

A learning curve

to deliver transformational change in procurement

The University of Sydney has embarked on a programme of transformational change and sought CIPS Certification to assess current practices and inform future procurement activity. The aim was to define a sustainable model to meet student, research and strategic needs.

Highlights

- Raising the profile of the procurement function internally
- Championing the University externally as a procurement leader
- Informing choices as part of a transformational change programme
- Contributing to the organisation's strategic plan.

About CIPS

The Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS) is the global voice of the profession. Passionate about and 100% focused on procurement and supply, we exist to drive excellence in the industry in every way we can and provide a wide range of services for the benefit of our members and the wider business community.

“**Achieving CIPS Corporate Certification Standard is a major achievement for the University of Sydney, this is an acknowledgement of the investment made over a number of years to have a world-class procurement function. We can progress on our transformation journey reassured that a baseline has been set from which to improve. CIPS sets the standard for procurement professionals in the sector, especially relevant as it embarks on more strategic and collaborative approaches to procurement.**”

RICHARD ALLEN, CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER, THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Leading the way in developing a higher education procurement model

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Sydney was founded in 1850 as Australia's first university, earning an international reputation for outstanding teaching, as a centre of research excellence, and as an actively engaged community leader. With more than 50,000 local and international students supported by over 6,000 staff, the University offers high-quality undergraduate and postgraduate courses in a comprehensive range of disciplines across 16 faculties. The University also reaches far into the community through championship-winning sports teams and leading art and music performances.

THE BACKGROUND

The University spends almost \$750m annually on goods and services. Driven to manage costs and quality, its procurement function is dedicated to supporting research, teaching and enhancing the student experience through services such as strategic procurement and transactional procurement operations.

As Australia's higher education sector faces complex challenges within a rapidly evolving environment, the University decided to revise, refine and review its procurement activity, seeking a clear and sustainable model that best fits the purpose of its student, research and strategic needs.

Why CIPS Corporate Certification?

The University aimed to identify and implement an optimal operating model for procurement, benchmarked against global best practice, to support future growth. They wanted their procurement function to become more customer centric, agile and technically capable. They were also sought to make quantifiable cost savings.

CIPS Corporate Certification Standard from an independent, respected awarding body was chosen to provide a baseline quality level in procedures from which they could measurably improve. It also supported the rationale for wider transformational change within the department.

The benefits

- **Profile:** Increased recognition of the importance of the procurement function across the organisation internally
- **Respect:** As the first Australian higher education institution to gain the accreditation, the University is demonstrating it is a procurement leader within the sector
- **Transformational change:** The Certification has helped to inform a roadmap for continual development that is aligned with the University's commitment to achieving procurement excellence
- **Morale:** More robust working methods and higher departmental profile has led to a boost in morale for procurement staff
- **Development:** The accreditation is part of a wider Strategic Plan, and has helped to inform and identify what supporting capabilities the University needs to ensure optimal procurement output.

The results

The University of Sydney has become the first higher education institution in Australia to achieve the Corporate Certification Standard award. This has been a key factor in the development of a best practice procurement function to assist the University's 2016-20 Strategic Plan, which aims to retain its historic position as one of the best universities in Australia through research and educational excellence.

As part of the accreditation process, CIPS examined the University's procurement and supplier management procedures in targeted detail, highlighting where improvements and efficiencies could be made. This is part of its programme of transformational change, ensuing procurement is working at an optimal level, providing best value at all levels and acting as a driver to support the University's strategic objectives.

CIPS Corporate Certification Standard

Globally recognised, CIPS Corporate Certification Standard is the only independent, comprehensive procurement-specific assessment of its kind. Examining your organisation's procurement and supplier management procedures in targeted detail, it highlights where improvements and efficiencies can be made, ensuring that procurement becomes an essential value driver and organisational influencer.

- Helps you to deliver savings and value, and drive change
- Supports you to demonstrate your potential and value to senior management
- Ensures effective supply assurance and compliance through robust governance
- Identifies better, more efficient and more cost effective ways of working
- Engages and empowers your team, building morale.
- Strengthens your relationships with key stakeholders.



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