

IFMA-RICS COLLABORATION — BACKGROUND

About IFMA

Founded in 1980, the International Facility Management Association (IFMA) is the world's largest and most widely recognized international association for facility management (FM) professionals, supporting 24,000 members in 105 countries. The association's members, represented in 134 geographical chapters and 17 industry-specific councils worldwide, manage more than 37 billion square feet of property and annually purchase more than US\$100 billion in products and services. IFMA's headquarters office, the global Service Center of Excellence, is located in Houston, Texas, USA.

IFMA's mission, "to advance the professional discipline of facility management worldwide," is achieved through three key areas which include:

- Offering facility management professional development through three key credentialing programs, as well as a range of educational courses.
- Producing World Workplace, the world's largest facility management conference and exposition, and Facility Fusion, an event focused on FM education, networking and leadership training.
- Conducting research, producing publications and distributing expertly vetted content resources through a robust online Knowledge Library.

About RICS

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) is a global professional body that accredits professionals within the land, real estate, property and construction sectors. RICS promotes and enforces the highest professional qualification and standards in the development and management of these areas; protects clients and consumers via a strict code of ethics; and provides impartial advice and guidance.

RICS accredits 118,000 professionals in 145 countries and any individual or firm registered with RICS is subject to quality assurance. RICS professionals are required to keep up to date with current practice through a program of lifelong learning. Qualified RICS professionals are recognized by three designations: FRICS (Fellow), MRICS (Member) and AssocRICS (Associate).

Headquartered in London, UK, RICS has offices in 35 countries. RICS also works at a cross-governmental level, delivering a single, international standard to support a safe and vibrant marketplace in land, real estate, construction and infrastructure, for the benefit of all.

The RICS name promises the consistent delivery of standards — bringing confidence to the markets served. The work of RICS professionals creates a safer world: RICS is proud of the profession's reputation and guards it fiercely.

How does RICS qualification differ from IFMA membership?

In order to join RICS, professionals must qualify for RICS status by attaining qualification, which is only awarded to individuals who meet the following criteria:

- Hold a relevant bachelor's-level qualification and/or an RICS-recognized professional designation
- Have at least 10 years of relevant experience (those with master's degrees may only need five years)
- Agree to be accountable to a strict code of conduct
- Most candidates complete written submissions and a final assessment interview to communicate professional and technical competence
- Complete and report 20 hours of verified continuing professional development per year

In order to join IFMA, individuals must submit a membership application and support IFMA's purposes, vision, mission, goals, core values and code of ethics. Members may include current, former and future practitioners of FM, as well as educators and providers of related goods and services.

IFMA-RICS COLLABORATION — FAQs

Why are IFMA and RICS collaborating?

As the two global organizations dedicated to professionals who support the built environment, IFMA and RICS identified a unique opportunity to work together to strengthen the collective resources available to the industry.

The overall goal is to foster a more inclusive, robust global FM knowledge-sharing community and advance the visibility and prominence of FM worldwide. In addition, the collaboration will unify the FM career path to raise the profile of professionalism in the discipline.

By aligning efforts in the area of facility management, IFMA and RICS intend to:

- Advance global knowledge sharing and cohesion within the FM community
- Expand the existing informational and networking infrastructure for members of both organizations
- Unify the FM career path through both IFMA credentials and RICS qualifications
- Incorporate FM trends and best practices into a more comprehensive picture of the built environment
- Encourage graduates and young professionals to select careers in FM
- Assert the strategic value of FM to business in order to further elevate the profession

Why is this collaboration significant?

From modest beginnings in administrative services, the facility management profession has advanced in stature and evolved from a tactical into an increasingly strategic discipline. However, this critical role has remained relatively isolated from the overarching building and infrastructure conversation.

What is unique about this collaboration is that, for the first time, there will be a single career path that unifies FM and the larger building and infrastructure picture.

The aim of integrating FM into the wider land, construction, real estate and infrastructure family is to:

- Improve the overall quality of built environment
- Optimize space utilization and reduce building operating expenses
- Enhance productivity of building occupants
- Conserve resources to contribute to efficiency and sustainability goals
- Create new pathways for entry into the FM profession

What does this collaboration entail and how will the single career path be defined?

As with any working relationship, the IFMA-RICS collaboration will evolve over time. However, the initial steps will involve leveraging both organizations' existing resources in research, conferences and events, and external relations. IFMA and RICS will also work together to determine how best to align professional credentials and qualifications to shape the single career path for the collective benefit. Additional details will be announced in conjunction with IFMA's World Workplace 2016 Conference and Expo, Oct. 5-7 in San Diego, California, USA.

Both organizations will prioritize transparency and will continue to proactively involve and share information with internal and external stakeholders throughout the process.

Are IFMA and RICS merging?

No. IFMA and RICS will continue to operate as separate entities. IFMA's board of directors and staff will remain independent. However, both organizations will benefit by sharing knowledge and resources.

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IFMA-RICS COLLABORATION — FAQs (CONTINUED)

How will this collaboration impact members of IFMA and RICS professionals?

RICS professionals with a stated interest in the FM sector will automatically gain IFMA membership in addition to their RICS qualification and begin receiving full [IFMA member benefits](#).

In general, IFMA members and credential holders will gain:

- Access to an expanded professional network
- Increased support and representation outside of North America
- Heightened status and recognition as market awareness expands
- Greater audience and influence across built environment community
- Opportunity to leverage RICS global infrastructure for joint efforts to advance FM

Members of IFMA will not become RICS professionals unless they fulfill the RICS qualification requirements and apply for admission.

Will IFMA membership dues change?

No — the collaboration will not impact IFMA's current [dues structure](#).

What does this mean for IFMA's relationship with other industry organizations?

The goal of this collaboration is to create a less fragmented, more inclusive global facility management community. While IFMA and RICS are the primary collaborators, all organizations with an interest in supporting the health of the built environment are invited to work through IFMA to help foster a robust professional FM knowledge-sharing network worldwide.

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