
IPSAS Adoption and Accrual Reporting for Government Finance Leaders Course

26 – 30 October 2026
Barcelona





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Programme Summary

IPSAS adoption and accrual reporting for government finance leaders is a five-day training course for senior officials at strategic level, culminating in an accrual adoption roadmap for their own entity or whole-of-government reporting unit. Cash-basis reporting keeps liabilities, assets and the full cost of services out of sight when budgets and borrowing are decided. The approach moves from the IPSAS conceptual framework through key standards, opening balances and systems to the use of accrual statements in fiscal decisions. Mars Training Centre UK delivers this programme in IPSAS adoption and accrual reporting.

The Business Case

Accrual information shows what a government owns, what it owes and what its services cost. Without it, pension and lease obligations are underestimated and infrastructure assets go untracked. Leaders who plan the transition carefully avoid failed system rollouts, qualified audit opinions and unsupported opening balances.

- **Fiscal Transparency:** Improves as assets, liabilities and contingent obligations appear in audited statements.
- **Audit Outcomes:** Strengthen as opening balances, asset registers and policies are evidenced before the first accrual year.
- **Cost of Services:** Becomes visible as depreciation, employee benefits and transfers are recognised when they arise.

Principles and Evidence Base

- **IPSAS Conceptual Framework:** Sets the objectives and elements of public sector reporting used in Session 1.
- **IPSAS 33 First-time Adoption of Accrual Basis IPSAS:** Guides transitional exemptions and opening balances in Session 2.
- **IPSAS 45 Property, Plant and Equipment, IPSAS 46 Measurement and IPSAS 43 Leases:** Frame asset valuation and lease accounting in Session 3.
- **IPSAS 47 Revenue and IPSAS 48 Transfer Expenses:** Structure the treatment of taxes, grants and transfers in Session 4.



Intended Participants

- Officials accountable for annual government financial statements and their audit.
- Leaders who sponsor or steer a cash-to-accrual transition programme.
- Treasury and budget heads who reconcile accrual reports with budget execution.
- Senior managers responsible for asset registers, payroll liabilities or financial management systems.

The programme serves ministries of finance, line ministries, local government, public health and education bodies, and supreme audit institutions.

Learning Outcomes

1. Participants will be able to evaluate their entity's readiness for accrual basis IPSAS adoption.
2. Participants will be able to construct an opening statement of financial position using the transitional exemptions of IPSAS 33.
3. Participants will be able to prioritise asset classes for recognition, valuation and register build under IPSAS 45 and IPSAS 46.
4. Participants will be able to diagnose revenue, transfer and liability balances that need new accounting policies.
5. Participants will be able to justify the system, data and consolidation choices needed to produce accrual financial statements.
6. Participants will be able to interpret accrual statements for fiscal decisions and accountability reporting.

Programme Structure

Day 1: IPSAS Foundations and the Case for Accrual Reporting

What does the IPSAS framework require of government reporting?

- IPSAS Conceptual Framework and Reporting Entity
- Cash Basis IPSAS Compared With Accrual Basis
- IPSAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements
- Links Between Accrual Accounts and Government Finance Statistics
- Readiness Diagnostic for Accrual Adoption

Day 2: First-Time Adoption and Opening Balances

How does an entity move to accrual basis IPSAS and build credible opening balances?

- IPSAS 33 Transitional Exemptions and Relief Periods
- Opening Statement of Financial Position
- Accounting Policy Manual and Chart of Accounts Redesign
- Governance of the Transition Programme
- Engagement With the Supreme Audit Institution



Day 3: Public Assets, Leases and Measurement

How are infrastructure, buildings and leased assets recognised and valued?

- IPSAS 45 Property, Plant and Equipment Including Heritage and Infrastructure
- IPSAS 46 Measurement Bases and Current Operational Value
- IPSAS 43 Leases for Lessees and Lessors
- Asset Register Design and Physical Verification
- Depreciation Policies and Componentisation

Day 4: Revenue, Transfers, Liabilities and Consolidation

How are taxes, grants, obligations and controlled entities brought into the accounts?

- IPSAS 47 Revenue From Taxes, Fees and Binding Arrangements
- IPSAS 48 Transfer Expenses and Grants
- IPSAS 19 Provisions and Contingent Liabilities
- IPSAS 39 Employee Benefits and Pension Obligations
- IPSAS 35 Consolidation of Controlled Entities

Day 5: Leading IPSAS Adoption and Using Accrual Information

How are standards, systems and people combined into one adoption plan?

- Financial Management System and Data Migration Choices
- Capacity Building for Finance Teams
- Reading Accrual Statements for Fiscal Sustainability
- Peer Challenge of Adoption Roadmaps
- Accrual Adoption Roadmap Presentation

Methodology

The programme is built around case analysis of government entities at different stages of adoption. Participants examine transitions in central government, municipalities and public health bodies and resolve opening balance and valuation problems before applying each step at home.

- Suggested activity: Preparing opening balances for a sample ministry.
- Suggested activity: Classifying grants and transfers under IPSAS 47 and IPSAS 48 for a municipal case.
- Suggested activity: Briefing a minister on long-term obligations shown in accrual statements.



Capstone Output

Each participant completes an accrual adoption roadmap for their entity. It sets out readiness gaps, the IPSAS 33 exemptions to be used, asset and liability priorities, system and data actions, a staffing plan and audit milestones for the transition steering committee.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is IPSAS adoption training suitable for senior officials who are not qualified accountants?

Yes. It suits finance directors, treasury heads and transition sponsors. It assumes senior public finance experience, not a professional accounting qualification.

Which standards underpin IPSAS adoption and accrual reporting in government?

It rests on the IPSAS Conceptual Framework, IPSAS 33 for first-time adoption, IPSAS 45, 46 and 43 for assets and leases, and IPSAS 47 and 48 for revenue and transfers.

How is the IPSAS accrual adoption roadmap used at work?

You take back a roadmap your steering committee can approve, sequencing exemptions, asset priorities, system actions and audit milestones.

How does IPSAS adoption differ from private sector financial reporting programmes?

It covers government matters such as taxes, transfers, infrastructure assets and whole-of-government consolidation, which private sector programmes do not address.