

CIPS Level 6 Professional diploma in procurement and supply

The Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS) Level 6 Professional diploma in procurement and supply is a higher level qualification. It has been recognised by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual), CCEA and Qualifications Wales in the UK and appears on the Register of Regulated Qualifications. The qualification accreditation number is 600/7657/4.

The Level 6 Professional diploma is aimed at senior procurement professionals and heads of department to provide the knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to strategic direction and advice, in areas such as change management, stakeholder management and team leadership.

The qualification is designed for those working within the following typical job titles; Strategic / Senior / Purchasing or Procurement Manager, Head of Commercial, Supply Chain Manager, Head of Logistics / Transport, Operations Manager. There are no age restrictions in relation to this qualification.

This qualification has been designed in conjunction with employers, study centres, higher education institutions and other key professionals and stakeholders to ensure it is relevant to current working practices within the procurement and supply sector. In addition, the content of the qualification is based on the CIPS Global Standard for Procurement and Supply – a comprehensive competency framework to enhance an individual's procurement performance leading to excellent organisational performance. Further information on the global standard can be [found here](#).

Both the global standard and qualification are kept under regular review and updated when necessary to ensure relevance is maintained.

Entry requirements

In order to complete this qualification, learners will need to have achieved the CIPS Level 5 Advanced diploma in procurement and supply. Some unit exemptions or a bypass may be applicable under the CIPS Exemption policy. Further information on the exemption policy and possible exemptions can be [found here](#).

Structure

The Professional diploma consists of three compulsory units. Additionally you must choose two optional units from a choice of three. All units are assessed via a CIPS externally set and marked examination which focuses on assessing the learning outcomes of each unit. Examinations are available on timetabled dates throughout the year. Information on examination dates and administrative arrangements can be [found here](#).

The qualification is structured as follows:

CIPS LEVEL 6 PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

Unit code	Unit title	GLH	Credit	Exam type	Number questions per LO	Duration
PD1	Leadership in procurement and supply	50	12	Unseen case study (500 words) and four questions each worth 25 marks	1	3 hours
PD2	Corporate and business strategy	50	12	Practical long answer (25 mark) questions	1	3 hours
PD3	Strategic supply chain management	50	12	Pre-released case study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12-15 pages long, based on a realistic organisation published on website at least four weeks in advance Open-book exam - four practical long answer (25 mark) questions	1	3 hours
Optional units						
PD4	Supply chain diligence	50	12	Practical long answer (25 mark) questions	1	3 hours
PD5	Programme and project management	50	12	Practical long answer (25 mark) questions	1	3 hours
PD6	Legal aspects in procurement and supply (UK)	50	12	Practical long answer (25 mark) questions	1	3 hours

Pass criteria	Examination pass marks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinction 75 - 100% Merit 60 - 74% Pass 50 - 59% Fail 0 - 49%
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The focus of each of the units is as follows:

Compulsory units:

PD1 Leadership in procurement and supply: on completion of this unit, the learner will be able to critically appraise influencing, leadership skills and behaviours, to help achieve commitment from across the organisation including senior management, as well as customers and suppliers. This unit emphasises the

leadership skills and behaviours required for the achievement of the objectives and improvements sought by effective procurement and supply chain management.

PD2 Corporate and business strategy: on completion of this unit, the learner will be able to critically appraise the development of strategies at business and corporate levels in organisations and how these strategies impact on supply chains. This unit focuses on the development; configuration and implementation of strategy to help supply chain personnel achieve competitive advantage.

PD3 Strategic supply chain management: on completion of this unit, the learner will be able to critically appraise strategies that can be adopted in the supply chain. This unit focuses on the development, configuration and roll out of strategy to help personnel appraise how strategy can be used to help achieve competitive advantage through improved supply chain management.

Optional units:

PD4 Supply chain diligence: on completion of this unit, the learner will be able to understand the impact of globalisation on supply chains. In addition the learner will have an appreciation of the financial aspects that impact on supply chains such as project finance, mergers and acquisitions, financial measures of organisations, corporate governance, legal issues such as competition law and workforce issues that impact on organisations.

PD5 Programme and project management: on completion of this unit, candidates will be able to evaluate critical aspects of the development, financing, implementation and delivery of major programmes and projects.

PD6 Legal aspects in procurement and supply (UK): on completion of this unit, the learner will be able to understand legal issues surrounding contracts and relationships developed in their supply chains. The learner will gain an understanding of the legal aspects of contracts, competition and employment laws that impact on procurement and supply.

Click [here](#) for the full unit content guide.

All units within the CIPS qualifications are assessed by an examination. Sample examination question papers for all units can be [found here](#).

Learners are expected to undertake 50 guided learning hours per unit of the Professional diploma qualification, with an additional and recommended 70 hours of self-study per unit.

The number of hours assigned to the Professional diploma qualification for Total Qualification Time (TQT) is 600. TQT is the number of notional hours which represents an estimate of the total amount of time could reasonably be expected to be required in order for a learner to achieve and demonstrate the achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of a qualification. This means that the learner would be expected to undertake 600 hours in terms of the Total Qualification Time, which can consist of 50 guided learning hours per unit (a total of 250 guided learning hours) and a recommended 70 hours of self-study, per unit, which includes a wider reading of the subject areas and revision to give the learner the best preparation for successfully achieving the certificate, the 3 hour assessment time, per unit, will be included within this.

Each Professional diploma unit has a credit value of 12 credits per unit.

The Level 6 Professional diploma in procurement and supply forms part of the CIPS ladder of qualifications, which ranges from Certificate to Professional Diploma level. The qualification also provides an opportunity to demonstrate continuing professional development (CPD).

On successful completion of the Diploma, Advanced and Professional diplomas along with 3 years' experience in a position of responsibility in procurement and supply you will achieve MCIPS status.

For further information regarding the CIPS qualifications ladder, [click here](#)