

The IQA Diploma Modules

D1 - Introduction to quality

D2 - Quality management

D3 - Tools and techniques

D4 - Communication and project management

D5 - Quality project

D6 - Quality and environmental management

D7 - Information technology and quality management

D1 - Introduction to quality

Rationale

This module provides students with an understanding of the principles of quality encouraging and allowing an exploration of the inter-relationships of quality within the design, manufacture and use of products and services.

Aims

1. To provide students with an understanding of quality concepts
2. To develop an appreciation of the need for quality and its control
3. To enhance students' awareness of the terminology of quality
4. To provide students with an understanding of the basic statistical methods used in quality

D2 - Quality management

Rationale

This module develops students' understanding of the management principles, disciplines and techniques involved in quality within an organisation.

Aims

1. To enhance students awareness of the disciplines, systems and techniques of quality management
2. To develop an appreciation of customers, clients and markets
3. To enable students to apply quality management methods to all activities in the business or organisation
4. To evaluate the human dimension of an organisation

D3 - Tools and techniques

Rationale

This module provides students with an understanding of the tools and techniques of quality, encouraging and allowing an exploration of the applicability and effectiveness of different quality tools and techniques within the design, manufacture and use of products and services.

Aims

1. To enhance students awareness of the disciplines, tools and techniques of quality improvement
2. To enable students to evaluate and recommend tools and techniques for varying situations
3. To enable students to select, apply and recommend appropriate quality tools and techniques to all activities in the business or organisation

D4 - Communication and project management

Rationale

The first half of this module intends to enhance the students' ability to become more effective communicators by developing the transferable skills of communication and presentation.

The second half of the module introduces the student to the techniques and applications of project management

Aims

1. To provide students with a broad view of communication theory
2. To develop the transferable skills of communication and presentation
3. To provide students with an understanding of the methods used in project management
4. To enable students to apply quality in project management

D5 - Quality project

Rationale

This module allows students to demonstrate their ability to integrate knowledge and skills, which have been acquired from modules incorporated in the Diploma.

A pre-requisite for this module is achievement of at least three other modules from the IQA diploma, of which one should be D4 - Communication and project management. However, candidates may choose to take this module last to make the most of learning and experience of other modules.

To assist students to prepare for the project, all course modules contain assignment work, which require independent study. They also provide for the development of communication, design and research skills, all of which are regarded as necessary attributes for this module.

Aims

1. To provide students with experience of independent work at a professional level
2. To provide a context for the application and integration of knowledge and skills acquired during the course
3. To further develop initiative, critical self awareness and self reliance

4. To develop personal qualities and communication skills to a level essential for professional development
5. To foster scholarly activity and develop the necessary skills

D6 - Quality and environmental management

Rationale

This module provides students with an understanding of the interactions of quality management systems and environmental management systems, and the application of these management systems in industry.

Aims

1. To enhance students awareness of the disciplines, and techniques of quality and environmental management
2. To enable students to understand the development of environmental management systems
3. To identify the interface between ISO 14000, EMAS and other management systems.
4. To enable students to evaluate and interpret environmental management system techniques and apply them in an industrial environment
5. To enable students to appraise and report on an industrial activity with regard to possible environmental effects

D7 - Information technology and quality management

Rationale

This module provides students with an understanding of the application of information technology (IT) within quality management systems. The module also develops a student's understanding of the principles and techniques of quality management in an IT environment.

Each student must be:

- Competent in the use of and have direct access to a computer
- Familiar with the internet and have access to the internet
- Familiar with the concepts and principles of quality management

Aims

1. To provide students with the concepts of IT and management information
2. To develop an appreciation of the application and control of IT within a quality environment
3. To develop an understanding of the role of quality management in the development of IT systems and software

To enhance student's awareness of the statutory and regulatory issues associated with the storage, and archiving and use of information and the use of IT systems