

Learning & Qualifications

With a reputation for providing a first class education and professional development to the shipping profession, ICS Qualifications confer a status not equalled elsewhere in the industry.

ICS delivers its main educational programme - [TutorShip](#) – direct from its London head office and under agreement through its [17 Institute Teaching Centres \(ITCs\)](#) worldwide. Every year thousands of students worldwide sit the ICS [Professional Qualifying Examination](#) in exam centres all over the world.



Following completion of the ICS Professional Qualifying Examinations (PQE) successful students can then apply for membership, with all the career advantages and benefits that confers.

For those students who do not want to take the full membership exams, TutorShip programme can be used to study for the ICS [Foundation Diploma or Advanced Diploma](#) (both accredited qualifications in their own right and recognised internationally) giving them a broad knowledge of the industry.

For students who are brand new to the industry there are short courses, such as the one day [Maritime World Explained](#) course.

The ICS also offers a bespoke company learning and training packages. For further details please refer to [Corporate Support](#) page.

Choosing Your Qualification

Professional Qualifying Examinations (PQE)

The Professional Qualifying Examinations (PQE) form the pinnacle of the ICS qualification. Completion of these exams is an illustration of one's developed knowledge and understanding of the commercial shipping industry. It comprises 7 exams which you can do over 5 years. Many people however complete in a much shorter time, and are often also eligible for exemptions to some exams based on industry experience and prior qualifications. Exemptions don't apply to the Diplomas, so if you are eligible for a few, it may make sense to start your journey with PQE.

Embarking on PQE will mean you need to sit a minimum of two exams in your first year (one of which must be **Shipping Business**), and can pick and choose how many to take thereafter from the [syllabus](#). Once you have completed your PQEs you will be eligible to apply for membership with the Institute.

Foundation Diploma

The Foundation Diploma is ideal for people with little industry experience, but who would like to gain practical knowledge and a sound qualification. It involves taking the **Introduction to Shipping** paper plus one other subject from the group 2 list of Optional Papers of the [ICS syllabus](#).

The Foundation Diploma is a standalone qualification in its own right, but because it can count towards your membership examinations it's also a great way to ease into study and gives you an overall view of the business.

Advanced Diploma

The Advanced Diploma has been designed as a stepping stone into full professional qualification and suits those who have some industry knowledge. Like the Foundation Diploma, the Advanced Diploma is a recognised and respected qualification. It involves taking the ICS benchmark paper **Shipping Business** plus one other subject from the group 2 list of Optional Papers of the [ICS syllabus](#).