

AWARD IN GENERAL INSURANCE IS IDEAL FIRST STEP ON QUALIFICATION JOURNEY

Irina Ginns is the CII's Operations Assistant in Dubai. She recently acquired the Award in General Insurance and talks about her Experience in attaining this popular qualification.

1. Why did you choose to Achieve the Award in General Insurance?

The Award in General insurance is a course specifically designed with international insurance professionals in mind with significantly reduced UK-specific content, so it's ideal for anyone considering their first steps in achieving a globally recognised professional qualification. My goal was twofold; first, having no insurance background I was keen to learn the principles (theory and practice) by which insurance industry operates. Second, my goal was to experience a candidate's journey first-hand, to learn from practice in order to advise and guide students considering taking a CII qualification. The ultimate goal in both cases was to serve the public in the region in the best possible way through improving my own technical knowledge.

2. How long was the associated study period?

The total study hours allocated for the unit is 50, so if you dedicate one hour a day during your working week you should be able to finish your study within 10 weeks. From the moment a candidate signs up for the course they have seven months to complete studies and sit the exam. I signed up in September and sat the exam in February, passing it first time.

3. How did you fit studying into your daily routine/job tasks?

Every day after work I dedicated one hour to my study if the workload allowed. On several occasions I managed to fit a couple of hours of study into my weekends, especially in the days prior to the exam. Revision and practicing answering multiple choice questions takes time, so I tried to schedule the exam after the weekend when I knew I had time and mental space to go over the material again.

4. What advice would you give to a person who is about to embark on the qualification study process?

What I would say to all candidates is, think of a) where you are now in your career, and b) where do you see yourself in 2-5 years' time? Once you have a clear picture in your mind of where you want to be, you can channel this vision through acquiring technical knowledge and skills with the help of the wide selection of the qualifications offered by CII. This is an excellent way of investing in yourself and in your future, wherever in the world your career may take you next.

5. Any top tips for knowledge building/study success?

The most important motivation in my study process was to know my 'why' - to see the qualification as a stepping stone towards achieving a professional goal. Once you have a clear goal in mind and the date you need to achieve it by, you can allocate your time and resources in an organised and consistent way. The CII provides candidates with a wide range of tools to support learning and exam success, such as digital syllabus available anytime anywhere, specimen assignment to give students an example of what is expected of their coursework, chapter tests to make sure students understood the contents as well as access to student forums to discuss ideas and interact with peers. On top of that, you can study at your own pace and book remotely proctored exam when you feel ready, 24/7. Having completed the Award in General Insurance course, I was encouraged by exam success and since have signed up for a CII Diploma-level course (Insurance Law) which I hope to complete within next couple of months.

