Certificate for Financial Advisers (CeFA®)

Gain the Certificate for Financial Advisers (CeFA®) and you can open doors to a rewarding career in financial advice. CeFA® offers the most time and cost effective route to competence available.

Facts at a glance

- Registrations are valid for 12 months
- Registration includes a comprehensive learning manual and free online access to any relevant updates during your registration period
- We recommend you spend between 40–60 hours studying each module
- Each module is assessed by a two-hour multiple choice examination
- Examinations are available on demand at over 150 centres countrywide, with confirmation of the result provided on the day
- Students only resit the units that they have not passed, allowing them to focus on areas of weakness rather than having to revisit the entire syllabus
- In-house examinations with ***ifs*** *e-test*™ through participating employers

About CeFA®

CeFA® consists of four modules that enable you to develop an extensive knowledge and understanding of UK financial regulation, investments and the risks that go with them, retirement planning and protection. The final module will test your ability to synthesise knowledge of these subject areas as effective and consumer-focused financial advice.

CeFA® is recognised as an appropriate qualification by the Financial Services Skills Council (FSSC) and is accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) at level 3 in the National Qualifications Framework.

Getting started

Register online at www.ifslearning.ac.uk/qualifications/register.cfm. Alternatively complete the registration form in your information pack and return it by post or fax. You can also register by phone on + 44 (0)1227 818609.

Useful links

Course information – www.ifslearning.ac.uk/qualifications/courses/cefa.cfm
Syllabuses – www.ifslearning.ac.uk/qualifications/syllabuses/certificate/index.cfm
Registering – www.ifslearning.ac.uk/qualifications/register.cfm
Support – www.ifslearning.ac.uk/qualifications/support/certificate/index.cfm
Booking an exam – www.ifslearning.ac.uk/qualifications/book.cfm
Learning support – www.ifslearning.ac.uk/qualifications/support/certificate/study_materials.cfm
ifs *e-test*™ – www.ifslearning.ac.uk/e-test

Module breakdown

Generic module

MODULE 1

UK Financial Regulation

Unit 1
Introduction to the Financial Services Environment & Products
1hr (50 MCQs)

Unit 2
Financial Services and Regulation
1hr (50 MCQs)

CeFA® route

MODULE 2

Investments & Risks

Unit 3 Principles of Investment
1hr (Section A, 40 MCQs, Section B, 2 case studies of 5 questions each)

Unit 4 Investment Products
1hr (Section A, 40 MCQs, Section B, 2 case studies of 5 questions each)

MODULE 3

Retirement Planning & Protection

Unit 5 Protection
1hr (Section A, 40 MCQs, Section B, 2 case studies of 5 questions each)

Unit 6 Retirement Planning
1hr (Section A, 40 MCQs, Section B, 2 case studies of 5 questions each)

MODULE 4

Assessment of Investment Advice Knowledge
2hrs (6 case studies with 10 MCQs each)

Qualification: CeFA®
(Certificate for Financial Advisers)

Certificate for Financial Advisers (CeFA®)

Additional support

We offer a wide range of additional learning support materials, available for you to purchase. These are designed to help maximise your chances of success, these include:

- specimen examination papers
- revision notes
- Online support service
- Competence Development Tool (CDT) including online access

The Competence Development Tool is a comprehensive, CD-based learning and examination practice tool. The CDT contains the entire bank of specimen questions for the qualification, referenced to the study text, allowing you to identify and improve on areas of weakness.

Post qualification

Qualified CeFA® holders can maintain and develop their competence by using the range of post-qualification services also available from the ***ifs*** *School of Finance*.

Once you have passed all four modules, you will be able to use the letters CeFA after your name.

Progression

The Diploma for Financial Advisers

CeFA, or an equivalent Level 3 qualification, is the entry requirement for the ***ifs*** Diploma for Financial Advisers (DipFA). The DipFA is a new qualification for financial advisers who wish to enhance their prospects by demonstrating a higher level of knowledge and skills.

All parts of the DipFA are accredited at Level 4 in the National Qualifications Framework, consistent with the professionalism proposals within the FSA's ongoing Retail Distribution Review. It is compiled of two compulsory units, Financial Planning Principles (FPP) and Advanced Financial Advice (AFA). FPP develops understanding of the fundamental systems and structures that underpin the financial advice process and AFA develops understanding of specific products, principles and issues affecting clients.

Take your career to the next Level with the DipFA

To find out more please visit www.ifslearning.ac.uk/DipFA.

Adviser Membership

The ***ifs*** *School of Finance* has a comprehensive new Adviser Membership facility offered through the *Institute of Financial Services*, the professional body arm of the ***ifs***. It has been specifically designed to provide access to cost effective and appropriate services that meet the very specific needs of the financial and mortgage adviser community and costs just £60 per annum.

Further information can be found at www.ifslearning.ac.uk/membership/adviser.cfm.

Benefits

Organisation

- The most effective way of meeting the requirement to obtain an appropriate qualification for financial advice
- The unique testing capability allows students to proceed at speed to competent adviser status
- The most cost-effective route to competence in terms of speed to market and overall qualification cost
- Assists staff recruitment, retention and motivation by:
  - investing in staff development
  - providing a progression route to develop talent from within the organisation
  - improving staff performance, effectiveness and knowledge

Individual

- The recognition of professionalism afforded by a financial advice qualification
- Improves career and promotion prospects and allows access to further professional development
- Demonstrates a desire to continue your professional development
- Improves and maintains your knowledge of the financial services industry
- Develops a confidence through increased knowledge and understanding

PB05/09