

Exciting Developments

Exciting developments for the IMS Certificate as it becomes the IMS Productivity Analyst qualification.

For 40 years the Institute has been offering a professional qualification known simply as the 'IMS Certificate'. It has attracted thousands of people from all business sectors in the UK and across the world.

Studying for this qualification requires a significant commitment. It takes four weeks of full-time study and learning the practical application of measurement techniques such as Time Study or the MOST® technique. Over the years, the IMS Certificate has been acknowledged as the industry standard for those who are serious about improving productivity.

In May 2021 the 'IMS Certificate' was re-named. It will now be known as the IMS Productivity Analyst.

It is felt that this new name will illustrate more clearly that the course content is focused on improving productivity. Also, that the new name will make the qualification more relevant, substantial and attractive to all business sectors and individuals.

"The IMS Productivity Analyst will continue to be the industry standard for productivity professionals and an international qualification that is held in high regard across all sectors" said Institute Chairman, Dr Andrew Muir. "It is vital that as a professional body the Institute stays relevant and up to date. We need to show we are a vital component in the quest for improved productivity in all corners of the world. Our four week course continues to be much sought after and we trust that this re-naming of the qualification will endorse our ambition and deliver our claim that we help people to achieve 'excellence through people and productivity'," he said. "The new name will help better convey the amount of intensive study that is needed for the syllabus and afford increased credibility and standing in the professional world."

Those who have already qualified with the IMS Certificate will not be affected in any way by this. There will naturally be a transitional period as people adjust to the new name of the qualification.

The Course Content

The content of the IMS Productivity Analyst course remains effectively the same as that which was included in the IMS Certificate, so current holders of the IMS Certificate need not

be concerned. It will still be a four week course that consists of Modules 1, 2, 3 and 4, each taking five days. Each of the four modules is subject to continuous instructor assessment and has an examination.

Scott-Grant Limited is the principal approved training provider of the Institute of Management Services. Based in Manchester, they run open course modules frequently throughout the year. They also deliver many in-company courses.

They have been working with the Institute to re-brand the course and are also able to announce an additional and third option for Module 2, measuring work using activity sampling. You can read more about all the Module 2 options further down this page.

Module 1 stays as Productivity Foundation. Module 3 stays as Improving Methods and Processes. Module 4 stays as Developing a Lean environment.

A Further Development

Module 2 has also for many years, offered an option to achieve a qualification in the original work measurement technique of Time Study. This technique is principally used for the

measurement of repetitive work, usually with a single subject studied. In other words, work that follows a defined pattern and method.

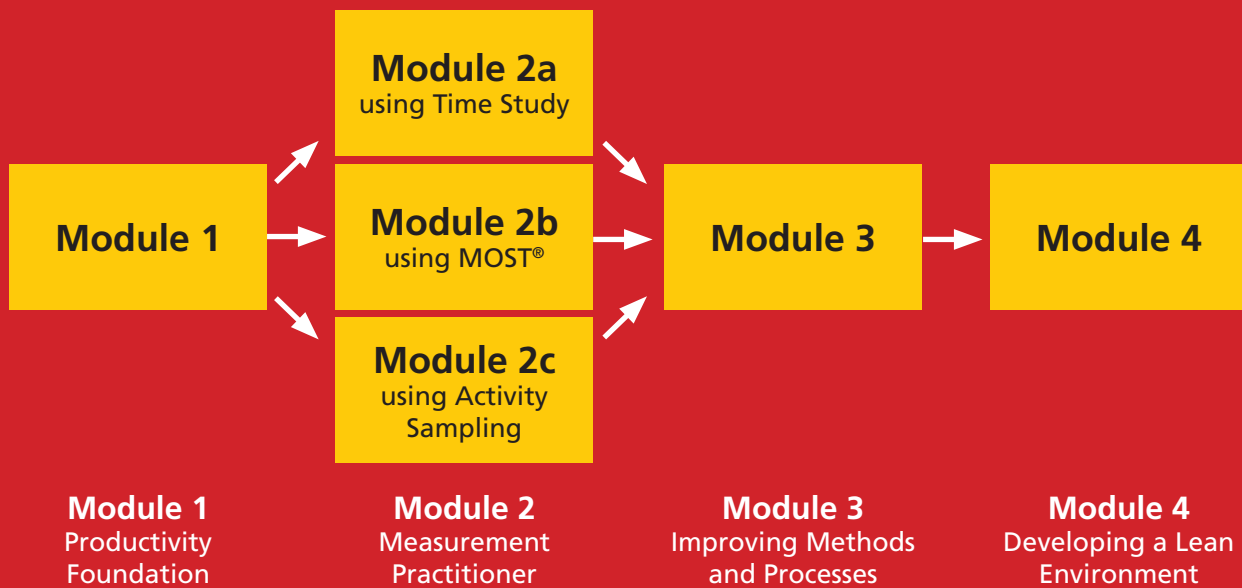
Having attended Module 1 followed by this Module 2a, successful delegates would be awarded the IMS Time Study Practical qualification. Now, the Institute is pleased to announce a further development for Module 2.

For over 20 years, the training provider, Scott-Grant, has offered the MOST® technique as an alternative to Time Study. (PADS was also an option but is used by fewer industry sectors nowadays.) MOST® is the work measurement technique that gives you the ability to measure any human work that has a defined method – ideal for creating accurate time data in virtually every business sector.

Launched to coincide with the re-naming of the overall qualification, is a third option of measuring work using Activity Sampling. This is a technique with a number of formats in which observations are made over a period of time of one or several people, machine(s) or process(es). It is suited to many industry sectors where multiple objects are being measured – people, equipment, processes, external factors etc. This may be in construction, service, commercial, banking, public sector, management or supervisory roles.

IMS Productivity Analyst – the new name for the IMS Certificate.

IMS Productivity Analyst



IMS Measurement Practitioner

All three Module 2 options, taken after Module 1, will award a qualification of 'IMS Measurement Practitioner' in either Time Study, the MOST® technique or Activity Sampling. This new IMS qualification supersedes and replaces the originally named IMS Time Study Practical (TSP) for Module 2a. This is simply a name change that updates, streamlines and standardises the awarding of the equivalent of a 'TSP' external qualification after each of the three Module 2 options.

"The name 'Time Study Practical' or TSP, has been on our lips for so many years and has served us well", said David Blanchflower, Institute Treasurer, "and it may take us all a little while to adjust to the new names. The decision to re-name Module 2 to become IMS Measurement Practitioner simply standardises and broadens our offering to those wishing to study with us. Not everyone wants to study for the full four week course. Now, after studying just the first two Modules, successful delegates can achieve a certificate showing they have qualified as an IMS Measurement Practitioner in the work measurement technique they have chosen."

Richard Taylor, Managing Director of the Institute's principal training provider, Scott-Grant Ltd said, "We welcome the changes to the qualification for productivity professionals. The self explanatory name of IMS Productivity Analyst is a more fitting title for those who have studied for four intensive weeks. It has a certain gravitas, but more importantly, it is more recognisable as a productivity qualification in all business sectors throughout the world. Successful delegates will receive a formal Institute certificate of course, as will those who are successful as IMS Measurement Practitioners in a) Time Study or, b) the MOST® technique or c) Activity Sampling. All delegates and their employers will be fully informed of the changes."

"It is worth pointing out that anyone who has already passed

Module 1 and 2a or 2b, could attend the new one week course for Activity Sampling as a supplementary course, in the same way as people often come back to us to learn MOST® if they've already taken the Time Study option," Richard added.

IMS Measurement Practitioner – the new name for success in Modules 1 and 2

Simon Tate, the Institute's Chair of Education is very positive about these changes. "The new name of our qualification will be more readily understood by people and businesses. We are confident that the qualification will continue to be an industry standard for anyone wishing to study productivity and become a qualified professional." And IMS Council member Ian Bromley agreed, adding, "The three options for work measurement in Module 2 reflect the variety of techniques appropriate in different industries and circumstances. People who have already qualified in Time Study might like to study one or both other alternatives to add to their knowledge, and prepare themselves for developments in their career or organisation. We all need to embrace new opportunities and help businesses plan for the future."

Institute President Colin Coulson-Thomas was keen to endorse the exciting developments, "A growing number of organisations in many sectors are facing a combination of challenges and opportunities that are requiring them to do things differently. The Modules of the Institute's Measurement Practitioner and Productivity Analyst qualifications represent flexible, practical and cost-effective stepping stones to the skills needed for the measurement and analysis of each stage of transition and transformation journeys."

If readers have any queries about these changes, please send an email to productivity@scott-grant.co.uk or call +44 (0)161 234 2121.