

Why should you become accredited if you work for a Registered Organisation?

CIfA – like other professional institutes in different sectors - accredits both companies and individuals. As a result, we're sometimes asked why do we need both?

Members of CIfA are professionally accredited and skilled in the study and care of the historic environment.

Archaeology in most cases is not regulated by government so CIfA provides the profession with the mechanisms to regulate itself through professional accreditation (PCIfA, ACIfA, MCIfA). We set, promote and measure compliance with standards, providing the quality assurance for the profession. To do this we need to provide standards for person, process and product.

The standards for process and product are found in our 13 Standards and guidance documents, and our standards for person are the criteria for individual accreditation and for organisational registration.

Registered Organisations

In archaeology, as with other professions, client's (people who commission archaeological work) tend to engage in a contract with an organisation or business. By accrediting (registering) an organisation, CIfA is measuring and endorsing the ability of that organisation to deliver a quality process and product. Registration helps customers have faith in the organisation or business they commission – and the organisations' project trustworthiness to clients and the public.

To achieve this, we would expect the Registered Organisation to be composed of skilled individuals making informed decisions. CIfA, the client and the organisation are more confident that the entity can consistently comply with CIfA standards if its employees have personally demonstrated competence and commitment to professionalism. The CEO of the Banking Standards Board recently wrote that *'to have high standards an organisation needs employees who are able and ready to exercise professional judgement.'*

Individual accreditation

Individual accreditation recognises the skills, competence and understanding of a person; in short its about **you**.

It promotes trust and confidence in your ability to deliver a quality process and product and indicates that you are a professional* who is committed to maintaining your skills and competence through training. It is an endorsement of your own **personal** achievements

and is recognised by your peers. It distinguishes you as someone who has agreed to comply with an ethical code of conduct and the standards which professional archaeologists have collectively agreed to impose upon themselves; whether the organisation you work for is registered or not.

Useful links

*You can read more about what we mean by professional archaeologists in our factsheet www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/Professional%20archaeologists.pdf

Regulations and Standards and guidance
www.archaeologists.net/codes/cifa

Code of conduct
www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/Code%20of%20conduct%20revOct2019.pdf