

Qualifications Packaging Policy

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Purpose

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) is the global professional body for public finance professionals and recognises practitioners at every level, from those starting out in their career to those innovating and leading the profession. The work of a Chartered Public Finance Accountant is both complex and critical to the public sector.

This policy outlines CIPFA's approach to delivering qualifications and apprenticeship assessments in combination with professional membership. It explains why packaging qualifications with CIPFA membership is aligned with our strategic goals, benefits learners, and complies with regulatory expectations.

Scope

This policy is intended for internal and external stakeholders, including CIPFA staff, regulators, members, apprentices, and prospective learners. It sets out the rationale for and approach to packaging regulated qualifications with professional membership services.

Ofqual regulation

In accordance with Ofqual General Condition F2.2, CIPFA has reasonably concluded that continuing to offer our qualifications as part of a combined package with professional membership is appropriate. This model supports ethical practice, post-qualification competence, and career progression, in line with our responsibilities as a chartered membership body.

Rationale for packaging

CIPFA, as a Professional Membership Body with Royal Charter Status, is the recognised authority for public finance and accountancy.

Our students value membership to our chartered professional body as it embodies their aspirations as a valued member of the sector and provides them with ongoing opportunity for lifelong learning within the sector.

Offering our qualifications without accompanying membership would not fully align with our mission to uphold standards, support lifelong learning, or provide the post-qualifying development expected by the profession.

As students and members of CIPFA, we offer as a minimum:

- An industry-recognised Code of Conduct and Ethics
- Access to Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- Peer-to-peer networking and exclusive member resources
- News, opinion, and insight to remain professionally informed
- A technical enquiry service providing access to specialist support

Our combined offer of membership, training and courses provides comprehensive pre and post-qualifying support, guidance, professional standing, and enhancement of reputation in the field of public finance accountancy.

Furthermore, the advantage to studying members is the opportunity for lifelong learning and a structured pathway to professional recognition in the public sector.

Policy version and owner

Policy owner	Head of Qualifications Innovation and Development
Version	1.2
Update	September 2025
Approval	SMB September 2025
Policy review date	September 2026

Regulatory references

Ofqual General Conditions of Recognition
Condition F2: Packaging qualifications with other products or services
Condition A6: Availability of qualifications