

The Chartered Institute of Brewers & Distillers launches updated Master Brewer and Master Distiller Programmes for the Industry

Friday 12 September, 2025

[The Chartered Institute of Brewers & Distillers \(CIBD\)](#) is delighted to announce the launch of updated programmes for its highest level of qualifications, [Master Brewer](#) and [Master Distiller](#).

The CIBD is the established, trusted expert in developing education in the sciences of brewing, distillation and associated areas world-wide. Shaped by comprehensive input from business leaders, Learning & Development professionals, academics, and Masters candidates, the two new Master programmes are built to meet real-world needs. This engagement confirmed that the skill sets required by the industry have evolved and the relevance of key topics such as sustainability, digitisation, continual improvement and critical thinking are more important than ever in day-to-day brewing and distilling operations.

To ensure that the updated Master qualifications are of the highest standards the CIBD engaged with a cohort of leading 'unique contributors', experts in their fields, to write the specialist content for the revised syllabi. An additional cohort of industry leading experts and academics was used to carry out a peer review process to ensure that the specialist content was 'applied learning' and relevant to the new industry skills and role requirements identified.

In addition to significant content changes the new Master programmes will also be assessed differently. This will involve a combination of controlled assignments, formal examinations, the creation of an 'evidence of learning' portfolio and will ultimately culminate in a viva with industry experts who will assess each candidates' skills, knowledge and overall readiness to meet CIBD Master level qualification and be prepared for key roles in the workplace.

On this announcement, Deborah Kennedy, CIBD Chair of the Board of Examiners, who over the past 18 months has led the development of the two new Master programmes, said:

"Today's senior brewers and distillers must have an applied understanding of new technological advancements being made within brewing and distilling operations. However, it is no longer enough just to have strong technical knowledge and competence, a successful leader, must be able to operationalise and lead across the end-to-end value chain.

The new qualifications test application and leadership, contain electives that reinforce expertise, and have new assessment methodologies that help examiners' gauge candidate's skills, knowledge, and overall readiness to lead within the workplace.

Knowledge of disciplines such as finance, procurement, and governance together with the opportunities presented by digital & AI technologies, sustainability and operational excellence will be how our successful Master candidates will differentiate themselves from others as they develop their careers".

Dr Megan Sheehy, CIBD President added:

"The input, and support, we have had from industry and academia in shaping the syllabi for the Masters, our flagship qualification, has been detailed and insightful and we are very appreciative of those who have been involved. The new programmes have been developed by the industry for the industry to meet the needs of not only today but the future. This launch follows on from the institute being granted Royal Charter and reinforces how the CIBD is committed to continually raising the standards of scientific, technical and operational understanding within the industry".

Join us for a live webinar on 29th September at 10am BST (GMT +1) to know more about the changes to the Master syllabi, the process we followed and how the changes affect you.

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