



Distance/Online Learning Course



Understanding Shipping Course

The Understanding Shipping course is a comprehensive nine-month correspondence program, comprising nine modules. This course offers valuable insights into the various sectors of the maritime industry and establishes a strong foundation to support the beginning of your career in this dynamic field. It is designed for a wide range of individuals, including school leavers, newcomers to the industry, professionals working in functional roles such as HR or Accounting within shipping companies, and those involved in the ports and broader maritime community. Key features of the course include:

- **Course Materials:** Each student will receive a textbook containing all nine modules
- **Assignments:** Students are required to complete and submit assignments for each module. These assignments consist of essay-style and multiple-choice questions, all submitted online through a UK-based system called "Moodle." Login details for Moodle will be provided upon registration.
- **Passing Criteria:** To successfully complete the course, students must achieve a minimum pass mark of 60% for each module. Additionally, they must pass an oral interview conducted by their assigned tutor.
- **Supplemental Resources:** Students will receive links to relevant YouTube videos to support their learning.

This course is designed to provide flexible, high-quality learning for individuals seeking a thorough understanding of the shipping industry.



Foundation Diploma and Advanced Diploma

The Foundation Diploma is designed for individuals with limited experience in the industry who wish to acquire practical knowledge and a recognized qualification. To earn the diploma, students must complete the *Introduction to Shipping* paper and one additional subject, selected from Group 2 list of optional papers in the Institute's syllabus. While the Foundation Diploma is a standalone qualification, it also serves as a stepping stone towards membership examinations, providing a comprehensive overview of the shipping business and easing the transition into further study. The diploma is awarded when both subjects are successfully passed within the same examination session.

The Advanced Diploma is tailored for individuals with some prior industry knowledge, serving as a pathway toward full professional qualification. Like the Foundation Diploma, it is a respected and recognized credential that can contribute to your progress in the Professional Qualifying Examinations. To earn the Advanced Diploma, students must complete the Institute's benchmark Shipping Business paper along with one additional subject. This subject can be chosen from 2 list of optional papers in the Institute's syllabus. The Advanced Diploma is awarded upon successful completion of both subjects within the same examination session.

Group 1

Introduction to Shipping (Foundation Diploma)
Shipping Business (Advanced Diploma)
Economics of Sea Transport and Intl Trade (PQE)
Legal Principles in Shipping Business (PQE)

Group 2

Dry Cargo Chartering
Ship Operations and Management
Ship Sale and Purchase
Tanker Chartering
Liner Trades
Port Agency
Logistics and Multi-modal Transport
Port and Terminal Management
Shipping Law
Marine Insurance
Shipping Finance
Offshore Support Industry





Professional Qualifying Examinations (PQE)

The Professional Qualifying Examinations (PQE) program is a structured, yet flexible pathway designed to provide a comprehensive education in the shipping industry. This modular program allows candidates to progress at their own pace and is tailored to accommodate a variety of starting points and career aspirations. The program can be completed in stages over a maximum duration of five years, providing a manageable framework for balancing study with professional and personal commitments.

Pathways Through the PQE

Starting Point – ICS Diploma: Many candidates begin their journey with an ICS Diploma, which requires the completion of two modules. This entry point provides foundational knowledge and serves as a stepping stone toward advanced qualifications.

Intermediate Stages – Foundation and Advanced Diplomas: After earning the ICS Diploma, candidates may proceed to the Foundation Diploma and/or Advanced Diploma. These qualifications provide deeper insights into the industry and are respected credentials.

Completing the PQE: To achieve full qualification, candidates must complete all seven modules of the PQE program. This includes:

- The Foundation Diploma (Introduction to Shipping and one additional subject)
- The Advanced Diploma (Shipping Business and one additional subject)
- The remaining two compulsory subjects from Group 1
- One subject from Group 2, selected based on the candidate's interests or career goals

Candidates also have the option to bypass the diploma stages and progress directly to completing all PQE modules if they prefer a more direct approach to achieving the full qualification.

Benefits of Completion

Upon successfully passing all seven modules, candidates are eligible to apply for membership in the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers. This achievement is globally recognized as a degree-level professional qualification and symbolizes the highest standards of expertise, professionalism, and integrity in the shipping industry. Once membership is approved, candidates earn the prestigious title of Chartered Shipbroker, a distinction that enhances career opportunities and establishes credibility within the global maritime community.

