



CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDIATORS AND ARBITRATORS

England & Wales



Competency Framework

ACIMArb — Associate (Foundations & Procedural Literacy)

Module 1: Introduction to Domestic and International Arbitration

Module 2: Drafting Arbitration Agreements (*New: Practical drafting and clause design*)

Module 3: Domestic and International Legal Frameworks for Arbitration

Module 4: Arbitration Proceedings and Professional Practice

Module 5: Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards

Capstone:

Mock Arbitration Exercises + Written Assignments

MCIMArb — Member Level (Applied Practice & Professional Competence)

Module 1: Law of Obligations & Business Law for ADR Practitioners

Module 2: Arbitration Case Management (*New: Practice under the Accra Rules*)

Module 3: Ethics, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence in ADR Practice

Module 4: Domestic and International Mediation Law and Practice I

Capstone:

Advanced Mock Arbitration & Mediation Exercises + Advocacy Skills Training

FCIMArb — Fellowship (Mastery, Specialization & Intellectual Leadership)

Module 1: Mediation Practice for Arbitrators II (Advanced Level)

Module 2: Arbitration Case Management II (*New: Comparative Institutional Rules*)

Module 3: Advanced Award Writing & Facilitated Settlements

Module 4: Dissertation (Original Scholarly Contribution)

Capstone:

Advanced Mock Arbitration & Mediation Exercises + Policy & Thought Leadership Engagement

Overview:

The CIMA syllabus is structured to reflect a rigorous professional progression from foundational knowledge, through applied competence, to advanced mastery and intellectual leadership. At **ACIMArb (Associate Level)**, candidates acquire a solid conceptual grounding in arbitration, including the legal architecture of domestic and international arbitration, the drafting of effective arbitration agreements, procedural practice, and the recognition and enforcement of awards. Learning is reinforced through mock arbitrations and written assignments, ensuring both doctrinal understanding and practical exposure.

At **MCIMArb (Member Level)**, the syllabus shifts from understanding to professional application. Candidates engage with business law and obligations relevant to commercial disputes, develop practical competence in arbitration case management—generally under LCIA, UNCITRAL and particularly under the Accra Rules—and explore contemporary challenges including ethics, cybersecurity and the use of artificial intelligence in ADR. The inclusion of mediation law and practice further equips candidates for hybrid dispute resolution environments. Training culminates in advanced mock exercises and advocacy development, reflecting real professional expectations.

The **FCIMArb (Fellowship Level)** syllabus is designed for senior practitioners and future leaders of the discipline. It focuses on advanced mediation practice, comparative case management under institutional rules, sophisticated award-writing and settlement facilitation, and the production of an original scholarly dissertation. The Fellowship capstone integrates advanced simulations with policy engagement, reinforcing FCIMArb as not merely a qualification, but a mark of authority, thought leadership, and professional distinction in international dispute resolution.

ACIMArb — Associate Level Modules

Module 1: Introduction to Domestic and International Arbitration

This module introduces candidates to the nature, purpose, evolution, and theory of arbitration. It examines the distinctions between domestic and international arbitration, the advantages of arbitration over litigation, the role of arbitral institutions, and the ethical foundations of arbitral practice. Candidates develop a clear conceptual understanding of the arbitration ecosystem.

Module 2: Drafting Arbitration Agreements

This module focuses on the jurisdictional foundation of arbitration: the arbitration agreement. Candidates learn how to draft effective clauses, interpret arbitration agreements, and identify defects in poorly drafted clauses. Core principles such as separability, competence-competence, scope of consent, and enforceability are examined through practical drafting exercises.

Module 3: Domestic and International Legal Frameworks

This module explores the legal architecture governing arbitration, including national arbitration statutes, the UNCITRAL Model Law, institutional rules, and the supervisory role of courts. Candidates gain a comparative understanding of how arbitration operates across different jurisdictions and institutional settings.

Module 4: Arbitration Proceedings and Professional Practice

This module addresses the procedural mechanics of arbitration, including pleadings, procedural timetables, evidence, hearings, interim measures, ethics, confidentiality, and tribunal conduct. It develops procedural literacy and professional discipline expected in arbitral proceedings.

Module 5: Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards

This module examines the enforcement of arbitral awards under the New York Convention and domestic enforcement regimes. Candidates study grounds for refusal, setting aside proceedings, public policy limitations, and the practical realities of cross-border enforcement.

Capstone: Mock Arbitration and Assignments

Candidates participate in structured simulations of arbitral proceedings and complete written assignments designed to consolidate learning and test practical understanding.

MCIMArb — Member Level Modules

Module 1: Law of Obligations & Business Law for ADR Practitioners

This module strengthens candidates' commercial literacy. It covers contract law, tort, corporate structures etc. The aim is to ensure arbitrators can properly understand the commercial context of disputes.

Module 2: Arbitration Case Management (Practice under the Accra Arbitration Rules)

This module develops advanced procedural competence. Candidates learn how to manage proceedings as arbitrators, including procedural directions, interlocutory decisions, hearings, efficiency techniques, and tribunal control under LCIA and UNCITRAL but with particular focus on practice under the Accra Arbitration Rules.

Module 3: Ethics, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence in ADR Practice

This contemporary module addresses professional ethics, confidentiality, data protection, cybersecurity risks in arbitration, and the use of artificial intelligence in legal practice. Candidates examine both the opportunities and ethical challenges presented by technology in dispute resolution.

Module 4: Domestic and International Mediation Law and Practice I

This module introduces candidates to mediation theory and practice. It covers mediation frameworks, negotiation theory, mediator ethics, confidentiality, settlement design, and the role of mediation within modern dispute resolution systems, including hybrid processes such as med-arb.

Capstone: Mock Arbitration & Mediation Exercises + Advocacy Training

Candidates participate in advanced simulations replicating real professional environments, while also developing advocacy and communication skills essential to effective practice.

FCIMArb — Fellowship Level Modules

Module 1: Mediation Practice for Arbitrators II (Advanced Level)

This module deepens competence in complex mediation practice. It explores multi-party disputes, high-value commercial conflicts, power dynamics, ethical dilemmas, cross-cultural negotiation, and advanced mediator techniques. It develops judgment at senior practitioner level.

Module 2: Arbitration Case Management II (Comparative Institutional Rules)

This module examines advanced case management across major institutional frameworks. Candidates engage with comparative practice under leading rules (e.g. LCIA, ICC, SIAC, DIAC, Accra Rules), focusing on procedural strategy, efficiency, tribunal authority, and institutional expectations.

Module 3: Arbitration Award Writing and Facilitated Settlements

This module develops mastery in drafting high-quality, enforceable arbitral awards. Candidates study legal reasoning, evaluation of evidence, jurisdictional analysis, structure of awards, and clarity of dispositive sections. It also explores the tribunal's role in facilitating settlement.

Module 4: Dissertation (Original Scholarly Contribution)

Each Fellow undertakes a supervised research project on a contemporary issue in arbitration or ADR. The dissertation develops analytical depth, intellectual independence, and contributes to the broader discourse of dispute resolution.

Capstone: Advanced Mock Exercises and Policy Engagement

Fellows participate in high-level simulations and policy discussions, reinforcing their readiness for senior appointments, institutional roles, and thought leadership.