



IPP

Institute of Project Practitioners

INSTITUTE OF PROJECT PRACTITIONERS

IPP Membership Framework

Membership tiers, qualifications, pathways and CPD

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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.

v2.0 changes: MIPP and FIPP designations corrected throughout (was MIIPP/FIIPP). ChIPP Chartered status added as Section 8 — a separate track from Fellowship, open to MIPP and FIPP holders, targeted 2028 subject to Royal Charter. Fellow tier description updated to reflect contribution to the profession.

1. How IPP Is Structured

IPP has five membership tiers and eleven qualifications, organised across three pathways. The tiers reflect career progression. The qualifications provide a structured route through the framework. The pathways allow professionals to enter at the right level for their background.

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

2. Membership Tiers

Tier	Designation	Entry criteria	CPD requirement	Fee
Explorer	None	Open entry. Register on ipp.pro. Access to Topic 1-1 only.	None	Free
Student	None	Pass any IPP Award qualification (APME or ABCA).	None	£29/yr
Associate	AIPP	Foundation Certificate qualification (FCPM, FCAPM, or FCBC), or experience route, or reciprocal recognition.	20 hours per year	£49/yr
Member	MIPP	Practitioner Certificate qualification (PCPM, PCAPM, or PCBC), or experience route, or reciprocal recognition. Minimum 5 years documented project experience.	30 hours per year	£69/yr

Tier	Designation	Entry criteria	CPD requirement	Fee
Fellow	FIPP	Advanced Certificate qualification (ACPL, ACAL, or ACBL), or experience route, or reciprocal recognition. Contribution to the profession expected.	30 hours per year	£129/yr

Fees are published on ipp.pro. Explorer and Student membership are free. Subscriptions for paid tiers are set annually by the governance board.

Tier designations

Members at Associate level and above may use their IPP post-nominal after their name: AIPP, MIPP, or FIPP. Use of a post-nominal is subject to active membership. A lapsed membership means the designation is inactive until reinstated. Misrepresentation of membership tier is a breach of the IPP Code of Conduct.

3. The Qualification Framework

IPP has eleven qualifications organised across three pathways: Project Management, Agile Project Management, and Business Change. Within each pathway, qualifications sit at three levels: Award, Foundation Certificate, and Practitioner Certificate, with Advanced Certificates at the top of the framework.

3.1 The three pathways

Pathway	Focus	Qualifications
Project Management	Traditional and hybrid project delivery, governance, planning, and commercial management.	APME, FCPM, PCPM, ACPL
Agile Project Management	Agile frameworks and practices applied to project and product delivery.	FCAPM, PCAPM, ACAL
Business Change	Organisational change, benefits realisation, and stakeholder-led delivery.	ABCA, FCBC, PCBC, ACBL

3.2 Qualification levels

Each level builds on the previous and opens the next membership tier.

Level	What it represents	Assessment method	Membership outcome
Awards (APME, ABCA)	Awareness of core concepts. Entry point for those new to project management or business change.	25 MCQ questions, 40 minutes, 65% pass mark	Student membership eligibility
Foundation Certificates (FCPM, FCAPM, FCBC)	Broad knowledge across all 8 competency areas at Foundation level. The primary entry point into professional membership.	40 MCQ questions, 60 minutes, 70% pass mark	Associate (AIPP) eligibility
Practitioner Certificates (PCPM, PCAPM, PCBC)	Applied competence in core areas with at least 12 months project experience.	Written paper + Calibrate portfolio	Member (MIPP) eligibility

Level	What it represents	Assessment method	Membership outcome
Advanced Certificates (ACPL, ACAL, ACBL)	Senior leadership and strategic delivery. Minimum 5 years experience required.	Professional discussion + portfolio	Fellow (FIPP) eligibility

3.3 Crossing pathways

A professional who holds the FCPM may take the PCAPM without needing to re-sit the Foundation level in the Agile pathway. Pathway crossings are permitted at the same level. The governance board reviews cross-pathway requests case by case where the prior qualification is from a third party rather than IPP.

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 sits and passes the relevant IPP qualification, which automatically creates eligibility for the corresponding membership tier.

- APME or ABCA pass: eligibility for Student membership
- FCPM, FCAPM, or FCBC pass: eligibility for Associate (AIPP)
- PCPM, PCAPM, or PCBC pass: eligibility for Member (MIPP)
- ACPL, ACAL, or ACBL pass: eligibility for Fellow (FIPP)

4.2 Experience route

For professionals with significant practical experience who have not taken IPP qualifications. Applications are assessed by the governance board against the IPP Competency Framework. The experience route is a rigorous process, not a shortcut.

Target tier	Minimum experience	Evidence required	References
Associate (AIPP)	2 years working in a project environment in a defined role.	Structured practice statement (approx. 1,000 words) evidencing competence across at least 4 of the 8 competency framework areas at Practised level.	Endorsement from a line manager or senior practitioner.
Member (MIPP)	5 years project management experience, with at least 2 years leading projects independently.	Structured practice statement (approx. 2,000 words) evidencing competence across all 8 competency framework areas, with at least 4 at Competent level.	Two professional references. At least one must be from someone who has directly observed the applicant's work.
Fellow (FIPP)	10 years in the profession, with demonstrable senior or strategic project	Extended practice statement (approx. 3,000 words) covering all 8	Two senior references plus a panel review interview with the governance board.

Target tier	Minimum experience	Evidence required	References
	leadership and evidence of contribution to the profession.	areas, with the majority at Proficient or Expert level.	

Experience route applications are reviewed within 20 working days of a complete submission. There is no automatic right of entry. The board may request additional evidence or decline an application.

4.3 Reciprocal recognition route

For professionals holding equivalent qualifications or membership grades from recognised professional bodies. IPP maintains a reciprocal recognition register, updated annually by the governance board.

Recognised qualifications from bodies including APM, PMI, and AXELOS may be accepted as equivalences at Associate or Member level. Fellow-level reciprocal recognition requires individual board assessment regardless of the source qualification.

5. Continuing Professional Development

CPD is a condition of maintaining active membership at Associate level and above. The requirement reflects the expectation that IPP members keep their professional knowledge current. It is not a bureaucratic box-tick: the governance board reviews CPD compliance as part of membership renewal.

Tier	Annual CPD requirement	How it is logged
Explorer / Student	No requirement	Optional. Calibrate is available to all registered users.
Associate (AIPP)	20 hours per year	Logged in Calibrate. Members are responsible for maintaining accurate records.
Member (MIPP)	30 hours per year	Logged in Calibrate. Members are responsible for maintaining accurate records.
Fellow (FIPP)	30 hours per year	Logged in Calibrate. Fellows are additionally expected to contribute to the profession as part of their CPD activity.

What counts as CPD

CPD covers any structured activity that maintains or develops professional competence. This includes formal learning (courses, qualifications, workshops), structured reading, professional community participation, mentoring, and reflective practice. Time must be recorded against a specific activity. General working time does not count.

CPD that directly maps to IPP competency framework areas is the most valuable type. Calibrate supports members in tagging CPD activity against specific areas, which both demonstrates compliance and drives development planning.

Non-compliance

A member who fails to meet the CPD 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 CPD deficit and paying the applicable reinstatement fee.

6. 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.

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

The full framework, including all 41 elements and the five-level proficiency scale, is published in the IPP Competency Framework document, available from ipp.pro/governance.

7. Fellowship and Chartered Status

IPP has two senior professional recognitions that sit above the standard membership pathway. They are distinct from each other and serve different purposes. Neither is automatic, and neither is conferred through the qualification framework alone.

FIPP — Fellowship

Fellowship recognises **contribution to the profession**. It acknowledges practitioners who have given back — through leadership of the discipline, mentoring, governance, research, or sustained contribution to how project management develops as a profession.

It is not solely a competence threshold. It is a statement about the kind of professional you are and the role you play in the community. The FIPP assessment — professional discussion, case study, evidence portfolio, and two endorsements — evaluates both your practice and your contribution.

ChIPP — Chartered Status

Chartered status recognises **proven professional competence** at the highest level. It is assessed independently of Fellowship. You do not need to be a Fellow to apply, and holding FIPP does not grant it automatically.

ChIPP is open to Members (MIPP) and Fellows (FIPP) who meet the experience and standing requirements. It is a separate track — not the next step after FIPP.

8. ChIPP — Chartered Member of the Institute of Project Practitioners

Coming 2028 — subject to Royal Charter. IPP is actively working toward Royal Charter status. ChIPP will be formally conferred once that process is complete. Members joining now and progressing through the framework will be the first cohort eligible to apply.

What ChIPP is

ChIPP is the highest individual designation IPP will award. It is a professional quality mark assessed on competence — technical knowledge, professional practice, and ethical commitment — maintained through ongoing CPD. Unlike a qualification, it can be suspended if standards are not maintained.

Who can apply

ChIPP is open to Members (MIPP) and Fellows (FIPP). There is no requirement to hold FIPP before applying. The qualification pathway and the Chartered pathway are parallel tracks, not sequential steps.

Requirement	Detail
Membership standing	Active MIPP or FIPP for a minimum of 3 years at time of application.
Experience	7 to 10 years of senior project delivery experience. Evidence must be current.
Assessment	Structured professional discussion with two IPP assessors. Pre-submitted portfolio covering a minimum of four competency areas. Written submission required before the discussion stage.
Endorsements	Two endorsements from existing IPP Members or Fellows.
Maintenance	Annual CPD declaration. Active engagement with the profession. Adherence to the IPP Code of Conduct. Suspension of ChIPP designation if CPD is not maintained.

Relationship to future Royal Charter accreditation

When IPP achieves Royal Charter status, the ChIPP framework above will form the evidential basis. The qualification pathway provides the technical foundation. The membership tiers demonstrate sustained professional standing. The ChIPP assessment provides independent verification of competence at the highest level.

9. Legal Entity and Governance

The Institute of Project Practitioners (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 standards matters.

This relationship is transparent and intentional. Module Six funds and builds the platform. The governance board ensures it serves the profession. Full details of the governance structure, board composition, and accountability arrangements are published in the IPP Governance pages at ipp.pro/governance.

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