

# Investment Advice Diploma



## What is the Investment Advice Diploma (IAD) ?

The IAD provides a sound grounding in UK financial services and consumer relationships, macro-economic environment, settlement, safe custody and prime brokerage, exchange traded futures and options and financial protection. It has been specifically developed to comply with the new examination standards of the RDR.

## Ofqual approval

The Investment Advice Diploma is recognised by Ofqual as the level 4 Diploma in Investment Advice. This qualification is regulated by Ofqual as a level 4 qualification on the Qualifications & Credit Framework (QCF). Success in this qualification carries with it a minimum of 42 QCF credits. Visit [cisi.org/ofqual](http://cisi.org/ofqual). On the European Qualifications Framework, this equates to a level 5 qualification. For further information visit [cisi.org/eqf](http://cisi.org/eqf)

## Who should study for the Investment Advice Diploma?

This qualification has been developed to provide employees advising and/or dealing in Securities or Derivatives, advising on Packaged Products and/or Managing Investments with the knowledge and skills required for their job roles.

## Key features

- **RDR compliant**
- **Syllabus tailored** to meet the needs of employees advising retail clients
- **Benchmark Level 4** qualification
- **Pathway to higher level qualifications**
- **Matches 100%** to relevant appropriate exam standards
- **Free CISI student membership** - become associated with a chartered professional body and take advantage of an extensive range of benefits
- **ACSI designatory letters**

## How is the qualification structured?

The RDR-compliant award is successfully achieved by passing three units:

- UK Regulation & Professional Integrity
- Investment, Risk & Taxation

and one of the following:

- Private Client Advice
- Securities
- Derivatives

## Exemptions

The CISI grants exemptions from one of UK Regulation & Professional Integrity or Investment, Risk & Taxation to applicants who hold appropriate CFAUK, ifs or CII qualifications.

Advisers who hold the IMC4, CII Level 4 Diploma in Regulated Financial Planning or ifs Level 4 Diploma for Financial Advisers and who pass one of the CISI's Securities, Derivatives or Private Client Advice units may be assured that they will still be eligible for a Statement of Professional Standing provided they also meet the FCA's non-qualification requirements. For more info visit [cisi.org/iad](https://www.cisi.org/iad)

## Studying for the IAD

The recommended study time is 140 hours per unit, excluding the Private Client Advice unit which is 180 hours.

You can choose to self-study for the exams using CISI learning manuals and elearning or have formal training with ifs Malta.

The CISI's learning manual policy requires, where available, the most up-to-date CISI learning manual to be purchased when booking an exam, including by an ATP on your behalf. Candidates sitting CISI exams outside of the UK will receive the most up-to-date learning manual for that subject in PDF format and this is included in the international exam price.

Candidates receive one year's free CISI student membership and enjoy access to a number of benefits.

Visit [cisi.org/membership](https://www.cisi.org/membership)

## Assessment

Two units within the programme are two-hour exams comprising:

- UK Regulation & Professional Integrity - 80 multiple choice questions
- Investment, Risk & Taxation - 80 multiple choice questions

and one of the following:

- Securities - 80 multiple choice questions
- Derivatives - 80 multiple choice questions
- Private Client Advice – Three-hour narrative paper

## Next steps

### CISI Membership

If you successfully complete the Investment Advice Diploma you will be eligible for Associate membership of the CISI and you will be entitled to use the designatory letters, ACSI. The extensive continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities available through the CISI's suite of membership benefits ensures financial services practitioners can maintain competence and meet the requirements of firms and the regulator.

Visit [cisi.org/membership](https://www.cisi.org/membership)

### Higher level CISI qualifications

To further theoretical and practical knowledge upon completion of the IAD, a higher level qualification to take is the Chartered Wealth Manager Qualification (formerly known as CISI Masters in Wealth Management)

## Accredited Training Provider



For more information or to book your exam please contact

**Josette Cremona**

**21240335**

**[info@ifsmalta.org](mailto:info@ifsmalta.org)**