

## CIFA Australia Group

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Why Cifa in Australia?**

There are professionalism gaps that are not represented in archaeological practice in Australia. As such, the role of archaeology is not well represented in professional spheres. We hope to fill in this gap. Cifa have well established programs and documents already tested and in place internationally that can be well adapted to Australian archaeological use.

#### **Isn't Cifa a UK based organisation?**

Cifa first originated in the UK in 1982 as the Institute of Field Archaeologists. It has now grown to have a strong dedication across the archaeological sector, both geographical and specialised. Cifa have Area Groups in Germany, Scotland, Wales and England, as well as Australia. While Cifa Australia has the benefit of being strongly connected to the central office in the UK, the group has its own standing in Australia and represents Australia's needs to the Board of Directors.

#### **What makes a professional archaeologist professional?**

Professional work is not compromised by implications relating to political or financial considerations. An accredited member of Cifa is assessed on their demonstrable technical competence, where their skills and experience have been reviewed by their peers, who are accredited Cifa members in various fields of work and degrees of education. Cifa also understand the variety of work within the archaeological and heritage sector and represents archaeologists from all over the profession, including academic, consulting, museum, historic, Aboriginal, marine, forensic and more. Because of this variety accreditation is based not only on competency, but are also based on the specific specialisation individuals have followed in their archaeological career. Cifa also strive for ethical suitability and continuous professional development (CPD) of its accredited members, along with these technical skills.

[Professional archaeologists](#) are those who have demonstrated their competence and have committed to maintain it, who act in the public interest, and who have agreed to be answerable to the *Code of conduct*.

#### **Is Cifa accreditation valid wherever I operate?**

Yes. Once you have obtained your accreditation, paid your subscription and signed up to the *Code of conduct* this is relevant to any work you undertake in any region or country.

#### **Do the Cifa pay scales that equate to subscriptions represent those working in Australia?**

Cifa are currently working with the Australia Group committee on an arrangement that better matches members in Australia. This is based on consultation with a number of authorities, associations, and groups. Any agreements or changes to this will be published [through our webpage](#). At present the published figures are representative for those resident in the UK.

#### **Do I pay my annual subscription in Pounds Sterling or Australian Dollars?**

All Australian applications can be paid in Australian Dollars, through the BACS payment option. The exchange rate between Australian Dollar and British Pound Sterling is updated every financial year in time for subscription renewals.

**Do I still apply through the CifA Website for membership or accreditation?**

Yes. All applications are processed through CifA regardless of geographical location. The application fee is payable in Pounds Sterling, but can be paid through PayPal, using their exchange rate, or by invoice (BACS), using the current exchange rate.

**Who will assess my accredited application?**

CifA's Validation Committee will assess your application for accreditation. They can co-opt an accredited member from the Australia Group to assist in the validation process to advise about Australian legislative requirements.