



CPD Across the Globe

Membership Support Factsheet 40



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The CPD Standards Office
INDEPENDENTLY ACCREDITED CPD
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This factsheet provides an outline of Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and how it operates across different international regions.

Outside of the UK, CPD extends across the globe and is undertaken in most countries. The CPD Standards Office accreditation services support all forms of professional development and CPD schemes globally and have an increasingly international reputation as the strongest currency in professional development.

GLOBAL CPD REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for CPD vary by global location and by sector, and the extent of CPD expectations and professional practice is largely dependent on:

- **Regulation** - The presence of international regulation in certain sectors e.g. banking and accountancy has international regulations, as well as country-based regulations, which are all executed through mandatory CPD requirements.
- **Global UK Bodies** - The extent to which different UK professional bodies and institutes are becoming global with CPD requirements across a region e.g. The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has over 15 offices globally.
- **Professional Culture** - The amount of developed businesses and organisations in the area who are focused on competence, professional practice, and professional education.



The CPD Standards Office has accredited training and coaching providers in over 50+ countries and regions including:

- Europe including the UK, France, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Poland, Spain and Switzerland
- USA
- MENA region including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan
- Australia
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- India
- Singapore
- Hong Kong
- South Africa
- Canada

Within different regions, there can be different terminology used. For example, CPD can be known as Continuing Education (CE) or Continuing Professional Education (CPE). It is important to note that these terms are completely interchangeable with CPD, and are both focused on a structured approach to lifelong learning.

EUROPE

Within Europe, CPD requirements vary from country to country and are dependent on the extent of regulation within each sector.

The CPD Research Project has identified that there are a larger number of professional bodies and institutes within Western Europe. However many countries in Eastern Europe are slowly beginning to establish professional bodies and associated CPD requirements within the region.

Many CPD Standards providers operate within various European countries and are active in delivering training provisions to European professionals.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CPD in the United States of America often uses slightly different language to describe the practice of CPD e.g. CE – Continuing Education, CPE – Continuing Professional Education, CME – Continuing Medical Education, or CLE – Continuing Legal Education.

Similar to the UK, there are stringent requirements for professionals to undertake CE within different sectors, with over 4000 professional bodies, institutes, and regulators across the country. It is a rather complex area as each of the 50 States has different CE requirements in place for regulated areas e.g. lawyers in Alaska have to do under four hours of CPD a year, whereas lawyers in Ohio have to undertake 24 hours of CE over two years.

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA (MENA) REGION

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The CPD Standards Office has accredited providers who are based in the Middle East and largely deliver into the UK e.g. British Applied College UAQ, as well as providers who have developed a course in the UK and deliver it into specific areas of the Middle East e.g. Fratrem Group Ltd.



There are huge opportunities for the delivery of CPD training in this region, particularly in regulated sectors as individuals in this region hold a high regard for CPD education and training from the UK.



AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

CPD within Australia and New Zealand follows a similar model to the UK. Many professions are led by professional institutes, bodies, and regulators, all with similar CPD schemes and requirements to their UK counterparts.

The practice of CPD is highly valued, and as a result, there are various training, event and online providers registered with the CPD Standards Office who deliver training in this region.

CANADA

CPD in Canada is generally referred to as CE, Continuing Education. The structure is very similar to the UK in that there are Regulators and Royal Colleges who have CPD policies which outline what CPD professionals must undertake per year.

These policies vary on the level of the professional and the sector they work in. Some of these Regulators or Colleges also offer industry-specific accreditation for learning activities whilst others do not. However, both accept formal, external accreditations. Most regulated professions in Canada are monitored under provincial jurisdiction, so each territory has their own legislation and requirements for regulated practitioners.



AFRICA

Across the African continent, CPD is an emerging practice with many individuals and professionals keen to undertake CPD for ongoing educational purposes.

The CPD Standards Office has some providers who deliver in this region, with a number based in South Africa.



GLOBAL ACCEPTANCE OF CPD STANDARDS ACCREDITATION

Whilst based in the UK, the CPD Standards accreditation operates internationally and meets the CPD requirements and expectations for all professional bodies, regulators and membership organisations across the globe. This means that a professional attending an accredited CPD training activity, outside of the UK, can receive a CPD Certificate of Attendance, which can then be used towards their national CPD requirements.

Due to the research undertaken by the CPD Standards Research Project with various professional bodies and regulators, the accreditation is recognised and respected internationally. Formal CPD Standards certificates are issued and accepted in a multitude of countries and across all professional sectors. Many of our international accredited providers report positive benefits from utilising a British, research-led accreditation.

'Since becoming accredited with the CPD Standards Office we have had great success delivering our training activities in the UAE.'

**-Dr. Hamad Rashid, Principal Consultant, HSJ
Technicals UK**



We hope you have found this factsheet helpful.