

**CIPFA**

The Chartered Institute of  
Public Finance & Accountancy

# add another string to your bow

The fast track route  
to CIPFA membership





*“I wholeheartedly recommend the CIPFA Professional Qualification to finance professionals working in the public services. It provides the technical and non-technical skills and insights to reach the very top.”*

John Matheson, Director of Finance, NHS Scotland

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# the fast track route

CIPFA offers a fast track route for qualified members of the other Consultative Committee of Accounting Bodies (CCAB) to obtain the CIPFA qualification. Add a public finance edge to your current accounting qualification by gaining the most relevant qualification for public sector finance staff- in as little as nine months.

If you are a fully qualified accountant with one of the other five CCAB bodies, you can become CIPFA qualified by studying **just two papers** through the fast track route.

## About CIPFA

CIPFA, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, is the professional body for people in public finance.

Our 14,000 members work throughout the public services, in local government, central government, the third sector, audit firms and the NHS. We champion high performance in public services, translating our experience and insight into clear advice and practical services. They include information and guidance, courses and conferences, property and asset management solutions, consultancy and interim people for a range of public sector clients.

Uniquely among the professional accountancy bodies in the UK, CIPFA is actively involved in setting accounting standards, carrying out research and writing guidance for local authorities and government departments to follow. Our qualifications allow employers to build a highly skilled and knowledgeable workforce tailored to the needs of the public sector.

## Members of the CCAB

- The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)
- The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)
- The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (ICAI)
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS)

# benefits of studying CIPFA

The CIPFA Professional Qualification is the only one designed to equip you with the skills to deal with the complexities, challenges and rigours of the modern public services finance environment.

With public services now accounting for over 40% of the global economy and overwhelming demand for CIPFA members, there has never been a better time to study for CIPFA.

- Dual membership - holding two professional accountancy qualifications is an excellent way to gain greater credibility and direction in your career.
- Enhance your opportunities for career progression - our expertise in public finance is unrivalled, therefore putting you in a great position for accelerated career progression. By studying CIPFA in addition to your current qualification, you will allow yourself to stand out from the crowd and quickly advance your career.
- Target your skills to your industry - strengthen your knowledge and skills in public finance and become an expert in your field.
- Keep up to date with the latest issues and developments in public finance - all CIPFA students are entitled to access a variety of study support options, networking opportunities and information portals. This ensures that CIPFA qualified accountants are the most knowledgeable and informed finance professionals in the public sector.
- Increase your job satisfaction - accountants working in public finance benefit from increased job satisfaction, safe in the knowledge that they are making an outstanding contribution to the organisation in which they work.

*“I recommend the CIPFA qualification because it will make you part of an in-demand, specialist pool of talent when it comes to public finance matters.”*

Doyin Ogunbiyi, Trainee Auditor, Audit Commission”

# exemptions from CIPFA

CCAB qualified accountants are entitled to maximum exemptions, leaving **only two exams** to become a Chartered Public Finance Accountant (CPFA). These are Financial and Performance Reporting (FPR) and the Finance and Management Case Study (FMCS).

Entrants via the fast track route pay no exemption fees and are exempt from our work experience requirements. Students must pass Financial and Performance Reporting before they can complete the Finance and Management Case Study.

## Financial and Performance Reporting (FPR)

Put your financial skills to practice in the public sector context:

- Identify and explain the external financial reporting framework for the public services.
- Discuss the detailed application of current statute, regulation and professional standards of practice to the public services and demonstrate this through preparation and interpretation of the key external financial statements for public service organisations.
- Identify and appraise regulatory mechanisms for measuring performance in public service organisations.

## Finance and Management Case Study (FMCS)

This is the final stage in becoming a Chartered Public Finance Accountant (CPFA). It gives you the opportunity to apply the strategic and project skills you have gained in a real world context.

Students tackle a series of issues that would be encountered in a typical work situation simulated in the exam room. This tests the application of acquired skills rather than simply factual knowledge and how you react under a time constraint.

## The CIPFA syllabus

### Certificate Level

- Financial Accounting
- Management Accounting
- Financial Reporting
- Financial Management Systems and Techniques

### Diploma Level

- Audit and Assurance
- Leadership and Management
- Accounting for Decision Making
- Governance and Public Policy
- **Financial and Performance Reporting**
- Public Finance
- Taxation

### Final Test of Professional Competence

- Strategic Business Management
- **Finance and Management Case Study**
- Initial Professional Development Scheme (IPDS)

\*highlighted modules show exams required through the fast track route

# study options

Studying for CIPFA is flexible and designed to suit your needs, lifestyle and work commitments. With online study at its centre, the range of supportive study options includes:

- Student Learning Centre - forming the basis of studying CIPFA, this is our online tool providing study guides, discussion forums, self assessment tools and more.
- Added value course provision – choose to supplement your studies with day or block release courses at one of a range of providers across the UK.
- Revision courses – most course providers offer intensive revision courses which are open to all students to attend and can help make all the difference in preparing for exam success.
- Mock exams – useful in testing how you are progressing through the module, mock exams can be sat at home, work, or in class and submitted for marking and feedback.
- Workshops – a number of workshops are run across the country and can be used to interact with peers and tutors face-to-face.
- Ask the Tutor service – make use of our telephone and email helpline service that helps you get the answers you need to academic questions.

**Name:** Mohamed Jeewa  
**Employer:** Salford City Council

## in practice

Mohamed Jeewa entered CIPFA via the Fast Track Route following his ACCA qualification.

"The study and training provided by CIPFA is particularly catered towards a career in the public sector. As you are granted exemption from IPDS as well as all but two of the final exams of the CIPFA syllabus, the continued studying isn't that onerous, especially through additional study options provided by my college. Holding the CIPFA qualification allows me to build on my knowledge and training from my other qualification and to hone these to allow me to learn more about public finance. It also gives the option to tap into the networking opportunities provided by both qualifications and the opportunity to meet, learn and share ideas from a lot of people who hold either of these reputable qualifications."

# getting started

Add another string to your bow by signing up to CIPFA now. The fast track route is growing in popularity with more and more CCAB members joining every year.

To get started, you will need to register as a student on the Student Learning Centre at [www.cipfa.org.uk/slc](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/slc). This is where you can purchase your modules and access learning materials.

Exams take place in June and November/December with closing dates in March and September.

Detailed and dedicated advice for Fast Track students is available by contacting our Student Recruitment team.

*“The breadth of the CIPFA Professional Qualification provides a broad base of knowledge, essential to be a finance manager and leader in the future.”*

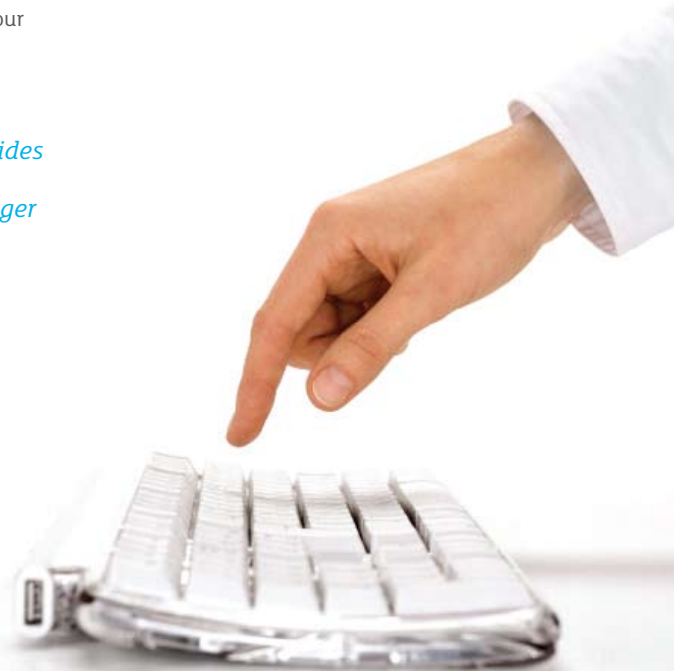
Jon Thompson, Head of the Government Finance Profession and Director General Finance, Ministry of Defence

## Student Recruitment team

t: 020 7543 5656

e: [students@cipfa.org.uk](mailto:students@cipfa.org.uk)

[www.cipfa.org.uk/fasttrack](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/fasttrack)





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