

# Awards and Certificates

Nationally recognised qualifications — on your terms

The Neil Thompson Academy | [www.NeilThompson.info](http://www.NeilThompson.info)

Many managers, team leaders and HR professionals would benefit from formal recognition of their leadership expertise — but worry that a full qualification programme would be too great a commitment alongside a demanding job.

The good news is that you do not have to take on a full diploma to gain nationally recognised CMI accreditation. An Award or a Certificate may be all you need — and both are available on a genuinely flexible basis, entirely self-directed, with no attendance requirement.

## How the qualification framework works

CMI qualifications are built on a credit framework. The three levels of qualification are:

| Qualification      | Credits required | What it demonstrates  |
|--------------------|------------------|---|
| <b>Award</b>       | 7 credits        | Focused expertise in a specific area of management or leadership practice |
| <b>Certificate</b> | 13 credits       | Broader capability and sustained engagement with professional development |
| Diploma            | 37 credits       | (Full qualification — also available if you want to go further)           |

Both Awards and Certificates are available at two levels:

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>Level 5</b> | Equivalent to the early stages of an undergraduate degree. Suited to practising managers and aspiring leaders. |
| <b>Level 7</b> | Equivalent to Master's level. Suited to experienced leaders and senior managers seeking advanced recognition.  |

Whichever level and qualification you choose, your award is made by the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) — one of the most respected professional bodies for management and leadership in the UK.

## Why choose an Award or Certificate?

### What you gain

- ✓ Formal, nationally recognised CMI accreditation
- ✓ A qualification that fits alongside a busy professional life
- ✓ Evidence of your commitment to continuing professional development
- ✓ A stepping stone — credits count towards a full diploma if you choose to progress
- ✓ The same high-quality learning materials as our diploma students
- ✓ Expert academic support throughout your studies

## Three pathways to your qualification

We recognise that people come to professional development with different levels of prior knowledge and different learning preferences. That is why we offer three pathways — and the choice is entirely yours.

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>1</b><br>Direct   | <b>Direct registration</b><br>Register for the unit or units needed to reach your target credit total. You receive access to study materials, details of the required assignment and tutorial support. This pathway suits people who are confident in the subject area and ready to engage directly with the academic requirements.                  |
| <b>2</b><br>Bundles  | <b>Course bundles first</b><br>Complete one of our Avenue Learning Centre course bundles (three courses for the price of two) and then follow Pathway 1. This gives you a richer grounding in the subject matter before you tackle the formal assignment — ideal if you prefer to build your knowledge gradually before committing to assessed work. |
| <b>3</b><br>Workshop | <b>Workshop attendance first</b><br>Attend an approved workshop or online course and then follow Pathway 1. This suits those who prefer a structured, facilitated learning experience as preparation for their formal qualification work.  |

## Key facts at a glance

|   |   |
|---|---|
| ✓ No attendance requirement                   | ✓ Practice-based assignments                |
| ✓ No fixed deadlines — study at your own pace | ✓ Multiple attempts permitted               |
| ✓ Content rooted in social care reality       | ✓ Credits accumulate towards a full diploma |

## Qualifications designed for social care

Unlike generic CMI provision, our Awards and Certificates are developed with the specific realities of leadership in social care firmly in mind. The tension between relationship-based practice and managerialism, the demands of ethical leadership under resource pressure, the complexities of multi-agency working — these are not afterthoughts. They are central to the learning materials, case studies and assignments.

Our specialist Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) pathway is also available, recognising that inclusive leadership is not optional in contemporary social care.

Neil Thompson brings more than 45 years of experience in social care, social work and management education, alongside professorships at five UK universities and more than 50 published books. Your learning is grounded in that depth of expertise.

## Ready to take the next step?

Contact us to discuss which Award or Certificate is right for you — or to find out more about the three pathways available.

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