

Certificate in Partnering Practice

The Certificate in Partnering Practice is for participants of The Partnering Initiative's (TPI) 'Essential Skills for Effective Partnering' course, who wish to extend their training through self-reflective learning. The certificate also demonstrates externally that the holder has achieved a certain level of knowledge of partnering standards and competency in cross-sector partnering.

To gain certification, each participant will submit a reflective essay (2000-2500 words) to demonstrate partnering knowledge and, most importantly, contextualisation of the learning from the course within their own situation. The essay will be assessed by TPI and a Certificate in Partnering Practice will be awarded if the appropriate standard is reached.

Essay guidelines

Participants in the course will have different levels of involvement in partnerships, and the partnerships themselves will likely be at different stages of the partnering cycle. This means that the exact content of the essay will necessarily be quite specific to the participant.

The overarching aim of the essay in all cases is to **demonstrate the application of learning to a participant's own situation**. I.e. the participant must take the key concepts, skills and tools and demonstrate how they apply to their own context. This will in most cases take the form of examining the current situation and, possible next steps for further developing the partnership based on good practice learned in the course.

Depending on the participant's situation, some example themes for the essay might be:

| Participant's situation | Possible themes to be incorporated in the essay |
|--|--|
| The participant's organisation is not yet actively involved in partnerships but is keen to do so | <p>Mapping of potential partners including their drivers for involvement, what they might bring to the table etc.;</p> <p>Examination of the potential challenges for the organisation to engage in partnership;</p> <p>Plans for engaging partners and / or making necessary changes within the organisation.</p> |
| The participant is currently developing a partnership | <p>Understanding of the drivers (actual / potential depending on status) of all the partners;</p> <p>Review of where the partnership currently stands against the ideal elements that should be in place;</p> <p>Plans for further developing the partnership based on good practice learned in the course.</p> |
| The participant is currently engaged in a partnership | <p>Review of how the partnership is currently performing – how it is set up, the degree to which partnering principles are currently being applied, the relationship among the partners, where the potential trouble spots might be etc.</p> <p>Plans for further developing the partnership based on good practice learned in the course.</p> |

Any assessments or reviews of the current situation should include substantiation of your views, and future plans should not only include what actions you have decided to take, but should also be discursive, giving a clear indication of why you chose those actions and where relevant, include the other possibilities you considered and rejected.

Certification process and timing

| Timeframe | Process |
|------------------------|---|
| | Registration for Certificate or attendance at TPI training course/ Partnering Essentials program/ customised versions |
| Within 2 months | Submission of essay outline to TPI HQ |
| Within 6 months | Submission of final essay to TPI HQ for assessment |

Participants are required to submit a short essay outline (limit of one page) within 2 months of attending the training course or registering. This outline should briefly describe the subject matter of the essay and expected structure. Feedback on the outline will be given, and then the final essay should be submitted within 6 months.

If the TPI assessor feels the essay is close but does not quite demonstrate sufficient understanding to achieve the Certification, it will be returned with comments, and the applicant may adjust and resubmit the essay for consideration a second time with no further fee. Where it is felt the essay is far from demonstrating the necessary understanding, this option will not be available to the applicant, although the applicant may restart the whole certification process at a later stage with payment of the appropriate fee.

Please submit your essay outline and final essay to CPP@partnerinit.org.

Late submissions

Although TPI will be flexible when there are good reasons for late submissions, this may result in significant delays in the process due to other commitments of the trainers

Cases of non-award

In all cases where an assessor decides not to award Certification, the decision will be reviewed by the Director of The Partnering Initiative and another senior colleague not previously involved in the assessment. Their decision will be final and there is no further appeal process.

Registering for the Certificate

If you registered for the Certificate at the same time as the training course, you will already have been invoiced for the fees and will be contacted at the end of the course with a reminder to submit your essay outline by the deadline.

If you would like to register, please contact us at CPP@partnerinit.org.

The fee for submission is £300 (GB) / \$400 (US).

Sharing learning between participants

After final submission, if participants wish and TPI feel it is appropriate, the final essays can be edited and published on the TPI and DPS websites as case studies or blogs. Participants can also request that essays are kept confidential and TPI will not publish any information submitted as part of the certification process without permission.