

COURSE GUIDE



RICS Global Certificate in Whole Life Carbon Assessment (2026 Edition)



Course guide

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Duration: 10 months enrolment duration

Language: English

CPD: 140 hours

Market sector: Built Environment and Construction; Quantity Surveying; Infrastructure; Construction Project Management; Building Surveying.

Course type: Cohort training programme

Welcome

We're delighted that you have chosen to study **RICS Global Certificate in Whole Life Carbon Assessment (2026 Edition)**.

This guide gives you everything you need to get started - from how the course works to tips and resources that will help you make the most of your learning experience.

Getting started with your course

1. **Review this course guidance** the structure of the programme, how learning is delivered, and what is expected of you.
2. **Introduce yourself to your tutor and peers** in the *Meet your tutor & peers* area of the course.
3. **Bookmark the course page** so you can return to it easily at any time.
4. **Use Google Chrome** for the best learning experience and full functionality of course activities.
5. **Disable pop-up blockers** in your browser settings to ensure all activities open correctly.
6. **External links open in a new tab.** When you have finished viewing the content, simply close the tab to return to the course.
7. **Always exit eLearning modules using the 'Exit' button** in the top-right corner of the screen to ensure your progress is saved.

Course description

This training programme provides a comprehensive introduction to the principles and practical application of the RICS Whole Life Carbon Assessment (WLCA) professional standard, 2nd edition, which covers all aspects of the international standards [ISO] for assessing whole life carbon across the built environment.

This course is designed for built environment professionals involved in, or supporting, the assessment, management or interpretation of whole life carbon, including surveyors, engineers, consultants, project managers, cost professionals, and sustainability specialists. It is aimed at professionals seeking a robust and applied understanding of whole life carbon assessment and covers core methodology, terminology, and the step-by-step process for assessing carbon impacts across the full life cycle of built assets.

Throughout the programme, learners engage with non-graded case studies to consolidate learning and develop practical capability in applying WLCA principles. The end-point assessment (EPA) consists of an online multiple-choice assessment.

Learners who complete the course receive a **Certificate of Completion in RICS Global Certificate in Whole Life Carbon Assessment (2026 Edition)**, confirming successful completion of structured training aligned with the RICS WLCA professional standard (2nd edition).

Where future registration or formal recognition of carbon assessors is introduced, this course provides relevant learning and practical insight that may support progression towards such requirements, subject to the applicable regulatory framework.

Please note: Legislative and registration requirements vary by jurisdiction. Completion of this course **does not** confer certification, registration or licence to practise as a carbon assessor.

Course prerequisites and recommendations

Quantum measurement skills are not required. However, learners must be comfortable interpreting fully-developed quantum documentation, such as cost plans and bills of quantities. This includes familiarity with resources such as [NRM 2: Detailed measurement for building works](#), and [NRM 2 Appendices B-E](#).

An enhanced understanding of construction systems and technologies is advantageous. This includes the design lifecycle, regulatory compliance, integration of building systems, post-construction operation and maintenance, and modern methods such as prefabrication and

solutions tailored to different building types and functional requirements.

Learners should have at least intermediate proficiency in Microsoft Excel, or equivalent software, including the routine use of logical functions such as [IF and OR](#).

Learners do not need access to, or experience with, OneClick LCA or similar tools. However, access to the [ICE carbon database](#) is required. This is free to download.

A multi-monitor workstation is recommended, and access to a PDF utility for merging files, such as Adobe, Bluebeam, or equivalent tools, is desirable.

Study mode and duration

This training programme is designed to be completed within **10 months**, including the end-point assessment period. Modules are released **every four weeks** to support a steady and manageable progression through the curriculum.

The programme offers a total of **140 CPD hours**. This includes a minimum of 11 hours of study per module across eight modules, together with additional time for revision and preparation for the end-point assessment.

Each module delivers a blended learning experience, combining introductory videos, interactive self-paced eLearning with practical examples and professional insights, reading materials, case study practice activities, quizzes, and live Q&A and consolidation sessions. Learners also have access to a discussion forum to support peer learning and engagement with the course tutor. The programme concludes with an end-point assessment in the form of an online examination.

Course tutor

The tutor for the course is an experienced whole life carbon assessor who has applied the RICS WLCA professional standard (2nd edition) in practice and contributed to the development of the course.

They have also contributed to the professional standard itself, either as a working group member or reviewer. The tutor provides practical insight; answers applied questions and supports learners in developing professional competence as carbon assessors.

Course structure

Module 1 – Introduction to the WLCA standard

Module 2 – Framework for conducting WLCAs

Module 3 – Product stages (A1 to A3)

Module 4 – End-of-life stage (C1 to C4)

Module 5 – Pre-construction (A0) and construction stage (A4 to A5)

Module 6 – In-use stage (B1 to B8)

Module 7 – Beyond the asset (D1 to D2)

Module 8 - Production of the WLCA report

End-point assessment (EPA)

Learning outcomes

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Advise clients on the practical implementation of whole life carbon assessments
2. Understand the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in WLCA delivery
3. Apply the WLCA methodology consistently across project stages
4. Prepare for anticipated future legislative and regulatory developments

How each module is structured

Each module follows a consistent structure, offering the same types of learning resources presented in the recommended order to support your progress through the course.

Discussion forums

Each module includes a dedicated **discussion forum**, located at the **top of the module page**, where you can engage with peers and your tutor.

Forums are a great place to exchange ideas, ask questions, and share insights related to the module content. Tutors usually respond within **3 to 5 working days**.

Please refer to the “**Discussion Forum – Guidance and Code of Conduct**” on the course page.

Pre-reading

The pre-reading materials provide essential background knowledge to support your learning in this module. We strongly recommend reviewing these materials before watching the introductory video to maximise your understanding of the concepts introduced.

To complete this activity, you must open the assigned reading files.

eLearning module

The self-paced eLearning module develops the theory through practical examples and real-world context. Content is delivered in short, engaging sections and includes interactive activities, worked examples, top tips, and knowledge checks to reinforce learning.

To complete this activity, you must complete all lessons within the module.

End of module knowledge check

After completing the eLearning module, you will be able to attempt the knowledge check to assess your understanding and monitor your progress.

You must achieve a minimum score of 75%. You may attempt the knowledge check as many times as required to reach this score.

Case study practice

Case study practice allows you to apply whole life carbon assessment principles to simulated built-environment projects, reflecting the types of decisions and data encountered in professional WLCA work. **Most modules include a case study activity**, designed to support the application of the RICS WLCA methodology, interpretation of carbon data, development of justified assumptions, and clear, auditable reporting.

Case studies are **formative only** and are not formally marked by a tutor. You are encouraged to share your completed case study in the **Case Study Exchange Forum**, where you can review and discuss peer approaches and interpretations. This peer exchange supports broader perspectives and deeper understanding of how WLCA is applied in practice.

After submitting a case study, you will gain access to a **model answer**, which explains the expected approach rather than a single “correct” result.

To complete this activity, you must submit a completed case study in the Case Study Exchange Forum.

Consolidation Q&A session

This is a **one-hour live online session** designed to reinforce key learning from the module. The tutor will also **debrief the case study**, highlighting common approaches, key considerations, and areas of learning, and respond to questions from learners.

There is no formal completion requirement. However, you are strongly encouraged to attend live or watch the recording if you are unable to join.

End-point assessment (EPA)

The EPA is an online exam consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions and must be completed within 70 minutes. The pass mark is 75%. It'll be available on the date specified in the course calendar.

Two attempts are included. The second attempt becomes available 24 hours after completion of the first. If further attempts are required, please contact onlineacademy@rics.org

A certificate of completion will be issued once you have passed the exam and submitted the course feedback.

Tutor and learner support

Your course tutor will remain accessible via the discussion forum throughout the entire course. Expect tutor responses within **3 to 5 working days**.

A dedicated support team will be on hand to help you with any questions that you may have. You can reach the Online Academy team at onlineacademy@rics.org