

Changes to CQI Qualifications

March 2016

The CQI is dedicated to providing learning that supports professional development, and is constantly reviewing the learning that it offers.

As an outcome of a recent learning and development review, the CQI has developed a new portfolio of CQI and IRCA Certified Training courses. This will consist of short, modular courses (1–5 days) based on a wide range of quality and auditing topics. The Foundation level courses in this new portfolio were released on 29 March 2016 to our Approved Training Partners, who will be delivering the courses.

Impact on CQI qualifications

For students who are currently studying a CQI qualification, there will be no change. They will be able to complete their studies and achieve their qualification.

Current and former students of CQI qualifications should be assured that their qualifications will continue to be recognised as an outstanding achievement by employers. By completing their qualification, students will be demonstrating their skills and competence in quality management. They will be putting themselves a step ahead of the competition and will be better equipped to perform effectively in their job.

In order to implement the future approach, from 1 January 2017, the CQI will no longer accept new enrolments for qualifications.

Timeline

Students will be able to complete their qualification within the normal time limit, calculated from the date of their first successfully passed unit:

- four years for a Level 5 Diploma
- three years for a Level 5 Certificate
- two years for Level 3 Certificate

The CQI will continue to run three assessment sessions per year (January, June and October) until October 2020. Students need to be aware of this timeline and should ensure that they complete their qualification by the relevant time limit. Level 5 Diploma students should be aware that if they complete their first assessment after October 2016, they must still complete the Diploma by October 2020 (this will result in the time limit being reduced accordingly).

What students need to do now

In order to register for their next assignment or examination unit, students should contact their CQI education centre, if they have not already done so. This is to make sure they are registered for the relevant assessment round. The next round for both examination and assignment units is June 2016.

Learning resources and support from the CQI

The CQI is dedicated to supporting students and ensuring that they are well prepared for their ongoing studies. Students are reminded to use the resources and materials provided for them on the CQI Student Zone in order to help them with their assessment preparation, including past exam papers and Principal Examiners' reports.

Exemptions from CQI Qualification units

Should students wish to study any of our new CQI and IRCA Certified Training courses, they should be aware that some of these courses will correspond to our existing CQI qualifications units.

This means that those students who complete certain CQI and IRCA Certified courses may be eligible for exemptions from some of the equivalent units of their Certificate or Diploma.

New CQI and IRCA Certified course	Existing CQI qualification
Foundation courses (released on 29 March 2016)	N/A
Practitioner courses (due for release in June 2016)	Equal to one unit of the Level 3 Certificate. Successful completion of a Practitioner course will enable exemption from the relevant Certificate unit (provided the learning outcomes are the same). This is applicable for a maximum of 50% of the total Certificate content (up to two units)
Professional courses (due for release in September 2016)	Equal to one unit of the Level 5 Diploma. Successful completion of a Professional course will enable exemption from the relevant Diploma unit (provided the learning outcomes are the same). This is applicable for a maximum of 50% of the total Diploma content (up to four units)

About CQI and IRCA Certified Training

If students wish to supplement their current learning or continue their development after completing their qualification, the new CQI and IRCA Certified Training courses offer a wide range of opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills.

Following the Foundation courses, the Practitioner and Professional courses portfolio will become available later in 2016. Full details can be found on the CQI website.

Further information

Students should continue to access the CQI website for up-to-date information. We would like to draw their attention to the FAQ section, which contains answers to common issues and queries. Alternatively, they can contact their CQI education centre for more information.

For any specific queries related to their qualification, they should contact the CQI at education@thecqi.org.