



The CPD Standards Office is a unique organisation and was founded with the vision of understanding and enabling positive and successful CPD and learning experiences. As a highly specialised expert team, our university led research has equipped us with extensive expertise on all things CPD; including a thorough understanding of delivering professional CPD activities that comply with relevant Government policy legislation.

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



CPD Standards Factsheet: CPD Across the Globe

Whilst CPD originally began as an educational practice in the UK, it is now undertaken in most countries and a standard expectation of any professional body or regulator. The CPD Standards Office works with hundreds of organisations, and has accredited thousands of activities, many of which are delivered globally.

Background Information

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

- The presence of international regulation in certain sectors e.g. banking, accountancy and financial services have international regulations, as well as country based regulations, which are all executed through mandatory CPD requirements.
- The extent the different UK professional bodies and institutes are becoming global with CPD requirements for a region.
- The amount of developed business 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 22 countries including:

- America
- Australia
- India
- Hong Kong
- Middle East Region including Dubai, Jordan, and UAE
- Nigeria
- South Africa
- Singapore
- New Zealand

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.

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 52 States has different CE requirements in place for regulated areas e.g. lawyers in Alaska have to under 4 hours of CPD a year, whereas lawyers in Ohio have to undertake 24 hours of CE over 2 years.

The CPD Standards Office has various providers who are either based, or headquartered in the USA e.g. Rosetta Stone, Pinnacle Performance, and Columbia Business School, New York.

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, with many countries in Eastern Europe 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 provision to European professionals.

Middle East

There is a rising demand for CPD training within the Middle East, as over the past decade this region has seen increased focus on its standards and professionalism.

The CPD Standards Office has accredited providers who are based in the Middle East but largely deliver into the UK e.g. London Training Excellence, as well as providers who have developed a course in the UK and deliver it into specific areas of the Middle East e.g. Jasper Alliance.

There are huge opportunities for the delivery of CPD training into this region, particularly in regulated sectors as there strong value placed on those learning structures that reflect practices in 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.

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, and many of our international accredited providers report positive benefits from utilising a British, research led accreditation.

We hope you have found this factsheet helpful.

Please see www.cpdstandards.com for more information on our accreditation services, or call 0845 862 1386 for further advice.