

countries to obtain the Chartered Secretary qualification? Is your foreign membership growing?

I spend a large percentage of my time travelling outside the UK to promote the importance of good governance to both members and non-members internationally. ICSA: The Governance Institute represents the interests of members and students resident in over 60 countries and we have branches in many jurisdictions, such as the Channel Islands, the Caribbean, East Africa and Mauritius, that I visit on a regular basis. Changes in working practices mean that it is increasingly challenging for membership organisations to attract and retain members, but we have reinvigorated our branch network in recent years and recently opened a branch in Ghana. We have a strong offer in terms of qualifications, training and guidance and we are working a number of partners internationally to increase the number of people that we reach overseas.

In addition to Chartered Secretary, ICSA also offers

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numerous other qualifications. Tell us about them and to whom they are aimed.

As governance has grown in importance we have expanded our offer to move beyond the corporate world and built a portfolio of single sector-based governance qualifications. Above and beyond our core qualifying scheme, we have created qualifications for governance professionals working in charities, the health service, academies and sporting bodies. We now have advanced certificates in corporate governance and health service governance, as well as professional diplomas in governance and health ser-

vice governance and a diploma in charity management. We also have certificates in corporate governance, company secretarial practice and share registration practice, employee share plans, charity law and governance, academy governance and sport governance.

What is more, we have developed qualifications that cater to our main regions, including a certificate in company secretarial law and practice for Ireland and our suite of International Finance and Administration qualifications for international finance centres such as Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Man and further afield. We also recently introduced a foundation programme to help people with no previous understanding of the business environment. The first part of the ICSA qualifying programme, it has been designed to give people a grounding in the topics that the qualifying

programme covers, including an introduction to the areas of law and finance. Our qualifications are aimed at people across all sectors and organisations, from the smallest SME to listed companies, private, public, etc. Our qualifications are set at different levels and therefore prior experience in an area is not a prerequisite for entry at certificate level.

In 2017, ICSA signed a cooperation agreement with the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus (ICPAC) as well as with Infocredit Group. What kind of response do you expect from the Cypriot business sector to the ICSA's qualifications?

ICSA is passionate about educating businesses on the value and importance of good governance. Cypriot businesses are becoming more and more aware of the significance of having properly trained and qualified staff in this area. Our collaboration with ICPAC and Infocredit Group further enhances the importance of good governance in all businesses.

PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE

INFOCREDIT

Panayiotis Marinou, Training Manager at Infocredit Group, explains the importance to Infocredit of the agreement to represent ICSA in Cyprus.

Infocredit Group has signed an agreement with ICSA to represent the Institute in Cyprus and thus offer its products/services to governance professionals. Why is the agreement important to Infocredit? Infocredit Group, as a leader in risk management solutions and business information provider, is always in search of products and services that will support and enhance our business partners' progression. The partnership with ICSA complements the portfolio of services of the Group in an area which has emerged internationally while locally this has started to gain ground.

Corporate governance and compliance are among Infocredit's areas of expertise. Do you think your new role as ICSA representative in Cyprus will help raise even greater awareness of these issues? Corporate governance has

always been on the top of the agenda of major businesses in Cyprus. Nonetheless, there was limited guidance and information about the available qualifications for individuals who wanted to support their professional progression and for business to develop the career of their staff, while having properly qualified people in corporate governance. Therefore, we believe we can act as the single point of contact for any individual or a company who would like to find out more about the ICSA qualifications.


How do you intend to go about offering ICSA courses, exams and qualifications?

All qualifications and examinations are offered mainly online via the accredited ICSA tuition provider and our strategic partner BPP Jersey. One can also follow the self-study mode should one wish. On the other hand, we can deliver, upon request,

a blended learning of face-to-face and online training.

Are you confident that there will be considerable demand for the various ICSA qualifications in Cyprus? Is there a particular one that you expect to be especially popular?

We are very positive. Currently, we have a significant number of requests by individuals working mainly in the financial services sector, looking to further progress their career by acquiring an ICSA qualification. The large number of delegates during our two Corporate Governance conferences has also shown a great interest in the ICSA

qualifications. We believe that the Fast Track professional route of the Chartered Secretary qualification will be the most popular in Cyprus. 



Panayiotis
Marinou