

I am delighted to win Student of the Year for completion of my Part II BIFM exams in June 2008 and really enjoyed attending the BIFM Gala Dinner on 13th October to receive my award.

One of the most rewarding aspects of studying for me has been becoming more involved in BPP's and BIFM's information and support network of fellow Facilities professionals. The wealth of information available from BPP and BIFM and the people involved has been invaluable and I am sure will continue to be so.

Working towards the Part I and II BIFM exams over the last 2 years has been a challenging but worthwhile way to further develop my career and to consolidate my knowledge in a number of areas. Facilities Management is evolving at a fast pace in today's rapidly changing business environment and working towards my exams has helped me learn in line with the advances in the FM industry.

I have worked extremely hard for this achievement but I could not have done this without the support and assistance of BPP, my employer and my family.

The study groups and revision workshops organised and run by BPP have been excellent – a great way to share learning, experience and tips. I found the Virtual Campus on the BPP website another great resource to tap into. When studying, I dipped in and out of the different BPP workbooks depending on what was happening at work. I found this was a good way to learn as the workbooks were well structured to enable me to refer to them when carrying out the different aspects of my job. This approach helped me structure my study and revision and worked well in the exams when I needed to provide practical examples. As most other Facilities professionals would agree, it can be difficult to find the time or inclination after a long working day to sit down and study!

I am fortunate in that my employer supported me financially and in addition allowed me a generous amount of study leave which I found was vital leading up to my exams.

I would advise anyone considering studying for their BIFM Exams that it is well worth the hard work and effort. The journey, whilst challenging, provides a fantastic opportunity for both personal and career development and encourages you to become part of a supportive network of people to learn from and to exchange ideas with.

Through achieving my Part II I feel able to add more value in my role and am better equipped to face the challenges and opportunities in Facilities Management!

Joanne Ray, Amlin Insurance Services, BIFM Student of the Year Winner 2008