

Professional Accreditation and Continuing Professional Development

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The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) has been at the forefront of professional accreditation for statisticians for more than twenty years. Over time the RSS has developed a coherent framework for professional standards through its international examinations and qualifications, which form the basis of our accreditation approach. In recent years an increased focus on continuing professional development (CPD) has meant some changes were introduced in this framework to take into account the importance of ongoing learning for professional statisticians.

This presentation will provide an overview of the general principles underlying the accreditation process for statisticians, and look at processes, standards and benchmarks used in the UK and a number of other countries. It will consider the benefits of accreditation for those working in the field of statistics, especially for statisticians at the beginning of their career. Finally the paper will consider the increasingly important role of CPD in the accreditation process for statisticians, with a specific focus on a number of innovative initiatives in general professional accreditation in the UK.

Key Words: Professional accreditation, professional standards, continuing professional development, career development.