



INSTITUTE OF PROJECT PROFESSIONALS

Membership Framework

Membership tiers, qualifications, pathways, CPD and Fellowship

This document explains how IPP membership works: the tiers, the qualifications, the routes in, and the ongoing requirements. It is intended for prospective members, employers, and anyone who wants to understand how the IPP framework fits together.

Everything in IPP connects back to the IPP Competency Framework, which defines the knowledge, skills and behaviours expected at each career stage. Qualifications assess against it. Membership grades reflect it. Calibrate tracks progress against it. The framework is the thread running through the whole system.

1. How IPP is structured

IPP has five membership tiers and twelve qualifications, organised across four pathways. The tiers reflect career progression. The qualifications provide a structured route through the framework. A member progresses by completing the course studied at each tier; passing that course, with the required experience, opens the next tier.

Three routes into membership exist: the qualification route, the experience route, and the recognition route. All three lead to the same tiers and carry the same obligations once a member is admitted.

2. Membership tiers

Each tier opens the course studied at that tier. Passing that course, plus the stated experience, admits the member to the next tier. The qualification level rises with the tier. Levels of demand are designed with reference to RQF and to the APM qualification ladder; those frameworks are used as design benchmarks, not as claimed equivalences.

Tier	Post-nominal	Fee/yr	Entry to this tier	Course opened	CPD
Student	None	Free	Register on ipp.pro	Award taster (Module 1, Topic 1)	None
Candidate	None	£29	Pay; full Award opens immediately	Award (APME or ABCA)	None
Associate	AIPP	£49	Pass the Award plus 2 years experience	Foundation; unlocks after 12 months	20 hrs
Member	MIPP	£69	Pass the Foundation plus 5 years experience	Practitioner; unlocks after 12 months	30 hrs
Fellow	FIPP	£75 once, then £129	Pass the Practitioner plus interview, CPD log and 10 years experience	Contribution track (see Section 7)	10 units

Tier designations: Associate and above may use the post-nominals AIPP, MIPP and FIPP after their name, subject to active membership. A lapsed membership means the designation is inactive until reinstated. What a designation may be used for is IPP-GOV-005, and what it looks like on a public surface while a membership is not active is IPP-DAT-002 section 4. Misrepresentation of membership tier is a breach of the IPP Code of Conduct.

3. The qualification framework

IPP has twelve qualifications across four pathways: Project Management, Agile Project Management, Business Change and Planning. Within each pathway, qualifications sit at three levels: Award, Foundation Certificate and Practitioner Certificate.

3.1 The four pathways

Pathway	Focus	Qualifications
Project Management	Traditional and hybrid project delivery, governance, planning and commercial management.	APME, FCPM, PCPM
Agile Project Management	Agile frameworks and practices applied to project and product delivery.	AAE, FCAPM, PCAPM
Business Change	Organisational change, benefits realisation and stakeholder-led delivery.	ABCA, FCBC, PCBC
Planning	Project planning, scheduling and controls, for planners and project-controls specialists.	APE, FCP, PCP

Each pathway carries an Award, a Foundation Certificate and a Practitioner Certificate. Project Management is live; the Agile, Business Change and Planning pathways follow from 2027.

3.2 Qualification levels

Level	Qualifications	Indicative RQF / APM	Studied at tier	Exam fee
Award (Awareness)	APME, AAE, ABCA, APE	L3 / PFQ	Candidate	£45 per sitting
Foundation Certificate	FCPM, FCAPM, FCBC, FCP	L4 / PMQ	Associate	£95 per sitting
Practitioner Certificate	PCPM, PCAPM, PCBC, PCP	L5/6 / senior	Member	£150 per sitting

4. Routes into membership

There are three routes into IPP membership. All three lead to the same tiers and carry the same obligations. The route taken does not affect the standing of the membership grade or the post-nominal.

4.1 Qualification route

The primary route. A candidate completes the relevant IPP qualification and meets the experience requirement for the tier, which creates eligibility for that membership tier: Award pass plus 2 years for Associate (AIPP); Foundation pass plus 5 years for Member (MIPP); Practitioner pass plus interview, CPD log and 10 years for Fellow (FIPP).

4.2 Experience route

For professionals with significant practical experience who have not taken IPP qualifications. Applications are assessed against the IPP Competency Framework under IPP-GOV-007, which owns the evidence requirements and the decision, and which requires two named reviewers rather than one. The experience route is a rigorous process, not a shortcut. Applications are reviewed within 5 working days of a complete submission. There is no automatic right of entry; the reviewers may request additional evidence or decline an application, and a refusal may be challenged under IPP-GOV-006.

4.3 Recognition route

For professionals holding equivalent qualifications or membership grades from other professional bodies. The recognition register, published in IPP-GOV-007 section 4, records which external qualifications the Institute accepts for admission and at what grade, and is reviewed annually by the Governance Board. It currently includes qualifications awarded by APM, PMI, PeopleCert and IPMA, at Associate or at Member. A credential not on the register is not refused for that reason; it is assessed on its merits and added to the register if accepted. The register records the Institute's own recognition of those qualifications and does not imply recognition of IPP qualifications by those bodies. There is no recognition route to Fellow: Fellowship is by assessment only, whatever the source qualification.

5. Continuing professional development

CPD is a condition of maintaining active membership at Associate level and above. It reflects the expectation that IPP members keep their professional knowledge current. A member confirms at renewal that they have met the requirement for the CPD year just ended, and IPP audits a published sample. IPP-GOV-008 owns the CPD year, what counts, the evidence, the audit and what happens when a member falls short.

Tier	Annual requirement	How it is logged
Student / Candidate	None	Optional. Calibrate is available to all registered users.
Associate (AIPP)	20 hours	Logged in Calibrate. Members maintain accurate records.
Member (MIPP)	30 hours	Logged in Calibrate. Members maintain accurate records.
Fellow (FIPP)	10 units	Contribution units, not hours. Approved competency profile reviews are counted automatically in Calibrate; mentoring and standards contributions are recorded by the Institute. See Section 6.

What counts as CPD, and what does not, is set out in IPP-GOV-008 section 4. In outline: any structured activity that maintains or develops professional competence, tagged where the member chooses to the areas and themes in the Competency Framework. Time must be recorded against a specific activity; general working time does not count.

Non-compliance: a member who fails to meet the requirement in a given year will receive a written notice. Continued non-compliance after one renewal period results in membership being moved to lapsed status. Lapsed members may reinstate by meeting the deficit and paying the applicable reinstatement fee.

6. Renewal, the grace period, and lapse

Membership runs for a year from the date of joining and renews on its anniversary. A renewal that does not go through does not end the membership that day.

- **Thirty days of grace.** Where a renewal is late, the membership stands and Calibrate access continues for thirty days. The member is reminded before the window closes, so it does not expire on somebody who did not notice.
- **Standing is unchanged during grace.** A member in the grace period is an active member: they hold their grade, they may use their designation, and they appear in the public register as they did before. Grace is a clock, not a status.

- **At the end of it, the grade drops to Student.** The membership becomes lapsed, the designation stops, and the member is removed from the public register. Nothing in the professional record is deleted.
- **Reinstatement is by paying.** A lapsed membership is reinstated by renewing; the grade and the designation return. This is different from a suspension, which is a decision under IPP-GOV-001 and is lifted by decision, not by payment.

A membership that has been revoked is not lapsed and cannot be reinstated by paying. IPP-GOV-001 section 7.6.

7. Fellowship and contribution

Fellowship is a contribution standing, not another exam. After entry at Fellow, two further grades recognise sustained giving back, measured in contribution units rather than CPD hours, at ten units per year. What a unit is, and how each kind is evidenced, is set out in IPP-GOV-008 section 6. Approved competency profile reviews are counted automatically in Calibrate and shown to the Fellow and on their Passport; mentoring sessions and contributions to the Institute's standards work are recorded by the Institute, so the count a Fellow sees on the platform is part of the picture rather than all of it.

Grade	Eligibility floor	How it is earned
Fellow (FIPP)	10 years experience	Practitioner pass, interview, CPD log; entry grade.
Distinguished Fellow	12 years	Sustained contribution of 10 units per year after becoming a Fellow.
Honorary Fellow	14 years	Board-conferred on a one-page contribution case by a panel of at least two board members or Honorary Fellows; lifetime status, fees and units waived.

8. The competency framework

The IPP Competency Framework is the foundation of the entire membership and qualification system. It defines what good looks like at each career level, across eight areas of practice. At v2.0 the framework carries 44 elements across the eight areas, with three cross-cutting themes.

Area	Competency area	Elements
1	Governance and Lifecycle Management	6
2	Stakeholder Engagement and Communication	5
3	Leadership and People	6
4	Requirements, Scope and Benefits	6
5	Integrated Planning and Scheduling	5
6	Budget, Cost and Commercial	5
7	Risk, Issue and Change Control	6
8	Quality, Assurance and Closure	5

The full framework, including all 44 elements, the three cross-cutting themes and the five-level proficiency scale, is published in the IPP Competency Framework (IPP-GOV-002), available from ipp.pro/governance.

9. Legal entity and governance

The Institute of Project Professionals (IPP) is administered by Module Six Ltd, registered in England and Wales. Module Six Ltd is responsible for the development, operation and commercial sustainability of the IPP platform and qualifications.

IPP governance, including all decisions on professional standards, qualification criteria, membership requirements and member conduct, sits with the IPP Governance Board. The board operates independently of Module Six's commercial interests. Module Six does not hold a majority vote on professional standards matters.

9.1 Member voting rights

Members at the Member (MIPP) and Fellow (FIPP) grades elect members of the IPP Governance Board. This is the mechanism by which the board's independence is more than a statement: part of it answers to the membership rather than to the company that operates the platform.

- **Who may vote.** Every member holding an active MIPP or FIPP grade at the record date for a ballot, in good standing. A member whose membership is lapsed, suspended or revoked at the record date does not vote.
- **What is voted on.** The seats on the Governance Board designated as member-elected, being not fewer than two. Members do not vote on professional standards, qualification criteria or individual conduct decisions; those remain with the board.
- **How.** One member, one vote, by electronic ballot, decided by a simple majority of the votes cast. Grade does not weight the vote: a Fellow's vote and a Member's vote count the same.
- **How often.** Annually, and on any casual vacancy in a member-elected seat.

The founding Governance Board is appointed, not elected, because a founding board cannot be elected by a membership that does not yet exist. Member elections begin at the end of the founding board's first term, or earlier if a member-elected seat falls vacant. Until the first ballot, the right exists and has not yet been exercised. IPP will publish the record date, the seats being contested and the timetable in advance of each ballot.

IPP is not affiliated with or endorsed by APM, PMI, or AXELOS.