



## IFPSM Global Standard in Purchasing and Supply Management

### Introduction

“There are several benefits to the applicant organisation that can be derived from the Global Standard assessment process.

The assessment process can be viewed as an in-depth audit of the governance and processes of the organisation and the content of its programme(s).

As such it requires the applicant organisation to examine the appropriateness and efficacy of the elements of its governance highlighting areas where there are deficiencies or where improvements are required.

Likewise, in terms of its programme(s) under assessment, the review of their content brings into focus where coverage of topics needs to be improved or indeed introduced to the programme.

Thus the assessment process ensures that the programme content is commensurate with the requirements and expectations for the equivalent of a professional degree level programme.

In addition, the consideration of the processes whether pertaining to the pedagogical modalities employed or the systems in place that govern the operation of the programme can be the basis for the introduction of new pedagogical modalities, the extension of existing modalities or the putting in place of more effective systems that relate to the programme’s operation.

Thus the assessment process can be seen as the spark for reflection, the driver for improvement and innovation and outcomes that benefit the learners and add value for the organisation.

The fact that the applicant organisation has available to it for consultation and support during the complete assessment period, the Assessor gives it access to a highly qualified and experienced expert.

This can be an incredible valuable benefit to the organisation. In my experience of acting as an Assessor, I have always found that applicant organisations regard the assessment process as a useful learning and improvement process for them.

Of course it may be that an organisation in terms of its governance, processes and content of its programmes may find that these are already at a level that matches the requirements of the Global Standard. In such a case the organisation has the reassurance that it is on the right track and performing at a world class level. “

**Dr Louis Brennan**

Trinity College Dublin  
Global Standard Assessor

## **Why your programs should be accredited under the Purchasing and Supply Global Standard**

Programmes meeting the Purchasing and Supply Global Standard have objectively demonstrated their ability to produce graduates who meet a rigorous world standard for procurement professionals.

Recognition means that a programme of learning - degree, certification, credential or qualification - has met the comprehensive criteria identified in the Standard. Recognition marks the programme as one that equips students and candidates with the knowledge, skills, attributes and characteristics of a purchasing and supply management professional.

Achieving Purchasing and Supply Global Standard recognition means you will be able to refer to this in any marketing and promotional materials. A formal certificate of recognition will be issued, and details of the recognised programme will appear on this website.

Programmes meeting the standard may refer to this in marketing or promotional activities and will need to abide by the style and usage guidelines determined by the Board.

Graduates of your program will have:

- gained an underpinning knowledge and understanding of the tools, techniques, models and methodologies of purchasing and supply management
- a clear and comprehensive knowledge, understanding and acumen up, down and across the fields of strategic supply chain management
- extensive knowledge at a strategic level in purchasing and supply management
- applied this knowledge and understanding within a work context - so are well placed to add value to their organisation
- All of the above achieved to an intellectual equivalence of a first degree level program.

### **Who can apply?**

Your organisation - you might be a university, college, professional association, company training organisation, or a partnership of some or all of these kinds of organisation providing programmes at an intellectual equivalence of a first degree.

Outcome based, the Global Standard is flexible to cope with all kinds of organisation and delivery structures.

What is non-negotiable is that your programme meets the required standard of breadth and depth at an intellectual equivalence of a first degree (this means a programme from which a graduate has achieved an outcome with an intellectual equivalence of one from a formal first degree programme, either through the depth of the programme itself, the entry requirement to the programme or similar).

### **What type of purchasing and supply program can be accredited?**

The aim of the process is to recognise as wide a variety of learning programmes, designations and awards as possible. Full time, part-time and distance learning programmes can all be considered.

The Global Standard Board will also consider programmes that are delivered in partnership and at multi-site locations.

In addition to formally recognised and certified programmes which take individuals through specific prescribed content, the Board can also consider awards which are achieved through experiential learning or through a combination of accredited and experiential learning.

### **Criteria and Content for Supply Chain Programmes**

Programmes of learning submitted for accreditation should be at an intellectual equivalence of a first degree with sufficient breadth and depth to demonstrate a degree level standard.

Typically, programmes are likely to be of three or four years duration, though this is not mandatory, and will depend to an extent to the delivery mechanism used and intellectual entry requirements of the programme.

The following eight topic areas are at the core of the Purchasing and Supply Global Standard and all programmes of learning, including awards achieved by experiential learning, must include these topics:

- Pre-contract
- Sourcing
- Contracting and legal issues
- Supplier management and performance
- Relationships
- Technology
- Professionalism, management, ethics and CSR
- Strategy and strategic issues

These eight topic areas should comprise a minimum of 70% of the overall programme of learning.

In addition, there are a number of themes which are more general business disciplines of which purchasing and supply management professionals should have some knowledge.

As an illustration, not exhaustive, these are the types of areas which would be considered appropriate:

- Marketing
- Storage and distribution
- Operations management in the supply chain
- Sustainable procurement
- Project management
- Finance

There may be other areas of study which could be equally appropriate for purchasing and supply management professionals in particular industry sectors or geographical areas. Applicants are encouraged to include these in their application for recognition where appropriate - just accompany them with a clear and rational justification for their inclusion.

## How to Apply

As the first step, you should complete a simple application form, providing basic details about your organisation and the programme to be assessed.

The Global Standard's Board (GSB) will appoint an assessor who will review your application on its behalf. The assessor will be assigned to you throughout the period of your application process and if appropriate, as your application develops. All applications will be considered in two parts.

**Part A** of the application provides an opportunity for the organisation to demonstrate its legitimacy to operate and to offer and ensure the delivery and assessment of programmes at the appropriate level.

The assessor will review Part A of the application and make a recommendation to the GSB regarding the organisation's eligibility to make a programme application. Applicants can expect a decision on eligibility within six weeks of the application being received, provided that all of the required information has been made available to the assessor.

Once Part A of the application has been approved, the application for Part B must be received within six months from the date of this approval otherwise Part A will expire.

**Part B** of the application is then programme specific and enables the organisation to demonstrate that the content, assessment and outcomes of the programme meet the Global Standard.

As the final stage of the process, the Purchasing and Supply Global Standard Board will feedback the results of the Part B review.

## Who has the Standard?

- NEVI (Netherlands)
- SCMA (Canada)
- Old Dominion University (USA)
- Procurement Academy (Belgium)
- University of Twente (Netherlands)
- [procure.ch](http://procure.ch) (Switzerland)
- IVE (Hong Kong)
- IIMM - 2 programmes (India)
- VTC/Guandong (China)
- PSPTB (Tanzania)



Rolf Jaus of [procure.ch](http://procure.ch) being presented with their Global Standard Certificate by Søren Vammen, IFPSM President, at the IFPSM World Summit in Barcelona, September 2015

## Testimonials:

### **Yves Bemel.mans**

Procurement Academy, Belgium

“Considered the most innovative provider in the niche market of corporate procurement training, Procurement Academy soon recognized the importance of having an independent accreditation by a reputable organisation like the IFPSM. The IFPSM has established rigorous criteria and a sound audit process to assess organisations and their educational programs (of bachelor level). There is simply no other accreditation in the entire industry that offers the same international recognition.”



### **Grace Tsang**

Senior Lecturer

Programme Leader of Higher Diploma in Global Purchasing and Supply Management IVE (Kwai Chung) of Vocational Training Council

“In July 2015, we were delighted that our programme “Higher Diploma in Global Purchasing and Supply Management” successfully went through a very detailed accreditation process conducted by the Professional Standards Board of IFPSM. The programme is now recognised as meeting the standard of the “Global Standard in Purchasing and Supply Management.”



The recognition of Global Standard will definitely enable us to enlighten more youngsters about the development of their career in the profession of purchasing and supply. As the leading programme provider in Hong Kong, by having the recognition of the Global Standard, it will help us to promote the professionalism of purchasing and supply to employers who can enrich their knowledge of the recognised global standards for measuring the competency of their purchasing teams. It is a great achievement to have gained the Global

Standard and to prove that our programme has achieved a world standard.”

### **Rolf Jaus,**

CEO, procure.ch

‘The certification GLOBAL STANDARD:

- guarantees *high quality on an international level;*

- guarantees that the program is *up to date*;
- allows *easy comparison* with the level of other international programs;
- is of high value for employees with this diploma, looking for a job *abroad*;
- is an excellent *marketing tool* for our association;
- allows the numerous international companies and CEOs in Switzerland, not familiar with the special Swiss education system, to have an *international assurance regarding the quality* of this education program, thus supporting their employees to get this diploma;
- is an international *recommendation* for companies and employees;
- is an *international independent official approval* of the Swiss education program with federal exams”

### Global Standard 2016 Pricing

Part A - £3000

Part B - £5500 plus assessors travel and accommodation costs.

Re-assessment after three years

£2500 - no travel costs

Certificate of Recognition £10 per student

All assessment costs to be paid before each part of the assessment takes place

### Global Standard Resources Website

<http://www.ifpsm.org/global-standard/resources/>