

# 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 vocationally related qualification. It is recognised by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual), CCEA Regulation and Qualifications Wales in the UK and appears on the Register of Regulated Qualifications.

The qualification accreditation number is 603/3926/3

## Introduction

The CIPS Level 6 Professional Diploma in Procurement and Supply represents the final level of qualification required by those who are working towards MCIPS Chartered Procurement and Supply Professional status, which is recognised worldwide as the professional standard for procurement and supply practitioners. It has been developed in close collaboration with practitioners, employers and academics specialising in Procurement and Supply, and with the providers who will be delivering the qualifications.

## Background and Aims

The CIPS Level 6 Professional Diploma in Procurement and Supply is for those who want to specialise in the procurement and supply profession. The qualification will prepare learners for work by giving them the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge, technical and practical skills, and to apply these skills in work-related environments. Learners will develop skills and knowledge in key areas of procurement and supply including strategic ethical leadership, global communications, and strategic supply chain management and will also have an opportunity to consider future challenges for the profession.

The qualification also provides progression for those learners who have been successful on the CIPS Level 5 Advanced Diploma in Procurement and Supply. Finally, it represents the final level of qualification required by those who are working towards their Membership of CIPS (MCIPS)<sup>1</sup> which is recognised worldwide as the professional standard for procurement and supply practitioners. Successful applicants may use the designatory letters MCIPS after their name. Applicants for MCIPS must complete the CIPS Diploma, Advanced Diploma and this Professional Diploma in procurement and supply and must also exhibit at least 3 years' experience in a relevant position of responsibility in the procurement and supply discipline.

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<sup>1</sup> MCIPS Member Benefits available at: <https://www.cips.org/en-gb/membership/access-your-member-benefits/mcips/>

In keeping with regulatory requirements<sup>2</sup> the holder of the qualification will demonstrate the following knowledge within procurement and supply:

Knowledge Descriptor (the holder....)	Skills Descriptor (the holder will....)
<p>Has advanced practical, conceptual or technological knowledge and understanding of a subject or field of work to create ways forward in contexts where there are many interacting factors.</p> <p>Understands different perspectives, approaches or schools of thought and the theories that underpin them.</p> <p>Can critically analyse, interpret and evaluate complex information, concepts and ideas.</p>	<p>Determine, refine, adapt and use appropriate methods and advanced cognitive and practical skills to address problems that have limited definition and involve many interacting factors.</p> <p>Use and, where appropriate, design relevant research and development to inform actions.</p> <p>Evaluate actions, methods and results and their implications.</p>

The CIPS Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Procurement and Supply was developed through direct collaboration and consultation with employers to ensure that the content of the qualification and associated award meet with their needs and expectations and are relevant to the procurement and supply function both now and in the future. Employers require recruits with the appropriate technical knowledge, and transferable skills essential for employment at the professional level of the procurement and supply organisation and this Professional Diploma meets these requirements through:

- Coverage of a range of topics, each with a clear purpose, ensuring that the learner develops the skills required to recognise and describe the key processes in procurement and supply, building professional knowledge, competence and confidence.
- Providing up-to-date content which is closely aligned with employers’ needs and required skill sets.
- Providing content that has as its base the CIPS Global Standard for Procurement and Supply, thereby ensuring an understanding of the intrinsic value that good practice will bring to enhance organisational and personal performance.
- Using assessments that have been developed and identified to enable learners demonstrate their skills, knowledge and understanding at the required level
- Providing an extensive range of support, both resources and people, to ensure that learners have the best possible learning experience to prepare them for the workplace
- Developing and adopting an approach that is learner focussed and that is facilitated and administered to ensure achievement of full potential.

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](#)

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<sup>2</sup> Ofqual Handbook: General Conditions of Recognition, Section E – Design and development of qualifications : <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofqual-handbook>

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

### **Entry requirements**

Learners will need to have achieved CIPS Level 5 Advanced Diploma in Procurement and Supply. Some module exemptions may be applicable under the CIPS Exemption policy. Further information on the exemption policy and possible exemptions can be found [here](#)

### **Structure**

In order to achieve the award of the CIPS Level 6 Professional Diploma in Procurement and Supply learners are required to successfully complete the 4 core modules (42 credits) and then a selection from the elective modules (total of 18 credits) as set out in the table below. The core modules will ensure an appropriate balance of breadth and depth across the final award, whilst the elective content will give learners the opportunity to focus their studies on a given pathway and/or specialism within the profession. All learners will develop the technical and practical skills required in the occupational area and will be given the opportunity to develop a range of transferable skills and attributes required by employers. It is expected that learners will apply their learning to relevant employment and sector contexts during delivery and that they will be able to apply knowledge and learning meaningfully within the workplace.

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:

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Ref	Module Title	Module type Core / Elective	Credit Value	Assessment Format	Number of Learning Outcomes	Question Format and Value	Exam Duration (Hours)	Pass Mark (%)	GLH	Additional self-study	Module Learning Time
<b>L6M1</b>	Strategic Ethical Leadership	Core	12	Constructed response. Closed book under exam conditions	4	Essay Style  All questions are worth 25 marks	3:00	50%	<b>50</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>L6M2</b>	Global Commercial Strategy	Core	12	Constructed response. Closed book under exam conditions	4	Essay Style  All questions are worth 25 marks	3:00	50%	<b>50</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>L6M3</b>	Global Strategic Supply Chain Management	Core	12	Constructed response. Closed book under exam conditions	4	Essay Style  All questions are worth 25 marks	3:00	50%	<b>50</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>120</b>

Ref	Module Title	Module type Core / Elective	Credit Value	Assessment Format	Number of Learning Outcomes	Question Format and Value	Exam Duration (Hours)	Pass Mark (%)	GLH	Additional self-study	Module Learning Time
<b>L6M4</b>	Future Strategic Challenges for the Profession	Core	6	Constructed response Pre-released theme Closed book under exam conditions	2	Essay Style  All questions are worth 25 marks	2:00	50%	<b>25</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>L6M5</b>	Strategic Programme Leadership	Elective	6	Objective Response Closed-book under exam conditions.	3	Multiple Choice Multiple Response (35 x 1 Mark) Short Scenario (2 x 10 Marks) Scenario (1 x 5 Marks)	1:30	70%	<b>25</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>L6M7</b>	Commercial Data Management	Elective	6	Objective Response Closed-book under exam conditions.	3	Multiple Choice Multiple Response (35 x 1 Mark) Short Scenario (2 x 10 Marks) Scenario (1 x 5 Marks)	1:30	70%	<b>25</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>L6M8</b>	Innovation in Procurement and Supply	Elective	6	Objective Response Closed-book under exam conditions.	3	Multiple Choice Multiple Response (35 x 1 Mark) Short Scenario (2 x 10 Marks) Scenario (1 x 5 Marks)	1:30	70%	<b>25</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>60</b>

Ref	Module Title	Module type Core / Elective	Credit Value	Assessment Format	Number of Learning Outcomes	Question Format and Value	Exam Duration (Hours)	Pass Mark (%)	GLH	Additional self-study	Module Learning Time
L6M9	Supply Network Design	Elective	6	Objective Response Closed-book under exam conditions.	3	Multiple Choice Multiple Response (35 x 1 Mark) Short Scenario (2 x 10 Marks) Scenario (1 x 5 Marks)	1:30	70%	25	33.5	60
L6M10	Global Logistics Strategy	Elective	6	Objective Response Closed-book under exam conditions.	3	Multiple Choice Multiple Response (35 x 1 Mark) Short Scenario (2 x 10 Marks) Scenario (1 x 5 Marks)	1:30	70%	25	33.5	60

<b>Pass criteria</b>	<p><b>Examination pass mark:</b></p> <p>For modules, L6M1, L6M2, L6M3 and L6M4 (Constructive Response), you must achieve 50%.</p> <p>The examination pass marks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinction 75 - 100%</li> <li>• Merit 60 - 74%</li> <li>• Pass 50 - 59%</li> <li>• Fail 0 - 49%</li> </ul> <p>And 70% for the remaining 3 modules (Objective Response) in order to achieve the qualification.</p>
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**Core modules:**

**L6M1**

On completion of this module, learners must be able to critically evaluate leadership skills and behaviours required to achieve organisational and stakeholder commitment to strategic improvements and change and also appreciate ethical practices, standards and regulations that impact on the procurement and supply function.

**L6M2**

On completion of this module, learners will be able to evaluate the concept of commercial global strategy and assess the challenges and main elements associated with the formulation and implementation of a commercial strategy and understand the impact of finance on strategic decision making.

**L6M3**

On completion of this module, learners will be able to evaluate the influence of strategic supply chain management and assess the methods which are available to measure, improve and optimise supply chain performance.

**L6M4**

On completion of this module, learners will be able to evaluate the changing needs and requirements for the procurement and supply function and assess the future challenges for the profession.

**Elective modules:**

**L6M5**

On completion of this module learners will be able to assess contracting requirements and approaches to the leadership of major strategic programmes, and evaluate the role that organisational culture has to play on achieving overall success.

**L6M7**

On completion of this module, learners will be able to assess the concept of big data and evaluate the impact of data integrity and cyber security on the procurement and supply function.

**L6M8**

On completion of this module, learners will be able to evaluate techniques for supplier development and innovation in procurement and supply and appraise the environmental factors which should be considered when applying such methods.

**L6M9**

On completion of this module, learners will be able to evaluate the strategic nature, influence and contribution of supply network design and operations to overall business strategy and assess the strategic value of resource planning and control.

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## **L6M10**

On completion of this module, learners will be able to assess the strategic logistical implications of globalisation and evaluate global governance of the supply chain and the concept of reverse logistics.

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

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

The CIPS assessments permit reasonable adjustments and special arrangements to be made while minimizing the need for them. For further information regarding the CIPS reasonable adjustment policy, click [here](#)

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 that could reasonably be expected to be required in order for a learner to demonstrate the achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of the qualification. This means that an average learner would be expected to undertake 600 hours in terms of Total Qualification Time, which can consist of 250 guided learning hours and a recommended 335 hours of additional self-study which includes a wider reading of the subject areas and revision to give the learner the best preparation for successfully achieving the qualification, plus 15 hours of assessment time.

The CIPS Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Procurement and Supply forms part of the CIPS ladder of qualifications and supports progression within employment. The qualification also provides an opportunity to demonstrate continuing professional development (CPD).

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