CIH Distance Learning Centre

Study for the CIH Professional qualification and become a Chartered Member

Professional Diploma in Housing & Sustainable Communities

Course information pack March 2013
1.1 Why should I study with CIH?

The Chartered Institute of Housing is the independent voice for housing and the home for professional standards. Our courses are informed by our engagement at all levels of the industry and they reflect wider policy issues and good practice. Our course materials are kept up-to-date by our team of learning and development specialists who have access to opinion makers and who are informed of all regulation and policy changes.

1.2 What is the Professional Diploma in Housing & Sustainable Communities?

The Professional Diploma in Housing & Sustainable Communities (PDHSC) would suit aspiring professionals, supervisors and managers who wish to progress to stage two of the CIH Professional Qualification and achieve CIH chartered member status (CIHCM).

1.3 How will this course benefit me and my organisation?

This course will help you to become more competent in your role by providing you with detailed knowledge of the wider housing environment and skills in policy making and delivering housing in sustainable communities at a management level. Qualifications at this level will provide you with a good understanding of the knowledge, skills and tools to put the theory you have learned into practice in your day to day job.

The examination, analysis and exploration of key housing subjects that the PDHSC courses facilitates will result in you becoming a highly qualified professional with the skills required to perform in a senior management capacity.

Successful completion of both years of this course leads to CIH Chartered Membership when you can use CIHCM after your name. Students who gain PDHSC are also eligible to go on to the third year University Certificate in Professional Development Housing Studies (UCPDHSC) and to a fourth year with dissertation leading to BSc (Hons) Housing Studies.

1.4 What are the entry requirements?

Applicants must have successfully completed stage one of the Professional Qualification. This means that you will normally have one of the following:

- A BTEC/Edexcel or SQA Higher National Certificate (HNC) in Housing Studies or equivalent
- CIH Level 4 Diploma qualification
- NVQ/SVQ in Housing at Level 4
- The first part of an undergraduate award leading to a Diploma or BA/BSc in Housing
Note: Lesser qualifications may be acceptable with evidence of substantial experience – normally in housing or for a public sector employer.

1.5 When will I start?

Students who apply for PDHSC in March 2013 can benefit from a new pre-course programme which aims to:

- Introduce students to CIH delivery of distance and e-learning
- Facilitate contact between students so that they can get to know fellow learners
- Help students to become familiar with the features and functions of the Moodle e-learning platform and how to participate in online activities
- Provide access to key texts and sources

The PDHSC study programme will begin in October 2013.

1.6 What will I study?

Year 1
Term 1: Housing & Sustainable Communities
Term 2: Policy Making and Research
Term 3: Work Based Project

Year 2
Term 1: Organisations
Term 2: Delivering Housing & Sustainable Communities
Term 3: Housing, Sustainable Communities and the Environment

1.7 What will I gain?

Students can achieve stage two of the CIH Professional Qualification which leads to CIH Chartered Membership.

1.8 What can I expect as a CIH student?

The Distance Learning Centre has a number of support mechanisms in place to assist you through your course.
Our pre-induction activities and tasks will help you prepare for your studies ahead soon after you have enrolled. At the beginning of the programme, during the induction day you will meet academic tutors and be provided with a brief introduction to the course and information on how it is delivered and assessed. You will also be advised of the support you will receive from the CIH teams.

On an ongoing basis:

You will be allocated an academic tutor who will offer you support throughout your course via email, telephone, correspondence and during the face-to-face events.
You tutor will mark your assignments and give you feedback as well as providing you with advice and support on any academic issues.
You will be supported by CIH Distance Learning team throughout your course who will also offer guidance when personal / work related problems arise which may affect your studies.
You will be able to communicate with other students via the e-learning site.

1.9 Other benefits of being a CIH student

- Membership of CIH is included in the cost of study*
- The flexibility of e-learning
- Face to face induction day with your tutor and fellow students
- Assessment and feedback through course work
- No examinations

*This allows the use of the letters CIHM after your name

2.0 What does this course cost and how long does it take?

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<td>Year 1</td>
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<td>Year 2</td>
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2.1 How much time will I need to spend on the course?

Approximately 10 hours per week.
Each assignment has a 6 week block of study and preparation.
There are 6 assignments in each year.
2.2 What do I do now?

Apply now by:-

- Downloading and completing the application form [http://www.cih.org/distancelearningapply](http://www.cih.org/distancelearningapply)
- Calling our friendly team on 024 7685 1789
- Emailing us dlc@cih.org

You will require either authority to invoice from your employers or, if you are paying for the course yourself, your payment.

2.3 What is the closing date for applications?

Applications for this course should be sent to the address below or via email to dlc@cih.org by 15 March 2013. Please include your payment details.

2.4 Student testimonials

“I would like to say what a great help my tutor was throughout my study year!”

“Whilst I have been studying I have been applying for jobs within the housing management field and have been successful in gaining a position, which I believe I would not have been successful for if it was not for this current and on going study!”

“I had a thoughtful, responsive and engaging tutor and I thought highly of his opinion.”

Contact

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