

## International Public Financial Management (IPFM) programme

We are operating in a complex landscape for public financial management (PFM), and the pace of change is significant. Public service organisations, state bodies and public benefit entities within Ireland and across the globe are now facing considerable challenges. Not only is there an ever-growing demand for greater transparency and accountability, but there are increasing standards and expectations around external and internal audit. Though fundamentally positive, there is no doubt these challenges are placing new demands on finance staff, and there has never been a greater need for world-class PFM education and training. Specifically, training that creates a professional cadre of finance staff who are agile, adaptable and highly skilled.

### IPA partners with CIPFA to offer International Public Financial Management (IPFM) programme.

To strengthen and complement our public and state sector offerings, the IPA have partnered with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to offer a Certificate in International Public Financial Management (IPFM). CIPFA is the only professional accountancy body in the world exclusively dedicated to public finance with a dedicated history of providing professional training programmes in IPFM.

At its core, CIPFA's IPFM certificate is designed for IPA students wishing to develop their expertise in public financial management. The qualification reflects the evolving international political and economic environment, as well as challenges faced in managing public finances effectively. The Certificate in International Public Financial Management is the first of four levels making up the International Public Financial Management (IPFM) programme and is delivered entirely online.

### CPFA MEMBERSHIP QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT



Students who successfully complete all four qualifications will be able to apply for their internationally recognised Chartered Public Finance Accountant (CPFA) designation.

## About the programme

This programme is suitable for students working in all parts of the public sector, from large central government departments and local authorities to public agencies. New responsibilities or career ambitions may well mean that you require additional education in public financial management. As the programme is delivered through a blend of distance education and on-line resources, you can work toward a qualification while remaining in fulltime employment.

## Programme Content

### Financial Accounting (FA)

An introduction to accounting theory, ethics, bookkeeping and the preparation of financial statements. The essential elements of ethics, values and attitudes as they apply to the accounting profession are introduced, focusing on knowledge of the content of the CIPFA Statement of Professional Practice (SoPP).

- Professional ethics
- Accounting principles
- Double-entry bookkeeping
- Introductory financial statements

### Management Accounting (MA)

An introduction to the principles of costing and budgeting, and their use in providing information to support management decision making. These skills and knowledge are crucial in performing the finance professional roles of steward, enabler and innovator.

- Management information
- Costing methods
- Costing applications
- Budgeting

Successful completion of this qualification will equip students with the skills to prepare accounting records per international standards, to draw up simple financial statements, record data relating to costs and use costing and budgeting techniques to help non-financial managers to make decisions and manage finances effectively.



## About the programme

Key Facts Summary:

**Duration:** One academic year.

**Award:** Certificate in International Public Financial Management.

**Accreditation:** Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

**Fees:** The cost of the programme is €1,950 (includes all lectures, course material, and practice examinations)

### Assessment

CIPFA runs four exam sessions a year in March, June, September & December. Examination dates for 2021 are as follows:

| Exam Dates (Morning) | Subject                    |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 01 March             | Management Accounting (MA) |
| 07 June              |                            |
| 06 September         |                            |
| 06 December          |                            |
| 02 March             | Financial Accounting (FA)  |
| 08 June              |                            |
| 07 September         |                            |
| 07 December          |                            |

Examinations are undertaken using CIPFA Assessment, an online platform that enables students to sit their exams either at home or their place of work. The exams can be invigilated by ProctorU, which monitors exams through students' webcams and microphones or by a member of staff at the student's place of work.

Key features:

- Choice and flexibility over where exams are taken
- Access to unlimited exam practice tests
- Quicker marking, real-time quality assurance, faster exam results
- No interruptions during exams due to internet speed
- Simple to use – no third-party software necessary
- Improved security and improved user experience for all students

To learn more, visit: [www.cipfa.org/exams](http://www.cipfa.org/exams)

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## Exemptions

Students may be exempt from certain exams if they have achieved relevant qualifications in the last decade from an institute of higher learning or if they hold an active membership with a professional awarding body.

To learn more, visit: [www.cipfa.org/ipfmexemptions](http://www.cipfa.org/ipfmexemptions)

## CIPFA membership

From the moment students begin their Certificate in International Public Financial Management they become CIPFA student members, gaining access to a wide range of resources designed to support their learning journey and ongoing professional development.

To learn more, visit: [www.cipfa.org/memberbenefits](http://www.cipfa.org/memberbenefits)

## About CIPFA

CIPFA was established in 1885 and is the only professional accountancy body and member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) that specialises in the public sector.

We were a founder member of IFAC, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and Accountancy Europe (formerly the Fédération des Experts Comptables Européens (FEE)). We are also a registered UK charity with a UK Royal Charter, signifying that we exist for the public good – this is in fact, our guiding organisational principle.

Working closely with international bodies such as the UN and the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the European Commission and the UK's Department for International Development, CIPFA is responsible for the education and training of professional accountants and for their regulation through the setting and monitoring of professional standards. We are the awarding professional body for the CPFA (Chartered Public Finance Accountant) qualification, the global gold standard for professional PFM.

## About IPA

Established in 1957, the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) is Ireland's leading public sector development agency. Since its inception, the IPA has been at the forefront of research, debate, evaluation, consultancy, training and education to support the ongoing development of the Irish public and state sector. In each of these areas the IPA has an extensive track record of delivering services to a wide variety of organisations in the civil service, commercial and non-commercial state agencies and bodies, local authority and in the non-profit sectors.

The Finance Unit at the IPA has delivered courses in Finance, Governance and Audit and continues to expand its offering for the Public Spending Code. Now, working with CIPFA (UK) and CIPFA (Ireland), the Finance Unit is expanding its offering to the Certificate in Public Financial Management.

If you would like further information, please contact the  
IPA Finance Unit: [ipfm@ipa.ie](mailto:ipfm@ipa.ie)

**Phone:** 353 1 240 3600

**Course bookings:** [training@ipa.ie](mailto:training@ipa.ie)

