GLOBAL CONVERGED SECURITY BOARD

Postgraduate Executive Diploma in Converged Security Leadership

PGDCSL Programme and Governance Manual

VERSION 2.0 - FINAL OWNER-APPROVED TEXT

A complete replacement manual covering the programme specification, 17 policy and regulatory documents, and reference appendices.

Document control	Final approved text
Master reference	GCSB-MAN-PGDCSL-001
Preparation / owner approval	15/10/2026
Scheduled effective date	01/01/2027 - subject to implementation and release controls
Approval status	Final text approved by Prof. Dr. Vladimir Bunic on 15/10/2026; not yet in force
Owner	Global Converged Security Board (owner-confirmed; legal documentation separate)
Delivery distinction	CSI remains a separate learning provider
Next review	No later than 01/01/2028
Prepared for	Prof. Dr. Vladimir Bunic, President & Chair

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Approval record and implementation controls

Owner approval: Prof. Dr. Vladimir Bunic, 15/10/2026. This is an approval of the manual text as proposed, not a recorded Governing Council resolution. *The scheduled effective date remains conditional on the controls below and separate authority to release the manual.

Ownership and licensing

Record the IP transfer and any provider licence separately. Confirm the exact owner entity and authorised CSI delivery scope before making legal or licence claims.

Qualification and recognition

Executive-entry rules in Parts II, III and VI were expressly approved by Prof. Dr. Vladimir Bunic on 15/10/2026: eligibility for independent assessed recognition, not automatic exemption or conferment. Confirm operational conferment arrangements, any RPL cap, missing-mark classification, reassessment treatment and current versus historic credential standing separately.

Credit and level safeguards

The owner directed removal of unsupported credit comparisons from this manual on 15/10/2026. Credit terminology, component allocation and assessment weights follow GCSB-STD-004 clause 3. No numerical international credit conversion is reproduced; formal university credit requires recognition through a formal articulation agreement. GCSB-STD-004 is unchanged.

Governance and independence

Confirm appointed independent capacity, Charter quorum and the unconflicted route for CSI-related cases. No new panel is assumed operational.

Publication and transition

Version 2.0 text and its proposed arrangements were approved by Prof. Dr. Vladimir Bunic on 15/10/2026. The scheduled effective date is 01/01/2027 and next review is no later than 01/01/2028. Release was separately authorised by Prof. Dr. Vladimir Bunic on 15/10/2026 after confirmation of the implementation controls. The original source is Version 1.0, with a stated effective date of 01/01/2027; this revision must not invent a historical effective date.

Scope of owner approval

Owner approval finalises the text as proposed, including its safeguards. Matters expressly reserved for a separate decision remain reserved: recognition caps, absent-mark classification, reassessment counting and standing rules. Approval does not invent a new fee, recognition agreement, legal entity, independent appointment or amendment of a controlling standard.

Revision history

Version	Date / status	Summary
CSI 1.0	Effective 01/01/2027 stated in source	Original 78-page manual; source reviewed on 15/10/2026
GCSB 2.0 Draft 01	Prepared 15/10/2026	Replacement draft submitted for owner approval
GCSB 2.0 Final 02	Owner-approved 15/10/2026	Credit wording aligned to GCSB-STD-004; unsupported comparisons removed; executive-entry approval recorded
GCSB 2.0 Final 03	Owner-approved 15/10/2026	Editorial corrections only; no change to rules
GCSB 2.0 Final 04	Owner-approved 15/10/2026	Cover status updated on publication; no change to rules
GCSB 2.0 Final 05	Owner-approved 15/10/2026	Publication wording updated; no change to rules

Contents and document identifiers

Part	New reference	Document
I	GCSB-SPEC-PGDCSL-001	Programme Specification
II	GCSB-POL-PGDCSL-001	Qualification Policy and Academic Regulations
III	GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-002	Modular Progression, Transfer, Recognition and Award Regulations
IV	GCSB-HBK-PGDCSL-003	Executive Integration Portfolio Assessment Handbook and Marking Rubric
V	GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-004	Academic Award, Classification and Conferment Regulations
VI	GCSB-POL-PGDCSL-005	Recognition of Prior Learning, Executive Entry and Advanced Standing Policy
VII	GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-006	Quality Assurance, Assessment Governance and External Verification Regulations
VIII	GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-007	CPD, Credential Maintenance and Membership Distinction Regulations
IX	GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-008	Academic Integrity, Ethics and Professional Conduct Regulations
X	GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-009	Admissions, Registration, Candidate Status and Progress Monitoring Regulations
XI	GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-010	Credential Issuance, Digital Badging and Records Management Regulations
XII	GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-011	Programme Approval, Review and Continuous Improvement Regulations
XIII	GCSB-GOV-PGDCSL-001	Academic Governance Regulations
XIV	GCSB-QF-PGDCSL-012	Qualification Framework and Professional Level Descriptor
XV	GCSB-QF-PGDCSL-013	GCSB Academic Credit Framework
XVI	GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-014	External Examiner, Independent Review and Academic Standards Regulations
XVII	GCSB-GOV-PGDCSL-015	Assessment Board Regulations
XVIII	GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-016	Appeals and Complaints Regulations

Mapping preserves each original POL/REG/HBK/GOV/QF suffix with GCSB replacing CSI. The programme specification and master manual receive new identifiers under the owner-approved manual. Register confirmation is required before release; no published GCSB-POL-NNN identifier is replaced.

PART I | GCSB-SPEC-PGDCSL-001

Programme Specification

Version 2.0 | Final owner-approved text | Scheduled effective date 01/01/2027

1. Purpose and professional status

The Postgraduate Executive Diploma in Converged Security Leadership (PGDCSL) recognises integrated professional achievement in converged security governance, executive leadership, enterprise risk management and organisational resilience. It is an independent professional qualification, not a university degree. The programme title is retained; its use does not establish a nationally regulated qualification level.

2. Owner, authority and delivery

Global Converged Security Board (GCSB) is identified as programme and manual intellectual-property owner following the owner's confirmation of 15/10/2026. Legal assignment and any provider licence must be documented separately. This manual sets out GCSB programme governance and credential authority, subject to GCSB-STD-004 and the implementation controls in this manual. CSI remains a separate education and learning-delivery provider; GCSB does not provide training, consulting or audit services. Provider fees, enrolment or completion do not guarantee a GCSB award.

3. Five-component pathway

The pathway comprises CSCE - Converged Security Cyber Expert; CSP - Converged Security Professional; CSL - Chartered Converged Security Leader; CCSO - Chief Converged Security Officer; and the Executive Integration Portfolio. Each required component must be evidenced under the applicable approved rules. A pathway exemption is not itself the award of a named certification.

4. Learning outcomes

Graduates demonstrate the ability to integrate cyber, physical and operational technology security; design accountable governance; analyse hybrid, systemic and cascading risks; develop resilience and recovery arrangements; lead cross-domain security teams; communicate defensible recommendations to executive stakeholders; and plan measurable organisational transformation. Apply relevant laws only where jurisdiction, sector and scope make them applicable. ISO standards are standards, not legislation.

5. Learning and assessment context

CSI or another appropriately authorised provider may offer online study, facilitated sessions, workplace application and portfolio support within its documented scope. The indicative planning period is 24-36 months. The inherited 18-month minimum and five-year registration period are retained under the approved manual, not retrospective barriers to approved recognition of prior learning. This manual does not itself grant a delivery licence.

6. Recognition and membership

PGDCSL is a qualification. MCSI, MCSL and FCSI are CSI membership grades, governed separately by CSI. FCSI follows CCSO and is not a GCSB award. GCSB-AI, GCSB-AC, GCSB-AA, FGCSB and DFGCSB are separate GCSB Trustmark Awards; they are not automatically obtained by completing PGDCSL. GCSB-Registered External Auditor is a separate registration programme.

PART II | GCSB-POL-PGDCSL-001

Qualification Policy and Academic Regulations

Version 2.0 | Final owner-approved text | Scheduled effective date 01/01/2027

1. Scope and overarching requirements

These regulations apply to PGDCSL candidates, assessors, moderators, approved delivery providers and the GCSB bodies involved in the programme. Final requirements are those approved for the candidate's cohort and communicated before enrolment. No provider may promise certification, transfer credit or external recognition beyond documented authority.

2. Admission routes

The standard route comprises the four core certifications and the Executive Integration Portfolio. Under the executive-entry rules expressly approved on 15/10/2026, executive entry may be considered for applicants with at least 15 years of relevant experience and suitable leadership evidence. Direct CSL or CCSO assessment eligibility does not automatically waive the other PGDCSL components. Component-specific prerequisites remain applicable even where the standard PGDCSL entry route states no additional experience minimum.

3. Recognition and award conditions

Recognition decisions must state whether they concern admission, learning exemption, assessed component recognition or a certification award. Under GCSB-STD-004 every required component must be evidenced and the capstone cannot be exempted. Any alternative executive route that removes required certifications must first receive explicit framework approval and any necessary amendment of GCSB-STD-004; it is not established by this manual.

4. Assessment and reassessment

The portfolio is marked out of 100 with a minimum pass mark of 70. Outcomes are Pass, Revisions Required or Fail, with classification recorded separately. The inherited maximum is three assessment attempts, including the original attempt, with resubmission within 12 months of the notified outcome. The Board must approve and communicate how a Revisions Required outcome counts before release. Any reassessment fee must be disclosed before it becomes payable; no fee amount is invented here.

5. Conferment, integrity and appeals

The Assessment Board verifies moderated results and makes recommendations within its approved mandate. Formal GCSB credential conferment follows GCSB-STD-004 through the Academic Board, subject to independent decision-makers and the Charter. Decisions are documented, communicated with reasons and open to the independent appeal route. Qualification achievement, current credential standing and CSI membership standing are distinct records.

PART III | GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-002

Modular Progression, Transfer, Recognition and Award Regulations

Version 2.0 | Final owner-approved text | Scheduled effective date 01/01/2027

1. Standard progression

Standard progression is CSCE to CSP to CSL to CCSO to the Executive Integration Portfolio and PGDCSL. Each move depends on the relevant component's eligibility and award conditions. The learning pathway does not confer an award merely through elapsed time or attendance.

2. Executive progression and transfer

Applicants may request direct assessment eligibility through the recognition process. Route transfer requires a written mapping of completed and outstanding components, candidate agreement and authorised approval. No transfer awards an unassessed certification or eliminates the capstone. Recognition of learning must be distinguished from recognition of a credential already awarded.

3. Completion period

The single registration period is five years from formal PGDCSL registration, not from the first certification date. Extensions require a reasoned written decision, a completion plan and a currency review. The conflicting ten-year pathway allowance in the old manual is superseded for new registrations. Candidates with an existing approved longer period receive a documented transition or teach-out plan; no retrospective shortening is authorised.

4. Currency and completion

Where standards or component rules materially change, the authorised body determines whether a gap assessment, updated evidence or targeted learning is necessary. The decision must be proportionate and recorded. Completion requires verified evidence of every required component, a passing capstone and formal conferment; valid prior awards are not duplicated or fabricated.

PART IV | GCSB-HBK-PGDCSL-003

Executive Integration Portfolio Assessment Handbook and Marking Rubric

Version 2.0 | Final owner-approved text | Scheduled effective date 01/01/2027

1. Portfolio purpose and format

The capstone assesses applied executive judgement rather than a university dissertation. Submit 3,000-5,000 words, excluding appendices, with an executive summary, organisational context, current-state assessment, risk and gap analysis, converged security strategy, governance and leadership model, implementation roadmap, performance measures, conclusions and recommendations. Identify whether the context is real, simulated or proposed. Protect third-party and personal information.

2. Suitable topics

Suitable topics include enterprise converged security transformation; a CCSO governance operating model; organisational resilience; GCSB Organisational Trustmark readiness; jurisdiction-appropriate regulatory convergence; security technology integration; hybrid, systemic and cascading risks; or an alternative approved by the designated programme authority. A Trustmark readiness portfolio is an educational assessment only, not a Trustmark audit, certification decision or promise of an award.

3. Standards alignment

Reference the GCSB CSF Version 2.0 suite issued on 13/10/2026, using its current document identifiers. Explain how relevant requirements are applied, not simply listed. Regulatory claims must distinguish actual legal obligations from voluntary standards and proposed controls.

4. Weighted rubric

Executive context and problem definition: 10%; risk analysis and security assessment: 15%; application of converged security principles: 15%; governance and leadership design: 15%; organisational resilience strategy: 15%; strategic implementation roadmap: 10%; executive communication and professional quality: 10%; innovation and strategic insight: 10%. Total: 100%.

5. Performance descriptors

Excellent work is evidence-based, critically integrated and executive-ready, with defensible choices and measurable delivery. Good work presents coherent analysis, appropriate evidence and a feasible integrated plan. Satisfactory work meets the required outcomes with sufficient application and justification. Unsatisfactory work is unsupported, materially incomplete, domain-isolated or primarily descriptive. Assessors record criterion-level marks and reasons; descriptors do not replace the published thresholds.

6. Assessment safeguards

Each portfolio has a lead assessor and an independent moderator. No person moderates their own work. Disclose coaching, teaching, employment and other material connections; use independent approval for related-party cases. Suspected authenticity concerns may prompt a documented professional discussion with reasonable adjustments. All distinction recommendations, borderline and reassessment cases receive the required scrutiny before final recommendations.

PART V | GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-004

Academic Award, Classification and Conferment Regulations

Version 2.0 | Final owner-approved text | Scheduled effective date 01/01/2027

1. Final mark

The final weighted mark uses CSCE 15%, CSP 20%, CSL 20%, CCSO 25% and portfolio 20%. This assessment weighting differs from GCSB Academic Credit allocation and must not be substituted for it. Each required component must first satisfy its own pass requirements; a high aggregate cannot compensate for a failed mandatory component.

2. Classification

Classification thresholds: Distinction at 90 or above; Merit at 80 to below 90; Pass at 70 to below 80; below 70 is not awarded. Calculate and retain the unrounded weighted mark; do not round a candidate into a higher classification. The final classification, component marks and calculation are auditable.

3. Recognition without numeric marks

The original manual gives no defensible classification method where executive entry or recognition supplies no numeric mark. Do not invent marks or average only the available components. Until a method is approved, defer classification and any award dependent on it. A portfolio-only or unclassified award route would be a substantive amendment and is not authorised here.

4. Award package and authority

Following independent assessment approval and Academic Board conferment, issue a diploma, transcript, certificate supplement and digital credential. Record name, title, unique number, award date, approved classification, component evidence and verification information. Registrar administration and the President & Chair’s signature evidence issuance; neither replaces the required decision. Ceremonies are optional and have no bearing on award entitlement.

5. Distinctions and revocation

Do not imply that additional Dean’s, annual excellence or executive awards exist without separately approved criteria and authority. Revocation follows the applicable GCSB standards, notice, opportunity to respond, reasoned decision and independent appeal rights. A fee or membership lapse must not be misrepresented as academic fraud.

PART VI | GCSB-POL-PGDCSL-005

Recognition of Prior Learning, Executive Entry and Advanced Standing Policy

Version 2.0 | Final owner-approved text | Scheduled effective date 01/01/2027

1. Principles and categories

Recognition is based on verified learning and competence, not job titles alone. Categories include prior certification, professional experience and executive leadership. No external certification automatically guarantees exemption. Recognise only mapped outcomes evidenced at the required scope, depth and currency.

2. Eligibility and evidence

Executive entry requires at least 15 years of relevant professional experience and evidence of senior leadership, governance, enterprise risk, resilience or transformation responsibility. Direct CSL consideration also requires at least five years of leadership responsibility. Direct CCSO consideration requires executive accountability and board or senior executive engagement. Submit a current CV, employment history and a professional evidence portfolio, normally 1,500-3,000 words, with verifiable references and supporting records.

3. Independent panel and decisions

The approved executive-entry route requires a formally appointed recognition panel with written authority to assess the evidence independently. A provider or the applicant’s instructor cannot alone approve the recognition. Outcomes are Approved, Approved with Conditions, Deferred or Not Approved; each states the scope, mapping, conditions, rationale and outstanding requirements. Appeals are available within 30 calendar days.

4. Credit arithmetic and limitations

Under GCSB-STD-004 clause 3, the four core components carry 15 + 20 + 20 + 20 = 75 GCSB Academic Credits. Seventy-five is an arithmetic subtotal, not an approved RPL entitlement or cap. The maximum recognition allowance remains an explicit approval item. Recognition never waives the 15-credit capstone and does not confer named certifications without the applicable award process.

5. Decision boundary

No executive route may be advertised as automatically satisfying the diploma through CCSO plus portfolio alone while the controlling framework requires all components. Document completion or authorised assessed recognition for every requirement. If an alternative is selected, revise the controlling standard and the full programme suite together before publication.

PART VII | GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-006

Quality Assurance, Assessment Governance and External Verification Regulations

Version 2.0 | Final owner-approved text | Scheduled effective date 01/01/2027

1. Principles

Assessment must be valid, reliable, transparent, fair, professionally relevant and subject to continuous improvement. Candidates receive published outcomes, marking criteria, submission requirements, reasonable-adjustment arrangements and appeal information in advance.

2. Assessor and moderator competence

Appoint assessors with CCSO or equivalent senior standing, executive experience, converged security knowledge and demonstrated assessment competence. Record appointment scope, calibration and interests. Every portfolio is independently moderated. Assessors must not approve or moderate their own candidates where a material conflict prevents independence.

3. Standardisation and sampling

Conduct assessor calibration, sample review and consistency checks. Review all distinction recommendations, borderline cases and reassessments under Part XVI. Independent sampling is proportionate to actual cohort size. Findings, changes and Board responses are recorded; no assumption that an examiner or independent panel is already appointed is made.

4. Programme review

Conduct an annual operational review covering outcomes, reassessments, feedback, appeals, standards and risk; a strategic review every three years; and full revalidation every five years. Material concerns may prompt an earlier review. Candidate protections and documented actions form part of each review.

5. Records and integrity

Keep assessment, moderation, external review and decision records with appropriate access controls and the applicable retention schedule. Authenticity concerns are investigated fairly; automated similarity or AI-detection results alone are not treated as proof. Qualification marketing must not imply government, university or regulatory recognition unsupported by evidence.

PART VIII | GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-007

CPD, Credential Maintenance and Membership Distinction Regulations

Version 2.0 | Final owner-approved text | Scheduled effective date 01/01/2027

1. Annual requirements

Under GCSB-STD-004 the minimum annual requirements are CSCE 10 hours, CSP 15 hours, CSL 20 hours, CCSO 25 hours and PGDCSL 25 hours. Holders of several credentials meet only the highest applicable requirement. CPD is a credential-maintenance requirement, not merely optional. Accepted hours count only after GCSB approval through the relevant CPD process.

2. Evidence and declaration

Record activity, completion date, learning outcomes, claimed hours and evidence. Suitable activities may include relevant study, conferences, research, publications, teaching, mentoring and demonstrable learning through practice. Routine work without identifiable learning does not itself prove CPD. Keep supporting records for at least three years and submit the annual conduct and accuracy declaration through GCSB's CPD arrangements.

3. Status and process

Record current credential standing separately from the original achievement. Non-compliance follows notice, an opportunity to remedy, a reasoned decision and appeal rights. The former automatic six-month grace proposal is not presented as an approved GCSB entitlement without confirmation. CSI membership renewal and FCSI standing remain CSI matters; GCSB does not automatically withdraw CSI membership.

4. Historic achievement

The date and fact of original diploma achievement remain in the historical record unless lawfully corrected or revoked. Current professional credential standing may change under the applicable maintenance rules. A lapsed status is not the same as an expired academic achievement or a finding of fraud. The wording for lifetime diploma recognition and continuing post-nominal use requires express approval against GCSB-STD-004.

PART IX | GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-008

Academic Integrity, Ethics and Professional Conduct Regulations

Version 2.0 | Final owner-approved text | Scheduled effective date 01/01/2027

1. Required conduct

Candidates submit their own work, cite sources, distinguish evidence from analysis, protect confidential material and provide truthful qualification and experience records. Plagiarism, collusion, fabrication, falsification, impersonation, examination fraud and credential fraud are prohibited.

2. Artificial intelligence

AI may support research, editing, proofreading, structure and idea generation within the applicable GCSB rules. Candidates remain responsible for accuracy, originality and their conclusions. Disclose material assistance. Do not invent references, submit content not understood or expose confidential candidate or third-party data to unauthorised services. Apply the published Academic Integrity Standards; no separate unpublished AI ban is invented.

3. Investigation and rights

Allegations receive a proportionate preliminary review, with no action, informal correction or formal investigation as appropriate. Inform the individual of the case, permit a response and evidence, use unconflicted decision-makers and communicate reasons. Sanctions follow the relevant GCSB authority and standards, with independent appeal rights. GCSB sanctions do not automatically remove a CSI membership grade.

4. Publication and declarations

Require the Ethics and Professional Conduct Declaration at the relevant stage. Publish disciplinary information only where justified, proportionate and lawful; do not expose confidential evidence or unsubstantiated allegations. Maintain separate records of assessment outcomes, conduct decisions and current status.

PART X | GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-009

Admissions, Registration, Candidate Status and Progress Monitoring Regulations

Version 2.0 | Final owner-approved text | Scheduled effective date 01/01/2027

1. Registration and candidate information

Register candidates under the approved GCSB programme administration arrangement, with provider enrolment recorded separately. Explain the contracting provider, qualification authority, costs, outstanding requirements, applicable document version, privacy notice and complaints channels. Do not claim CSI is incorporated in Catalonia or supply a company number without confirmed evidence.

2. Status and milestones

Statuses include Registered, Executive Entry, Portfolio Candidate, Deferred, Suspended, Withdrawn and Graduated, with conditions recorded explicitly. Track verified CSCE, CSP, CSL, CCSO and portfolio completion rather than treating membership or payment as assessment evidence.

3. Validity, support and deferral

The registration period is five years from formal registration, subject to approved extensions and cohort protection. Deferral may be granted for up to 12 months for justified personal or professional circumstances. A written decision states whether the registration clock pauses. Candidates receive accessible guidance and progress information without a promise of favourable assessment.

4. Withdrawal, readmission and appeals

Withdrawal does not automatically invalidate independently valid prior credentials or CSI membership. Readmission requires a currency and outstanding-requirements review. Administrative decisions carry reasons and the applicable appeal route, normally within 30 calendar days. Preserve original records and identify any amended decisions.

PART XI | GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-010

Credential Issuance, Digital Badging and Records Management Regulations

Version 2.0 | Final owner-approved text | Scheduled effective date 01/01/2027

1. Issuance controls

Issue a GCSB credential only after the required independent outcome and conferment are recorded. The approved GCSB certificate presentation uses a programme badge centred at the top, no separate GCSB seal, signature on the left and certificate details on the right. The sole signatory is Prof. Dr. Vladimir Bunic, President & Chair. A signature is not an assessment decision.

2. Essential information

Show holder name, qualification title, approved classification where applicable, award date, unique credential number, GCSB issuing authority and United Kingdom. Preserve the original issuer and Spain location for historical CSI certificates; do not backdate or convert them through a blanket replacement. Dates use DD/MM/YYYY. Do not invent a PGDCSL numbering series or new badge without approval.

3. Verification and access

Verify GCSB credentials through https://gcsb.uk/verify and the authorised register. Every newly issued certificate must be checked for correct verification visibility before notifying the holder. Public disclosure is limited to approved non-sensitive fields and lawful scope; email, phone, CV, manuscripts and supporting evidence are not public. Portal download and notification are required operational arrangements, not proof that a new PGDCSL issuance feature already exists.

4. Corrections and retention

Replacements and lawful corrections preserve an audit trail and original award identity. Apply a documented retention schedule, normally at least seven years for qualification decision records under GCSB-STD-004, with lawful exceptions and review. Retain a minimal verification record where justified; do not promise indefinite storage of every admission or portfolio record. Record suspension or revocation accurately without unnecessary disclosure.

PART XII | GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-011

Programme Approval, Review and Continuous Improvement Regulations

Version 2.0 | Final owner-approved text | Scheduled effective date 01/01/2027

1. Ownership and change authority

GCSB is identified as the programme/manual IP owner on the owner's instruction. This manual is not an assignment deed or provider licence. Any reproduction, adaptation and delivery permission must be documented separately, with scope and term. GCSB's Governing Council approves policy and framework changes within the Charter; the Academic Board oversees qualification design and academic integrity.

2. Review and modification

Annual operational review, three-year strategic review and five-year full revalidation examine outcomes, relevance, standards, feedback and integrity. Minor changes may be approved only under written delegated authority. Major changes to components, award conditions, credit, assessment or recognition require the designated approval and aligned controlling documents.

3. Consultation and control

Consult relevant candidates, graduates, employers, independent assessors and providers without giving commercial interests control of standards. Maintain version, approval record, change summary, review date and supersession history. Provider-local instructions must not alter GCSB award rules.

4. Continuity and discontinuation

Suspension or closure requires a documented candidate-protection and teach-out plan wherever reasonably possible. Notify affected cohorts and preserve appeal and record access. Do not advertise future university partnerships, advanced awards or credit agreements as existing arrangements.

PART XIII | GCSB-GOV-PGDCSL-001

Academic Governance Regulations

Version 2.0 | Final owner-approved text | Scheduled effective date 01/01/2027

1. Established structure

Use the existing GCSB governance structure rather than recreate CSI-branded councils or committees. The Governing Council is the professional governing body, not the company's statutory board. The Certification and Standards Committee maintains standards and credential rules. The Academic Board oversees qualification design and academic integrity. The Assessment Board confirms outcomes within its mandate and reports to the Governing Council.

2. Conferment and appeals

Formal credential conferment remains governed by GCSB-STD-004. The Ethics, Conduct & Appeals Committee and independent Appeals Panel hear cases within their published remit. Where GCSB-STD-005 provides Academic Board process review, use eligible independent members and do not permit the original decision-maker to hear the appeal. Registrar administration does not confer awards or decide appeals.

3. Quorum and delegation

The Charter requires a majority of appointed voting members and at least three to participate in a formal decision. A body with fewer than three appointed voting members may recommend but not finally decide. Written resolutions, voting and delegation follow the Charter; a programme rule cannot reduce quorum or authorise a conflicted delegate.

4. CSI-related matters

The founder's connection to CSI is a related-party interest. CSI has no GCSB seat or decision right by virtue of being a provider. Follow GCSB-POL-003 and GCSB-POL-007; recuse conflicted persons and defer if sufficient eligible independent decision-makers are unavailable. The 36-month provider step-aside rule belongs to Organisational Trustmark assessment and must not be silently treated as a universal PGDCSL rule.

5. Appointments and records

Use formally appointed roles and documented mandates, not invented Dean, Council or examiner appointments. All GCSB governance roles remain voluntary, unpaid and remote. Record attendance, quorum, interests, recusals, votes, reasons and delegated authority. The President & Chair's permanent office gives no right to override independent assessment or appeal decisions.

PART XIV | GCSB-QF-PGDCSL-012

Qualification Framework and Professional Level Descriptor

Version 2.0 | Final owner-approved text | Scheduled effective date 01/01/2027

1. Qualification identity

The title is Postgraduate Executive Diploma in Converged Security Leadership (PGDCSL). The GCSB-controlled award is an independent professional qualification, not a university degree. No evidence reviewed establishes placement of PGDCSL on a national regulated qualifications register.

2. Descriptor

The programme aims to develop advanced knowledge, critical evaluation, independent professional judgement, executive leadership and practical governance across converged security, risk and resilience. These are internal design expectations, not formal EQF, RQF, SCQF, AQF or NZQF classifications.

3. Credit allocation

Under GCSB-STD-004 clause 3, the allocation is CSCE 15, CSP 20, CSL 20, CCSO 20 and portfolio 15, totalling 90 GCSB Academic Credits. No unverified learning-hour estimate or external credit conversion is included in this manual.

4. Language and access

The programme uses English assessment and evidence of competence broadly equivalent to IELTS 6.5 or an approved alternative. Do not impose a mandatory purchased IELTS test or claim a validated equivalence without approval. Define reasonable adjustments and alternative evidence, without reducing assessment outcomes.

5. Recognition safeguard

Numerical international equivalence tables are not included until an independently supported mapping and the necessary framework amendment are approved. Admission, transfer, licensure and recognition decisions belong to the relevant institution or authority. No degree-awarding partnership or regulated status is asserted.

PART XV | GCSB-QF-PGDCSL-013

GCSB Academic Credit Framework

Version 2.0 | Final owner-approved text | Scheduled effective date 01/01/2027

1. Allocation and purpose

Ninety GCSB Academic Credits support learning design, progression and transcript transparency: CSCE 15; CSP 20; CSL 20; CCSO 20; portfolio 15. Credits are not assessment weightings. They are GCSB programme credits; external recognition depends on a formal articulation agreement.

2. Accumulation and recognition

Record credits only on verified component completion or approved mapped recognition, explicitly identifying which occurred. Partial accumulation does not confer PGDCSL. Recognition cannot exceed the component value evidenced and does not waive the portfolio. The core subtotal is 75 GCSB Academic Credits; it is not an automatic RPL entitlement. An RPL cap requires separate approval.

3. External transfer

No automatic transfer, degree equivalence or guaranteed advanced standing is offered. A signed articulation agreement must identify the accepting institution, programme, scope and conditions before recognition is advertised. An internal workload arithmetic comparison is not such an agreement.

4. Alignment with GCSB-STD-004

GCSB-STD-004 clause 3 governs the modular accumulation model, the 90 GCSB Academic Credits, component allocation, assessment weightings and non-exemptible portfolio. This manual uses that credit terminology and allocation without reproducing indicative international comparisons. GCSB Academic Credits do not constitute formal university credit unless recognised through a formal articulation agreement. This manual neither amends GCSB-STD-004 nor establishes an external credit conversion.

PART XVI | GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-014

External Examiner, Independent Review and Academic Standards Regulations

Version 2.0 | Final owner-approved text | Scheduled effective date 01/01/2027

1. Purpose and independence

External scrutiny evaluates standards, moderation, classification, outcomes and programme improvement. Examiners are independent of delivery, recruitment, candidate coaching and the decisions they review. Appointments, interests, access and report routes are documented.

2. Eligibility and term

Appoint suitable academic or professional expertise, assessment competence and relevant executive experience. The examiner appointment term is three years with one renewal, subject to approved appointments policy. Do not state that any examiner is in post without a confirmed appointment.

3. Sampling

Review distinction recommendations, borderline and reassessment cases as required. In addition, apply an additional annual random sample of the greater of 10% of submissions (rounded up) or five, capped at the number actually available. Record the sample basis; where the cohort has fewer than five portfolios, review the available cohort.

4. Reports and action

Produce an annual report on assessment standards, performance, portfolio quality, integrity, recognition claims and improvements. The appropriate Board formally responds and tracks actions. Extraordinary review may be commissioned for systemic concerns, major changes or revalidation. Examiners advise; they do not confer awards, overturn appeals or claim external recognition on their own authority.

PART XVII | GCSB-GOV-PGDCSL-015

Assessment Board Regulations

Version 2.0 | Final owner-approved text | Scheduled effective date 01/01/2027

1. Mandate

The GCSB Assessment Board confirms assessment outcomes against published criteria, reviews moderation and independent findings, and recommends qualification outcomes for the formal conferment route. Its reporting line is the Governing Council under the Charter; it is not a newly created CSI body.

2. Composition, quorum and meetings

Use appointed eligible members and written authority. Quorum, voting, written resolutions and remote meetings follow the GCSB Charter, including majority participation and a minimum of three. Do not retain the old 50% programme quorum where it would allow fewer eligible decision-makers. Record recusals before determining quorum.

3. Evidence and decisions

Review verified examination and portfolio results, component completion, recognition mapping, moderation, classification arithmetic and examiner findings. Outcomes may confirm, defer or return a recommendation for clarification. Borderline scrutiny concerns marking consistency, not discretionary gifting of marks. Distinction and reassessment decisions are reasoned and recorded.

4. Integrity, confidentiality and appeals

The Board may defer affected outcomes and refer suspected misconduct to the authorised process; it does not substitute an informal investigation. Keep proceedings confidential and provide the lawful record for independent appeal. Related-party and conflicted cases require independent capacity; lack of capacity means deferral, not a founder or provider override.

5. Programme versus Trustmark

PGDCSL assessment is separate from GCSB Organisational Trustmark readiness assessment, individual Trustmark Awards, programme accreditation and External Auditor registration. A portfolio may use Trustmark readiness as a topic but cannot issue a tier, registration number or Trustmark decision.

PART XVIII | GCSB-REG-PGDCSL-016

Appeals and Complaints Regulations

Version 2.0 | Final owner-approved text | Scheduled effective date 01/01/2027

1. Routes and independence

Qualification assessment, recognition, award and conduct appeals use GCSB's independent route. Teaching, customer service and delivery complaints first go to the contracting provider, without restricting the right to raise GCSB-governance concerns with GCSB. CSI cannot determine an appeal against GCSB's decision. Protect statutory and contractual rights; internal finality is not a restriction on lawful external remedies.

2. Grounds and submission

Under GCSB-STD-005 appeal within 30 calendar days of notification, stating candidate identity, decision, grounds, evidence and desired remedy. Grounds include procedural irregularity, previously undisclosable mitigating circumstances, bias and material administrative error; disagreement with academic judgement alone is not a ground. Late cases may be considered for exceptional circumstances.

3. Panel and review

The panel comprises an independent chair, at least one independent academic or professional member and a non-voting GCSB administrator. No participant in the original decision hears the appeal. Outcomes are Upheld, Partially Upheld, Not Upheld or Referred, with reasons. Any Academic Board process review under GCSB-STD-005 is requested within 14 calendar days, conducted by eligible independent members and does not re-assess the original work.

4. Existing service times

The inherited GCSB-STD-005/006 times are: acknowledgement within five working days; appeal eligibility review within ten working days; panel convened within 30 calendar days of eligibility confirmation; panel determination within 45 calendar days of submission; Academic Board review within 30 calendar days of request; complaint investigation within 30 calendar days of acknowledgement; complaint outcome within 45 calendar days of submission. Notify justified extensions and reasons. Do not turn these service times into unverified promises of an available panel.

5. Complaint access and records

No blanket 14-day programme-end complaint cut-off applies to GCSB complaint guidance; GCSB-STD-006 does not establish it. Keep lawful provider terms separate and do not restrict statutory rights. Use the CSI contact for delivery matters and https://gcsb.uk/contact for GCSB governance and credential concerns. Preserve confidentiality, reasoned outcomes and the applicable seven-year decision-record retention.

PART XIX | Reference appendices

Progression, terminology and references

Appendix A - Progression

Standard route: CSCE > CSP > CSL > CCSO > Executive Integration Portfolio > PGDCSL. Executive entry is eligibility for assessed recognition, not an automatic award shortcut. Award evidence must satisfy the controlling framework.

Appendix B - GCSB Academic Credits

CSCE 15; CSP 20; CSL 20; CCSO 20; portfolio 15. Total 90. Core subtotal 75. Assessment weights are separately 15%, 20%, 20%, 25% and 20%. No external credit equivalence is conferred.

Appendix C - Abbreviations

GCSB: Global Converged Security Board. CSI: Converged Security Institute. CSCE: Converged Security Cyber Expert. CSP: Converged Security Professional. CSL: Chartered Converged Security Leader. CCSO: Chief Converged Security Officer. PGDCSL: Postgraduate Executive Diploma in Converged Security Leadership. RPL: Recognition of Prior Learning. CPD: Continuing Professional Development.

Appendix D - Membership and awards

MCSI follows CSCE/CSP; MCSL follows CSL; FCSI follows CCSO, under CSI membership rules. FGCSB and DFGCSB are GCSB Trustmark Awards, not CSI membership or PGDCSL classifications. GCSB-AA and GCSB-Registered External Auditor are distinct programmes.

Appendix E - Definitions

Candidate: registered person working toward requirements. Graduate: person whose award is formally conferred. Recognition: authorised mapping of prior evidence. Moderator: independent reviewer of assessment. Conferment: formal award decision by the authorised body. Registrar: records and communication office. Current standing: maintained credential status separate from historical achievement. Related-party case: a case involving a connected person or provider under GCSB policy.

Appendix F - International interpretation

The qualification is internally designed for advanced executive professional practice. No formal EQF, RQF, SCQF, AQF or NZQF level, university validation, degree equivalence, licensure or transferable credit is established by this manual. Recognition belongs to the accepting authority. Any supported agreement must be described separately, accurately and within its scope.

Controlling and supporting references

GCSB-POL-001 Governance Charter, Version 1.4; GCSB-POL-002 Interim Governance Statement; GCSB-POL-003 Conflict of Interest and Recusal Policy, Version 1.4; GCSB-POL-007 Related-Party and Institutional Impartiality Policy. Read at https://gcsb.uk/policies.

GCSB-STD-001 Code of Professional Conduct; GCSB-STD-002 Ethics Framework; GCSB-STD-003 Academic Integrity Standards; GCSB-STD-004 Qualification Governance Regulations; GCSB-STD-005 Appeals Framework; GCSB-STD-006 Complaints Framework. Version 1.0, effective 01/01/2027. Read at https://gcsb.uk/standards.

GCSB CSF suite Version 2.0, issued/effective 13/10/2026, next review 13/10/2027. This manual does not reopen or revise the approved CSF text.

GCSB-CSF-STRAT - Converged Security Framework: Strategic Standards for Unified Risk Management and Organisational Resilience

GCSB-ST-CSF-001 - Converged Security Framework Main Standard

GCSB-ST-CSF-TRA-001 - Training and Awareness

GCSB-ST-CSF-GLA-001 - Governance and Leadership Framework

GCSB-ST-CSF-TIA-001 - Technology Integration and Architecture

GCSB-ST-CSF-IRBC-001 - Incident Response and Business Continuity Framework

GCSB-ST-CSF-IAM-001 - Identity and Access Management Standard

GCSB-ST-CSF-DPP-001 - Data Protection and Privacy Standard

GCSB-ST-CSF-RMA-001 - Converged Security Risk Management and Assessment Standard

GCSB-POL-CSF-CCSO-001 - Chief Converged Security Officer (CCSO) Policy

Precedence and unresolved conflict

Applicable law and published GCSB standards are not overridden by this manual. Governance follows the Charter; other policies and programme procedures follow within their scope. If provisions conflict, record and resolve the conflict through the authorised body before reliance or release. GCSB-STD-004 controls credential conferment and the modular credit model. The manual does not reproduce international credit comparisons. Any unresolved operational division of responsibilities must be reconciled through the authorised body; the Academic Board remains the exclusive conferment authority.

Source review

Original source: the CSI Programme & Governance Policies page (/policies) and /documents/pgdcsl-programme-governance-manual.pdf. The PDF has 78 pages and identifies CSI as owner and awarding institution; it states Version 1.0 and effective 01/01/2027. Reviewed 15/10/2026. GCSB ownership follows the owner’s instruction, not inferred incorporation details.