
CMI vs ILM: which one should you go for?

Taken from resultsdrivengroup.co.uk

ILM or CMI - Compare the Qualifications

If you've ever considered doing a management qualification, you will certainly have come across the names ILM and CMI. As the UK's principal management institutes, the Chartered Management Institute (**CMI**) and the **ILM** both offer a range of professional services and qualification programmes geared towards equipping managers at all levels with the skills needed to excel and progress in their careers.

With independent research commissioned by the Consultative Committee for Professional Management Organisations (CCPMO) showing that individuals with professional qualifications **earn an average of £152,000 more** over the course of their careers, managers should be only too happy to have two such prestigious institutions to choose from for their development. But while this is certainly a blessing, it also complicates the already tricky process of picking a course even further.

So how should you choose between them?

We outline some key differences between the institutes and their qualifications below to help you decide.

Origins & Reputation

The CMI is a Chartered Institute while the ILM is an organisation within the City & Guilds Group.

What this means

Royal Charters have always been prestigious and, now that they are no longer the only means of incorporating a body, are reserved for eminent bodies that are financially sound and have an outstanding record of achievement.

As the UK's only chartered professional body for management, the CMI has a long history that originates in the 1950s – much longer than the ILM's, which dates back to 2001 when the NEBS (National Examining Board for Supervision and Management) programme merged with the Institute of Supervision and Management (ISM).

In practice, this means that the CMI is seen as the "blue chip" institute, with a more established reputation for reliable, high quality services. In addition, it is better known for its top-end qualifications at Levels 5 and 7 (equivalent to foundation degrees and Master degrees respectively) and its more traditional focus.

The ILM, on the other hand, is better known for its supervisory and first line management programmes at Level 3.

These tend to have a more vocational focus than the CMI's, which means they generally include more competence-based units rather than knowledge-based units.

Qualifications & Courses

Units & credits

In England, Wales & Northern Ireland, both bodies offer qualifications from Level 2 to Level 7 in the form of Awards, Certificates and Diplomas. The rules relating to the credits required at each level are governed by the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)

CMI vs ILM: which one should you go for?

and are thus exactly the same. There are, however, some slight differences in terms of unit content and qualification structure.

One of the key distinctions is that ILM units are smaller (i.e. worth less credits), which means that learners need to combine more of them in order to achieve the final qualification. This translates into increased flexibility and the opportunity to study a broader range of different topics within the scope of a given qualification.

The CMI units are instead bigger and, by virtue of requiring a greater number of study hours, allow for a topic to be studied in more depth.

Sector-specific qualifications & other courses

Both institutes offer accreditation for in-house management & leadership training.

Training centres & support

When it comes to choosing a centre, it may be important to note that the CMI works with 600+ study centres, while the ILM works with 2,500 training providers worldwide. In both cases, learners have the possibility of completing the qualifications in different formats – via online or distance learning, as classroom courses or as in-house programmes for groups of employees.

In terms of learning materials and support, both bodies supply a range of resources to training centres that deliver their qualifications, as well as having quality assurance processes in place to maintain high levels of training across the board.

Membership

The CMI has approximately 130,000 members worldwide where the ILM has around 25,000. Both institutes offer free membership to current learners throughout the duration of their studies.

Membership levels for the two bodies are as follows:

ILM	CMI
Affiliate Member	Affiliate Member
Associate Member	Associate Member
Member	Member
Fellow	Chartered Member
	Fellow
	Chartered Fellow
	Chartered Manager

Membership of the two bodies provide a whole host of benefits, including access to research, learning materials, networking opportunities and countless other professional resources. Naturally, the higher the level of membership, the more of these you have access to.

Which institute and qualification will ultimately give you the most in terms of recognition, influence and possibilities for career development is impossible to say, but we hope the overview above will give you some important insights into which potentially suits you best.

The benefits statement from each awarding body...

CMI vs ILM: which one should you go for?

Why study with CMI?

Study with us

As the only chartered professional body in the field of management and leadership, you are assured that CMI qualifications are of the highest quality.

Perhaps the statistics from recent research better summarises what achieving a CMI qualification will do for you:

- Over 85% of managers agreed their management and leadership qualification improved their performance and by transferring their new skills to the work place, almost all have seen a vast improvement in their teams' performance too.
- 78% of employers agreed that qualifications provide quality assurance for customers and that the benefits outweighed the time, money and effort invested in obtaining them.
- More than 80% of managers say that taking a management qualification has resulted in increased professional recognition, with most stating that employers prefer qualified managers when recruiting.
- This was confirmed by a further 53% advising that their qualification had helped them in gaining a promotion.

Each year over 30,000 people study a CMI qualification. Here's why...

- Valued by employers - our qualifications are designed in consultation with employers to meet today's demands
- Flexible - study locally via one of our 600+ Approved Centres or through a Distance Learner Provider
- Progressive - progress through Award, Certificate and Diploma and qualification levels 2-8
- Range - over 110 qualifications at every management level, providing development suitable to all managers
- Supported - resources designed specifically for your qualification to ensure you have the correct support
- Free membership - for the duration of your study you will have access to all key membership services

What are the benefits of a professional qualification with CMI?

- Investing in a professional qualification takes time and dedication but the results are worth the effort:
- You'll be more marketable - a qualification speaks volumes to prospective employers, giving you the advantage when looking for your next career move.
- You can earn more - research proves that those with a qualification will earn more through their career
- You'll perform better - a qualification will not only sharpen your existing skills, it will equip you with a range of ones.

Gain professional recognition

CMI vs ILM: which one should you go for?

Gain recognition for enhancing your knowledge, understanding and practice of management. Display your post nominal as a commitment to continuous professional development and accomplishment as a manager.

Boost your career earnings

Independent research proves that individuals with professional qualifications and membership stand to earn an additional £152,000 throughout their career. You'll also be part of an extensive management community, opening doors for career progression.

Raise your confidence & competence

Membership equips you to meet daily management challenges in a professional, proficient way. Improving performance and effectiveness at managing people and projects will raise your confidence and ultimately, status in your organisation.

Improve your management skills

For managers who want to sharpen their professional edge and enhance their effectiveness, membership offers access to qualifications, courses, mentoring and unrivalled support resources. You can also achieve the ultimate management accolade, Chartered Manager status.

Why choose an ILM qualification?

More people in the UK take leadership and management qualifications from ILM than any other leadership and management education

Employers say 93% of managers perform better at work after an ILM qualification

ILM management training will improve managers' performance, increase their employability and enhance their careers. That's why ILM are the UK's leading provider of leadership, coaching and management qualifications and training.

Adaptable programmes customised for you

ILM recognise that we all have different expectations, experiences, skill-sets, abilities, and roles and have designed flexible management and leadership qualifications that can be tailored in collaboration with your organisational needs.

ILM training providers can tailor qualifications to suit you.

Recognition of prior learning – courses taken with another accredited body, can count towards your ILM qualification.

Continuing career development - study units from the level above and below your level so you can fast-track yourself to a higher level.

Our qualifications are nested – complete an Award (smallest qualification) and it counts towards a Certificate (larger qualification) at the same level.

Assessment

Assessment is a key measure of management and leadership skills learning. ILM's approach to work-based learning and assessment, enables managers to apply and

CMI vs ILM: which one should you go for?

demonstrate their knowledge, skills and awareness to a real-life workplace challenge. Assessing their development while bringing tangible benefits for their employers.

Accreditation and regulation

All ILM qualifications are awarded by City & Guilds of London Institute and accredited by the relevant qualifications frameworks. This means they have the government's stamp of approval, and have been certified as being of a high standard.

This is crucial for employers, who can use them to gauge your level of ability and experience.

Learner support

Individuals studying an ILM qualification receive free member benefits with the ILM for 12 months or the duration of their programme (whichever is longer). This gives learners access to specialist e-learning resources and support and the chance to network with like-minded professionals.