



جامعة الملك عبد الله  
للعلوم والتقنية  
King Abdullah University of  
Science and Technology



# Developing the talent to drive business improvements

When King Abdullah University of Science and Technology opened, many of the new procurement team had little formal training and qualifications. CIPS training provided the knowledge and skills to help the department evolve from transactional to strategic.

## About CIPS

CIPS, the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply, is the world's largest organisation dedicated to the profession of procurement and supply, with a voice that is recognised across the globe. CIPS works in partnership with governments, businesses, public sector entities and international development agencies to support organisations to achieve sustainable value.

“ For us, CIPS is the international benchmark when it comes to procurement certifications. It gives us the confidence that our professionals have been trained using the latest standards and best practice. It is essential to help us stay at the forefront of procurement practice. ”

MORNÉ DU TOIT, DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT & FINANCIAL CONTROL  
KING ABDULLAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

# Why CIPS Corporate Award?

The Procurement Department manages an annual spend of \$600m covering Construction, IT, FM, Research and Corporate. It's made up of three teams – Contracting who issue service agreements, Research who procure research materials, and General who buy all other goods.

The Contracting team was recruited with the necessary skills and experience to draft the contracts to establish KAUST in its early days. However, staff in the Research team, who are largely scientists by training, and in the General team, were recruited with little formal training and qualifications. As a result KAUST enrolled 20 candidates onto a Corporate Award programme, starting at Practitioner level and progressing to Advanced Practitioner.

## About the University

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) is an international graduate research university, located on the shores of the Red Sea in Saudi Arabia. Established in 2009, the University was designed to serve as a catalyst for innovation, economic development and social prosperity in Saudi Arabia and around the world.

The University grounds include: the learning campus; a research park; three residential areas housing a community of approximately 7,000 people from over 100 different countries; state-of-art fitness facilities including a golf course; restaurants; schools; a medical centre; and even a museum.

Due to its remote location, KAUST has an end-to-end supply chain covering logistics, managing permits, customs clearance, warehousing, and site services. With a global supply chain, risk management and business continuity are essential to mitigate the areas of weakness. A break in supply could not only interrupt research, but could also result in the community not having water or electricity.

## The benefits

- With 60% of the team now full CIPS members – MCIPS or FCIPS – the department has evolved to take a more strategic outlook.
- Assignments led to total cost savings of over \$500,000, including:
  - category planning for Life Sciences and the establishment of an onsite consignment stock, saving \$300,000 per year on a \$1m freight cost;
  - socially responsible practices, such as chemical reuse, have reduced waste as well as saving around \$200,000 per year.
- Process efficiencies have allowed a new departmental structure to be implemented.
- Contracts are drafted to a higher standard making contract management easier.
- The programme has helped the team to develop in-house training for contracted administrators who are not eligible for the CIPS training.
- Risk management and business continuity processes have been strengthened.
- Staff morale has improved in an environment where the team now acts as one and everyone's opinion is respected.

## About the CIPS Corporate Award applied learning programme

Corporate Award is a practical programme where the syllabus is tailored around the organisation and the assessments are work-based projects. This makes it highly relevant, addressing specific challenges faced by your organisation and making measurable workplace impacts.

Designed for groups of twelve or more, training is delivered at your premises and scheduled to suit your needs. The Advanced Practitioner level is focused on managerial and strategic knowledge and how to apply it, and is a route to full CIPS membership (MCIPS).



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