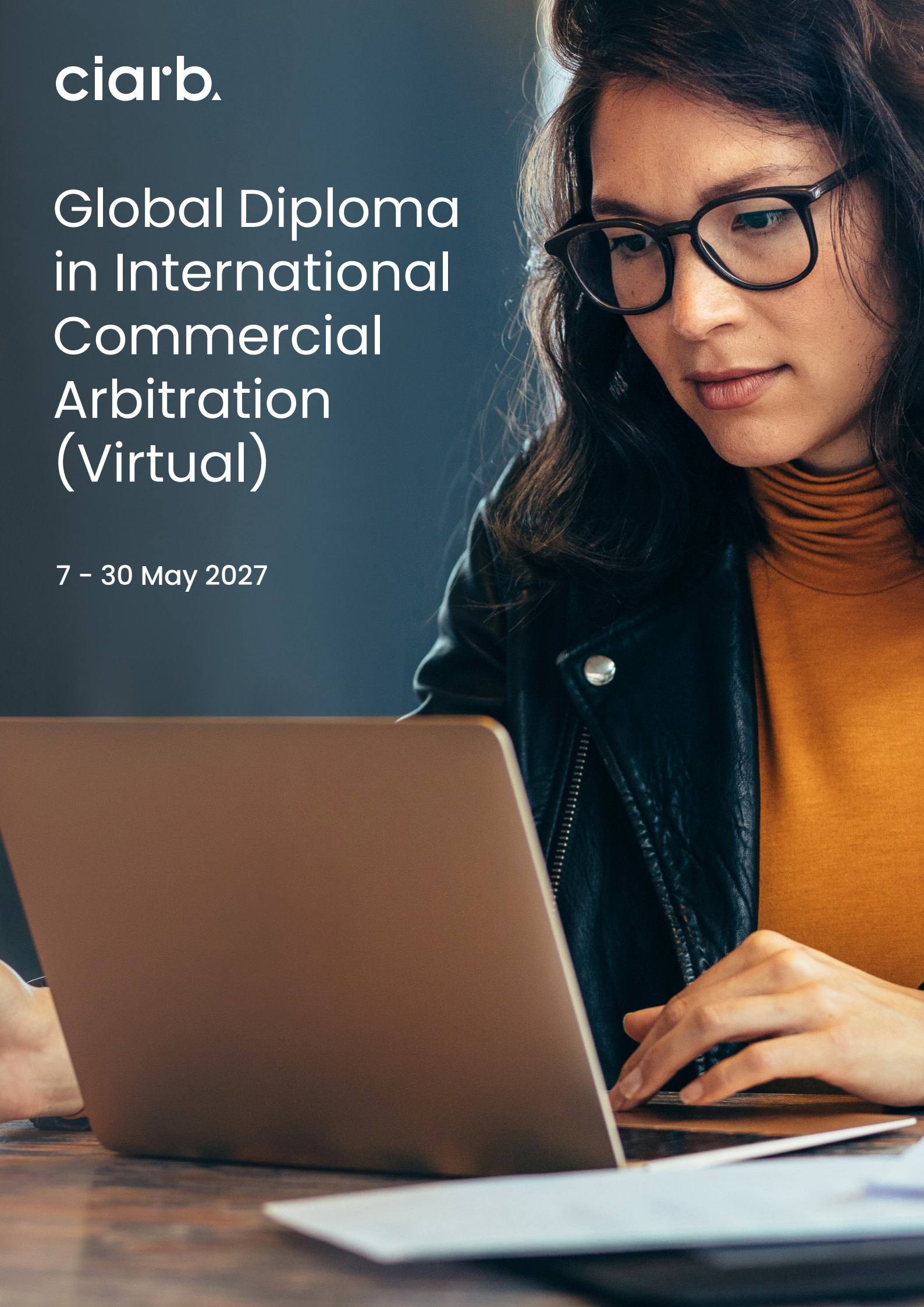
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Global Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration (Virtual)

7 - 30 May 2027



Key facts about this Diploma

The gold standard for international commercial arbitration training

On successful completion, you can apply to become a Ciarb Fellow

Delivered virtually, combining interactive sessions with lectures

Learn the law, practice and procedure of international commercial arbitration

Held across four weeks, on Friday afternoons, Saturday and Sunday mornings

Our institutional Round Table provides insight into the rules and practices at major global institutions

Candidates receive full access to specialist arbitral law research platforms throughout the Diploma and for several months afterwards, supporting their studies and subsequent assessment and dissertation work



Welcome Letter

Dear Candidates,

I'd like to invite you to take the next set in your career with Ciarb's Global Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration (Virtual). On this Diploma, you will benefit from learning from internationally recognised experts in the field and gain insight into how to win appointments with major arbitral institutions through the Institutional Round Table.

There will also be a session on AI in Arbitration that explores the role of AI in the arbitral process and the importance of transparency in the use of AI in arbitrations.

On passing the Practice and Procedure examination and the Award Writing examination, you will receive a Global Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration from Ciarb. You will then be able to apply to become a Ciarb Fellow.

I encourage you to join us on this exciting learning opportunity.

Dr. Crina Baltag FCIArb
Diploma Director



Diploma Director



Dr. Crina Baltag FCIArb is an internationally recognised arbitrator, attorney-at-law and Associate Professor in International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution at Queen Mary University of London, with over 20 years of experience in international dispute resolution and private and public international law.

She sits as presiding, sole and co-arbitrator in international commercial and investment disputes, with appointments under the rules of leading arbitral institutions, including international chamber of commerce (ICC), The London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC), The Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC), arbitrateAD, Finland Arbitration Institute (FAI), the Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC) and the Center for Arbitration and Mediation of the Chamber of Commerce Brazil-Canada (CAM-CCBC).

Her practice covers disputes across construction and infrastructure, energy and natural resources, financial transactions, intellectual property and foreign investment. She has also acted as counsel and expert in international commercial and investment arbitrations.

Crina is Vice Chairperson of the Board of the SCC Arbitration Institute, Chair of the Academic Council of the Institute for Transnational Arbitration (ITA) and Managing Editor of Kluwer Arbitration Blog, among others. She is a Ciarb Fellow (FCIArb).



Learn from arbitration experts

2027 Diploma core tutors include:



Dr. Ana Coimbra Trigo

Ana is Guest Professor at NOVA School of Law and a Senior Associate at PLMJ, Portugal. Ana has worked across domestic and international commercial and investment arbitrations and has experience in civil and commercial litigation. Ana is a member of the Commercial Arbitration Centre of the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, among other institutions, and is Deputy Director for the International Journal of Arbitration and Conciliation.

Dr. Fabricio Fortese FCIArb



Fabricio is a member of the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) Executive team. He is responsible for key aspects of the LCIA's knowledge management, practice, publications, and data-led initiatives. He also holds a Visiting Research Fellowship at the Institute of European and Comparative Law (IECL), University of Oxford. In addition to his international arbitration practice, Fabricio has held teaching and research positions at Stockholm University, the National University of Singapore, Columbia Law School, and Queen Mary University of London.



Bethel Genene Kassa

Bethel is an Associate at Morgan & Morgan with extensive experience representing sovereign states and companies in investment treaty and commercial arbitrations. Bethel has lectured at The George Washington University Law School on topics including the application of umbrella clauses in investment treaty arbitrations. Bethel is a member of the African Affairs Committee and the New York City Bar Association, among others.

Dr. Denis Parchajev MCIArb



Denis is Partner at Motieka & Audzevičius where he handles high-profile international arbitration cases. He advises clients on the ongoing set-aside proceedings in Stockholm and Vilnius. Denis is an honorary lecturer for the distance learning arbitration programme at Queen Mary University of London, where he is completing his PhD in International Investment Arbitration. He also lectures on international commercial litigation at Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania.

2026 speakers included:



Francisco Abriani



Nadja Al Kanawati



Dr. Christopher Boog FCIArb FSIArb



Phillipa Charles FCIArb



Cristián Conejero Roos



Martin Doe FCIArb



Caroline Falconer



Steven Finizio



Dr. Inka Hanefeld



Niamh Leinwather



Professor Loukas Mistelis FCIArb



Vivekananda Neelakantan



Nania Owusu-Ankomah FCIArb



Athina Fouchard Papaefstratiou FCIArb



Dharshini Prasad



Ann Ryan Robertson C.Arb FCIArb



Monique Sasson



Benjamin Siino



Erica Stein



Robert A Stephen MCIArb



Sami Tannous MCIArb



Dr. Cosmin Vasile FCIArb



Guled Yusuf



Dr. Diora Ziyaeva FCIArb

Hear from a 2026 candidate

"This diploma transformed my professional journey. Before it, my understanding of key concepts like the legal seat, arbitrator challenge procedures, and the New York Convention was theoretical at best. The rigorous Part 1A assessment, demanding precision, structured legal reasoning and accurate reliance on case law and arbitration rules, sharpened my analytical skills to a Fellowship standard. What sets this diploma apart is its practical rigour. You don't just learn rules; you draft decisions, apply the IBA Guidelines, and think like an arbitrator.

I recommend this diploma not only to arbitration practitioners but also to contract managers, in-house counsel, and commercial litigators. Understanding how arbitral tribunals decide jurisdiction, impartiality and enforcement will elevate your drafting, risk assessment, and dispute avoidance strategies. This diploma is an investment in credibility and competence."

Nana Amma Adjovu MCIArb





Diploma structure

The structure follows the arbitral process from beginning to end. You will be involved in interactive sessions from day one.

Typical day

Session 1:

Duties and powers of the arbitral tribunal. Liability of arbitrators.

Session 2:

Role of tribunal secretaries.

Session 3:

Commencement of arbitration, request for arbitration and answer, terms of reference/appointment.

Session 4:

Managing the arbitration process: communications, preliminary meetings, interlocutory matters. Jurisdiction and admissibility.

Session 5:

Interactive workshop: Drafting Procedural Order Number 1.

Diploma assessment

Part 1 Assessment: Law, Practice and Procedure of International Commercial Arbitration

Candidates must complete three assessments:

1. An in-course assignment completed during the Diploma
2. A dissertation proposal (up to 300 words) on an arbitration-related topic
3. A final dissertation (up to 4,000 words), submitted two months after the dissertation proposal is approved.

The final dissertation is due by 2 July 2027 and constitutes 80% of the overall mark.

Part 2 Assessment: Law of Obligations

Candidates need to demonstrate expertise on the common law and civil law of contract tort.

Candidates must pass a multiple choice online exemption test before starting the final assessment.

Candidates will be given a reference workbook and a mock assessment before taking the exemption test.

Ciarb Fellows do not need to complete the exemption test.

Candidates from a non-legal background will be expected to complete a full Module 2 course. The cost of this course will be in addition to the Diploma fees.





Part 3 Assessment: Evidence and Award Writing of International Arbitration

Candidates are required to submit an award.

The assessment is split into two stages.

Stage one:

The documents in the case are released 10 days before the assessment start date. They are sufficient to enable the candidate to review the nature of the case and the likely legal problems.

Candidates should consider the recitals they intend to include and the relevant law.

Stage two:

This is the equivalent of the hearing stage. It includes an extract from the candidate's (the arbitrator's) notebook, which records the oral evidence and arguments the arbitrator has heard, as well as any other relevant documents. From the evidence, candidates must make their findings of fact. Different candidates will no doubt make different findings.

When candidates have made their findings of fact, they can write the award. It must be a final award that reflects the issues they have chosen to focus on.

Stage two will be available for five days from the assessment start date. Within these five days, candidates have 48 consecutive hours from the time they access the stage two documents to submit the award.

The arbitral award can be up to 10,000 words.

The suggested sitting for Part 3 is during November and December of 2027.

However, there will be four sittings in 2028 which are available to Diploma candidates.





Candidates will be marked on technical and judicial merit:

Technical merit:
counts as 40% towards the overall mark.

Judicial merit:
counts as 60% towards the overall mark.

Candidates must achieve 70% in both the technical and judicial merits and 70% overall to pass this assessment.

The detailed elements of each technical and judicial merits will be made available with stage one.

Results are released to candidates 12 weeks from the deadline date of the submission.

Entry requirements

The Global Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration is an advanced programme intended for experienced legal, arbitration, dispute resolution and commercial professionals.

Applicants will be required to submit a current CV as part of the application process. Ciarb will review each application to determine whether the applicant has sufficient professional experience and background to undertake the programme successfully. It is highly recommended that a CV clearly shows either:

- Substantive experience of domestic or international arbitration or related dispute resolution; or
- Relevant professional experience in a legal, commercial, technical, financial, construction, engineering, claims, contracts, risk, governance or related field.

Candidates who are successful in gaining a place normally can demonstrate more than 10 years of experience in their field.

Applicants do not need to have acted as an arbitrator. Relevant experience may include work as counsel, in-house counsel, adviser, expert, claims or contracts professional, tribunal secretary, case manager, mediator, adjudicator, academic or other professional with relevant dispute resolution exposure.





Applications are considered on their individual merits.

Ciarb may request further information where necessary to determine whether an applicant has the appropriate experience and background for the programme.

How to apply

To apply for this Diploma, please register for or log in to your MyCiarb account and submit your CV using the application form.

Or for more information, email our team at customerservices@ciarb.org.

If your application is successful, you will be contacted regarding registration and payment.



Diploma fee

The full fee is £6,495.00 (VAT included) for non-members and £5,995.00 (VAT included) for Ciarb members.

What does the Diploma fee include? Candidates will receive:

- Access to Ciarb's Virtual Learning Platform
- Study materials
- One to one access to a dissertation supervisor and tutor
- All assignments, assessments and exemption tests

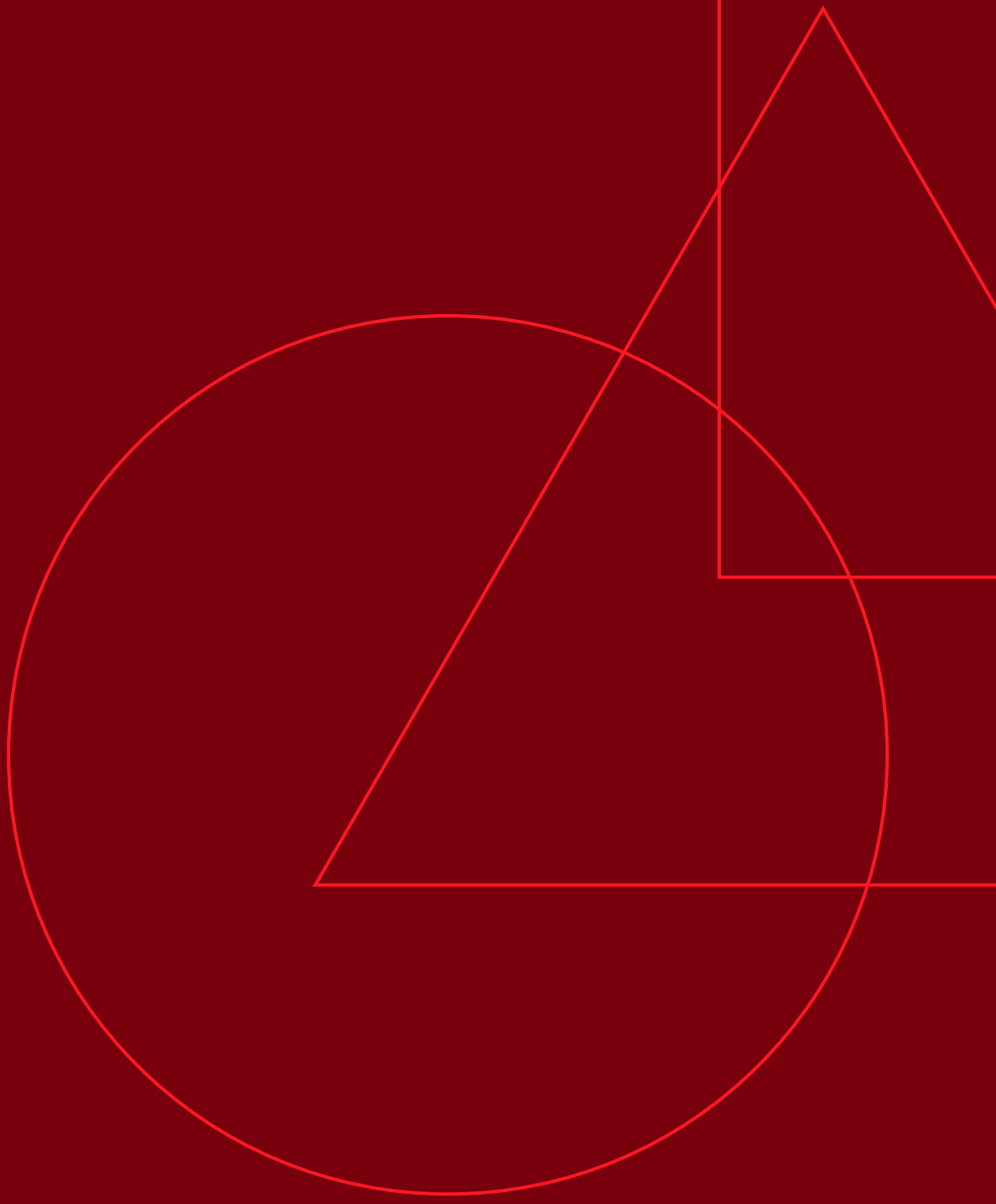
Important dates

Date	Event
30 March 2027	Full fee due
23 April 2027	Ciarb will send candidates dissertation proposal instructions, and candidates will gain access to the Diploma material and the Module 2 exemption test
7 May 2027	Initial Diploma session takes place 12.30 - 17.45 GMT+1
7 May to 30 May 2027	Diploma sessions take place on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 09.00 - 15.00 GMT+1. Schedule to be released nearer the event.
16 May 2027	Assignment released
28 May 2027	Assignment due
29 May 2027	Dissertation proposal due
2 July 2027	Dissertation due
25 July 2027	Module 2 exemption test deadline
10 August 2027	Release of stage 1 materials for part 3 award writing assessment
20 August 2027	Start of stage 2 assessment window for part 3 award writing assessment

Research Supporters

JUS MUNDI Wolters Kluwer

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