

CIfA: supporting a global profession

1. CIfA's Royal Charter grants it powers
 - to advance the practice of archaeology and allied disciplines
 - to define and maintain proper professional standards and ethics in training and education in archaeology, in the execution and supervision of work, and in the conservation of the archaeological heritage
 - to disseminate information about archaeologists and their areas of interest
 - to form local branches, committees and groups in any part of the world
2. CIfA is its members, not just the Board and its Advisory Council and staff: those c 4000 members and 80 registered organisations are based in c 39 countries¹. They are bound by the *Code of conduct* and accountable to CIfA for their actions wherever they practise. Therefore CIfA is international. Its 'International Practice' Group has c500 members.
3. But CIfA has fewer than 200 members outside the UK, so cannot yet offer as much support outside the UK as within (advocacy, for example).
4. Through our national Area Groups, will seek to ensure that the ethical *Code of conduct* and standards work wherever they are required, and that guidance on meeting the standards is developed for jurisdictions where there is sufficient demand. The national Area Groups, working with the Special Interest Groups, will be asked to help make our standards for accrediting competence, training and qualifications applicable and appropriate across specialisms and roles in countries where CIfA influence is sought.
5. Our approach to influence overseas is cautious, respectful and collaborative. We may offer support if
 - archaeologists are already, or wish to be, accredited by CIfA, and stakeholders may help us
 - no strong existing organisation is better placed to support archaeologists there
 - numbers are potentially sufficient to sustain an effective group and not need permanent subsidy from UK subscriptions
 - there is cultural acceptance of professional self-regulation in archaeology or other sectors
 - we have something to offer
6. We will continue to encourage non-UK archaeologists to become accredited by us. We will not invest extensively in widespread, thin recruitment, as it is unlikely to make great advances either in recruitment or in archaeological practice.
7. We will continue to develop equal partnerships where they are advantageous, as they allow us to collaborate with like-minded entities. There is no logic to competing where other organisations that do their jobs competently, have similar resources and are better positioned.
8. Where there is local demand – and we have the resources to meet it – we may establish Groups. In such arrangements, governance rests with the parent body (the Board of CIfA). CIfA Deutschland and CIfA Australia are examples of this model. CIfA will remain one organisation with one constitution and one set of values. If national Groups increase, the Advisory Council will become more diverse.
9. So CIfA will
 - focus on existing overseas groups
 - support new groups in only in countries where we can make a difference
 - maintain a low level of investment in promoting individual overseas membership of CIfA, especially in Europe.
 - maintain good relations (via our agreement) and a high profile with the European Association of Archaeologists
 - do business in English, but provide some resources in other languages where appropriate
 - promote its international credentials and counter objections to promoting professionalism overseas

¹ Figures vary: these are current approximations