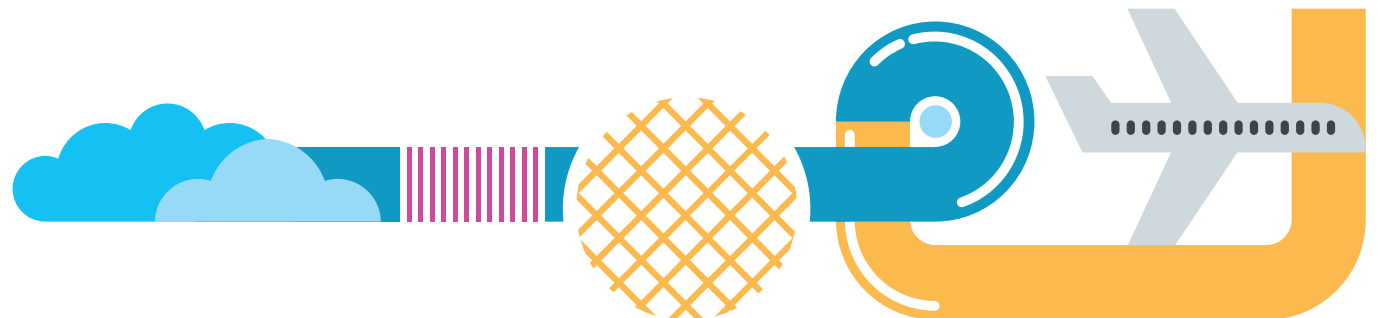
T: 020 7543 5656

E: students@cipfa.org.uk

Trainee Vacancies

To view current vacancies and to sign up for email alerts:

cipfa.org.uk/tv



Registered office:

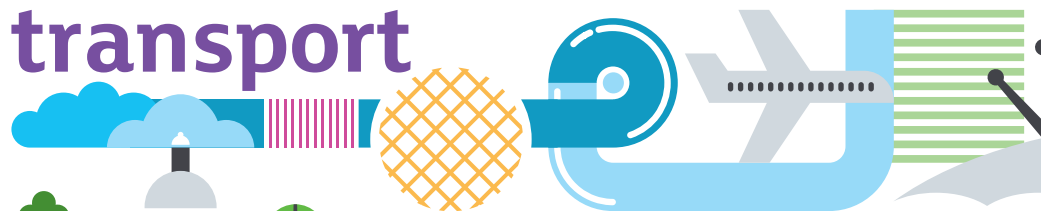
3 Robert Street, London WC2N 6RL
T: 020 7543 5600 F: 020 7543 5700
www.cipfa.org.uk

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