

Facilities Management from A to Z



Based on The FM Lexicon by Martin Pickard
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There are many professional and academic qualifications appropriate to those working in FM. Health and safety qualifications are among the most desirable. The IOSH (Institution of Occupational Safety and Health) Certificate in Managing Safely or the NEBOSH (National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health) National General Certificate in Occupational Safety and Health are both considered very favourably by employers.

Academic FM qualifications are available from the higher education sector at MSc, BA or MBA levels. For those seeking an NVQ (National Vocational Qualification), the Institute of Leadership and Management Level 3 Qualification in Facilities Management is available at Certificate, Diploma and Award level. As a vocational qualification, the NVQ focuses on work-based assessments rather than examinations and concentrates on developing key FM skills that are immediately transferable to the workplace. NVQs at levels 4, 5 and 6 are planned for launch in 2010 and will replace the old British Institute of Facilities Management Qualification Parts 1 and 2.

For facilities managers who aspire to chartered status, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) offers a Chartered Facilities Manager designation. Graduates with degrees approved by the RICS and who have relevant employment experience can become chartered surveyors within its Facilities Management Faculty by completing the RICS Assessment of Professional Competence (APC). This work-based professional training scheme usually lasts for two years. Satisfactory completion of an RICS-accredited industrial training year undertaken as part of a degree course will count towards the APC. Graduates aiming for RICS chartership who do not have an accredited degree will usually complete a conversion course before beginning to work towards chartered status, although it may be possible to study for the APC and academic qualifications at the same time.

Other professional qualifications include the Certified Facility Manager (CFM) and the Facility Management Professional (FMP). These are controlled by the International Facility Management Association (IFMA) and have been adopted by many national FM associations around the world. The CFM credential was established in 1992 and is aimed at mid-career professionals or mid-level managers who have between three and eight years' experience in FM, depending on their education. The FMP is a knowledge-based credential which is designed to accelerate a facilities manager's transition into the profession.

For information on safety qualifications see www.iosh.co.uk or www.nebosh.co.uk.

For up-to-date information on FM qualifications see www.assetskills.org and www.i-l-m.com.

For information on chartered membership of the RICS see www.rics.org.

For information on the CFM and FMP see www.ifma.org.