Disputes can often lead to the breakdown of personal and professional relationships with the harm sustained by the parties involved having a knock-on effect on projects. This is which is why the skills of avoiding, managing and resolving disputes are so valuable. Mediation, for example, draws upon a number of skills, including: ’people skills’ and building trusting relationships; ’process skills’ in identifying key issues; and ’management skills’ in fostering environments that provide people with the best opportunities for achieving results. Such ADR techniques save both time and cost, protecting relationships and enabling important projects to stay on course.

ADR techniques can be important for many academic disciplines and vocational subjects and CIArb has been working closely with educational institutions and students for many years. It has partnered with universities across the world to develop accredited programmes and courses, and has recognised already established courses at educational institutions, so that successful completion of those programmes exempts students from having to undertake CIArb training in order to apply for CIArb membership. CIArb also provides free student membership to undergraduates and postgraduates so that they can access many services and benefits, and concessions to students for some of its membership training courses.

CIArb is proud to partner with educational institutions around the world in the delivery of ADR techniques that be useful in dispute avoidance, management and resolution. CIArb works with educational institutions in delivering these courses, as either extra curricula, or credit-bearing courses. Educational institutions can embed these courses within their existing degree or other courses, or work with CIArb in developing new programmes, enabling all successful students to apply for CIArb membership. Some of the benefits that CIArb's Professional Services’ department provides to members include:

Professional Development Opportunities

- Dedicated ADR interest groups, for example, Young Members Group (YMG)
- Networking events: member-only discounts for regional, national and international events
- EModule, audiobook and other training to support career growth and progression

Professional Benefits

- Use of special postnominal letters for Associate, Member, Fellow and Chartered status
- Online journal (Arbitration journal), Magazine (Resolver) and industry reports
- Regional and global network of 41 branches and many chapters
- Policy, ADR, thought leadership consultations and news updates via our MyCIArb
- Practical ADR resources such as templates, forms, rules, recommended clauses, guidelines and ethics resources

CIArb also has many non-membership ADR training opportunities. For example, it has an audiobook in ADR, Resolving Disputes Today, which universities can purchase to provide their students with vital information on different ADR techniques such as arbitration, adjudication and mediation. CIArb also has eModules that provide individuals with engaging information on dispute avoidance, management and resolution. CIArb has courses in expert witness training, arbitral secretaries training and fundamentals of negotiation that do not lead to membership yet provide important knowledge. Any of these non-membership training courses can be added to CIArb’s membership courses.

For educational institutions that do not need CIArb’s training programmes CIArb offers a ’Recognised Course Provider’ (RCP) scheme by which those institutions with their own ADR programmes can apply to have their courses mapped against CIArb’s learning outcomes and assessments. Should the mapping be successful, CIArb can grant RCP status to those courses, so that students who successfully complete them can apply to join CIArb’s professional community as members.

CIArb is pleased to be working with thousands of students through its 41 international branches around the world. Many of these students have joined CIArb’s free student membership scheme and have unrestricted access to many of the professional opportunities and benefits mentioned above. CIArb is particularly proud of its international Young Members Group, which hosts several ADR events every year. Disputes can have detrimental effects in any profession and CIArb is delighted to be able to offer these opportunities to universities and students through its ‘UniADR programme’.