

EDUCATE — ENABLE — EMPOWER

FUNDS

LEVEL **7**

Professional Certificate in

Complex Financial Instruments in International Financial Services

2021—2022



Who we are

IOB

IOB is a professional community of 33,600 members who work in banking, investment funds and international financial services on the island of Ireland. Professional development of our members through education is at the heart of what we do. IOB provides university level programmes to enable our members achieve and sustain their professional qualifications and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) – essential in meeting customer and regulatory expectations. More than 9,800 individuals studied with us last year and over 23,800 members are registered for CPD schemes administered by IOB.

Excellence in education – a recognised college of UCD

As a recognised college of UCD and the standout banking industry educator, we offer qualifications of the highest standard. We currently offer more than 40 programmes ranging from Professional Certificates (level 7) on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) to Masters Degrees (level 9). We design our programmes to be practical and relevant, but grounded in academic rigour.

Irish Funds

The Irish Funds Industry Association (Irish Funds) is the representative body of the international investment fund community in Ireland. It represents fund promoters / managers, administrators, depositaries, transfer agents and professional advisory firms involved in the international funds industry in Ireland, with over 14,000 funds and net assets of more than €5.4 trillion.

The objective of Irish Funds is to support and complement the development of the international funds industry in Ireland, ensuring it continues to be the location of choice for the domiciling and servicing of investment funds. Through its work with governmental and industry committees and working groups, Irish Funds contributes to the development of Ireland's regulatory and legislative framework. Irish Funds is also involved in defining market practice through the development of policy and guidance papers and supporting industry specific training.

Irish Funds raises the profile of Ireland as the premier location to enable and support global investing through its reputation for trust, capability, and innovation. The Association promotes awareness of the funds industry both internationally and domestically by hosting conferences, events, and seminars and by engaging with the media. Irish Funds is committed to the continued development of its most valuable resource – its people.

For further information, visit irishfunds.ie.

IFS Skillnet

The IFS Skillnet is co-funded by Skillnet Ireland and member companies. The IFS Skillnet programme is dedicated to providing training and networking opportunities for the international financial services sector.

The Network aims to support the sector in maintaining Ireland's position as a top international financial services centre through investment in the specialist skills and expertise of its workforce. The Network is led by a steering group which includes member companies and the leading financial services industry associations.

Network activity

The IFS Skillnet was established in mid-2009. Since then we have delivered over 2,000 courses to 15,000 plus participants from 430 companies operating in the international financial services sector in Ireland. Courses available include, Digital Financial Services, Regulatory Reporting, International Funds, Business Analysis, Project Management and a wide range of management and leadership skills.

Why get involved

- Avail of a comprehensive range of specialist courses designed for the international financial services sector
- Opportunity to significantly reduce training costs through the availability of grant funding
- Provides the opportunity to work with education and training providers to update and amend course content in line with market developments
- Ensure your employees acquire the latest skills to maintain your organisation's competitiveness
- Opportunity to network and collaborate with other member companies.

How to get involved:

- Sign up for free at: www.ifsskillnet.ie
- Email: info@ifsskillnet.ie
- Tweet us: [@ifsskillnet](https://twitter.com/ifsskillnet)
- LinkedIn: [@ifsskillnet](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ifsskillnet)

A new era

In 2021 IOB launched 3 innovations that set a new benchmark.

IOB Learn

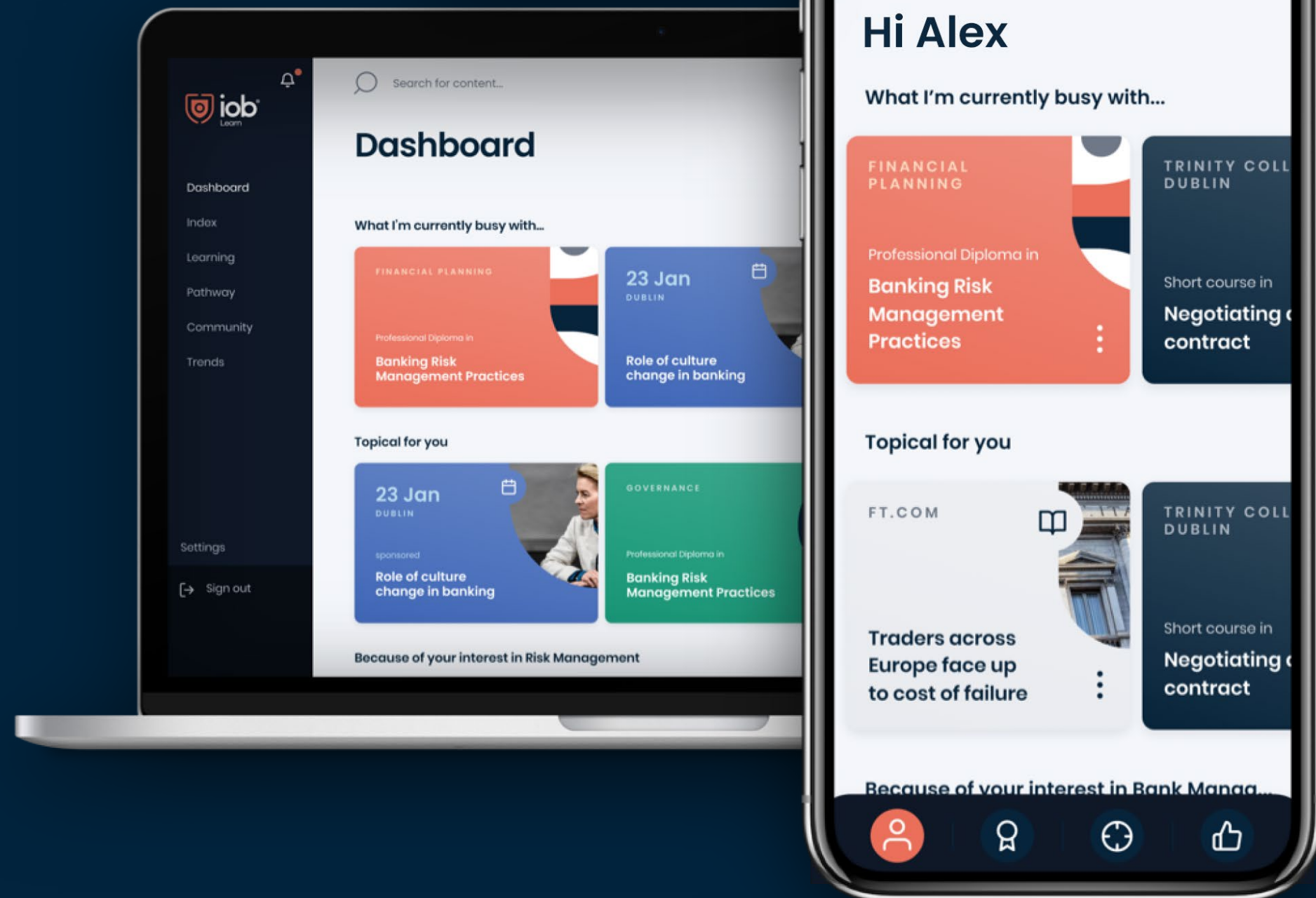
Our new learning experience platform, IOB Learn, is a digitally enabled, intuitive, personalised, lifelong learning and career ecosystem. For everyone working in financial services, including investment funds and international financial services.

The IOB App

From discovering curated content, following your learning pathways, to logging CPD on-the-go, IOB App opens a new world of possibility in staying connected and up to date with IOB.

EdQ by IOB

A new dynamic education credentialling ecosystem that tracks and certifies qualifications, continuing professional development and lifelong learning, supporting career profile recognition across a wide reach of financial services.



Introduction

Who is this programme for?

This programme is designed for an ever-increasing range of people working in the international financial services area who are engaged in activities which require a good working knowledge of the characteristics of derivative products and complex financial instruments.

The use of complex financial instruments in investment fund strategies has seen a huge increase over the past five years. Many alternative fund strategies seek to generate returns from asset classes solely created from derivative structures, such as the use of Total Return Swaps or Credit Default Swaps for long-short strategies in equities or bonds. Derivatives are now used in combination with even the most basic equity and bond management strategies.

The growth in derivative usage comes at a time of vast changes in regulatory oversight in both Europe and the US. The regulatory changes are being implemented through the European Market Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR) and will impact the most fundamental aspects of how these products are traded, how collateral/counterparty risk is treated and how transactions are reported.

Understanding the risk and return characteristics of complex products and the derivatives which underpin those strategies has now become a critical function in the asset management, valuation and trading areas in international financial services. The objective of this programme is to provide you with not only a very practical understanding of how the most common types of complex financial instruments and derivative products are used in the financial markets, but also their use in hedging, risk management and return enhancement strategies.

How you will benefit

On successful completion of this programme, you will be able to:

- Explain how the most common complex financial instruments and derivatives work and understand their uses
- Evaluate the benefits and risks of differing instruments and explain how they can be used for speculation, arbitrage, hedging and general risk management
- Advise on a practical approach to hedging and the wider use of derivatives instruments in the funds industry
- Describe how these instruments are used for investment strategies within the major asset classes (equities, currencies, bonds, commodities and property)
- Appraise the role of regulation and the rating agencies in the application of financial instruments
- Understand the role that complex financial instruments played in the past market turmoil and what lessons can be learned for the future
- Review the use of complex financial instruments in financial institutions from an internal and external viewpoint, including accounting treatment/reporting, risk management and regulation.

Curriculum

You study the following module:

1. Complex Financial Instruments

This module carries 10 ECTS (academic credits).

Complex Financial Instruments

This module introduces the fundamentals of a range of complex financial market instruments. The programme covers the description, use, benefits and risk of standard derivatives (options, futures, forwards, swaps).

The programme also introduces students to a range of instruments which are heavily used in today's financial markets:

- Convertible Bonds
- Collateralised Mortgage Obligations (CMOs)
- Collateralised Debt Obligations (CDOs)
- Mortgage Backed Securities (MBSS)/ Asset Backed Securities (ABSs)
- Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)
- Credit Default Swaps (CDSs)
- Contracts for Difference (CFDs)

The module will also describe how institutions account for, and report the use of, financial instruments and describe what risk management techniques can be applied to their use.

Further Information

Award

When you successfully complete this programme, you will be awarded a Professional Certificate in Complex Financial Instruments in International Financial Services from UCD. This is a level 7 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Delivery

This programme is delivered online.

Assessment

Continuous assessment –
In class test (30%) and end of trimester exam (70%)
The exam consists of written, essay style questions.

Entry requirements

The minimum entry requirements to the Professional Certificate in Complex Financial Instruments in International Financial Services are as follows:

- Five passes in the Leaving Certificate, including English and Mathematics
- Five O Level or GCSE passes, including English Language and Mathematics
- IOB will also consider applications on a mature candidate basis from applicants who are 23 years of age before the date of their application for admission to the programme. Experience in derivatives, although preferable, is not a requirement for enrolling to the programme.

Fees

The programme fee is €1,250

IFS Skillnet Fee

The programme fee is €915

For more information see iob.ie/info/supports-and-scholarships

Professional body membership

You must be a current member of IOB, or become a member, to undertake this programme.

How to enrol

To enrol online, visit
iob.ie/programme/complex-financial-instruments

Contact us

Liz Manley
Programme Manager

E: education@iob.ie



Key Dates 2021–2022



A recognised college of UCD

Autumn Trimester September 2021 – January 2022	Blended Level 7 and Level 8
Closing date for applications*	13/09/2021
Closing date for module registrations	01/10/2021
Trimester start date**	04/10/2021
Re-registration closing date	12/11/2021
Module withdrawal date	12/11/2021
Exam period	03/01/2022 – 23/01/2022
Exam results release date	04/03/2022

Spring Trimester January 2022 – May 2022	Blended Level 7 and Level 8
Closing date for applications*	28/01/2022
Closing date for module registrations	04/02/2022
Trimester start date**	07/02/2022
Re-registration closing date	18/03/2022
Module withdrawal date	18/03/2022
Exam period	02/05/2022 – 21/05/2022
Exam results release date	01/07/2022

Summer Trimester June 2022 – September 2022	Blended Level 7 and Level 8
Closing date for applications*	27/05/2022
Closing date for module registrations	03/06/2022
Trimester start date**	06/06/2022
Re-registration closing date	15/07/2022
Module withdrawal date	15/07/2022
Exam period	05/09/2022 – 25/09/2022
Exam results release date	28/10/2022

* Places may be available after this date depending on availability
** Member Resources in IOB Learn

Dates may change – check IOB Learn and [iob.ie](#) for up-to-date information



Be recognised as an Accredited Funds Professional

The Accredited Funds Professional is a designation developed by IOB in conjunction with Irish Funds. This title is an industry badge of excellence that exemplifies your funds expertise, client focus and professional standing, supported by lifelong learning.

As an employer in the funds industry, your talented people hold a title that is an external validation of their professional competence and commitment to lifelong learning.

Employees working in Ireland's investment funds sector can now demonstrate and maintain competence and professionalism in the international investment funds sector through the new Accredited Funds Professional designation. Those with the Accredited Funds Professional designation will send a clear signal to all stakeholders that lifelong learning and professionalism is valued by themselves and by their employer.

Launched in 2020 The Accredited Funds Professional designation was developed by IOB, the leading provider of applied education to the financial services industry in conjunction with Irish Funds, the representative body for the international investment fund community in Ireland. The designation is an externally validated badge of excellence and an endorsement of academic qualifications, professional knowledge and experience and fulfils an objective set out in Ireland for Finance 2025.

Pat Lardner, Chief Executive of Irish Funds said "The investment funds industry directly employs over 16,000 people from all parts of Ireland and our growth over 30 years has been enabled by the expertise and professionalism of our people. This designation will better prepare us for the future and further underlines Ireland's credentials as a global funds centre which serves investors from 90 countries."

Accredited Funds Professional creates an industry standard for recognising consistency and professionalism in the funds industry. Support for the designation will distinguish Ireland's investment funds industry amongst its global peers and differentiate Ireland as a leading fund services jurisdiction and sustain Ireland's world ranking for its people talent.

Holders of the Accredited Funds Professional designation are required to complete 10 hours of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) annually and IOB commits to providing a suite of eCPD material on topical and important issues relevant to the funds industry.

At this time, some new material available on IOB Learn includes:

- Tax Landscape for Funds;
- Fund Distribution;
- Organisational Effectiveness for Fund Management Companies;
- Regulatory Insights Sessions;
- Legal and Regulatory Update;
- A comparison between key Fund Jurisdictions;
- The MIFID II Product Governance rules.

All Irish Funds events are accredited for CPD hours towards the Accredited Funds Professional designation.

IOB membership

Learn more about the value and benefits of becoming a member of IOB.



Your standout educator

IOB is a recognised college of UCD, which is Ireland’s largest university and ranked within the top 1% of higher education institutions in the world. A leading provider of applied education in financial services, we offer more than 40 university accredited qualifications, taught by academics and leading industry experts.

- Access to IOB’s full suite of accredited learning, taught by academics and leading industry experts.
- Access via IOB to Government Funding for education programmes, e.g. Springboard, IFS Skillnet.
- Graduation Ceremony for level 8 and 9 graduands.



We get you qualified

We offer 14 professional designations, including all the essential regulatory required designations to qualify you for roles in financial services. Free accreditation of your training for CPD hours on IOB CPD schemes.



We keep you qualified

Lifelong learning is essential to sustain a career and your professional designation(s). As Ireland’s largest provider of continuing professional development (CPD), we keep you qualified. Included in your membership subscription at no additional cost is access to a minimum of four continuing professional development events in addition to our suite of eCPD modules.



IOB Learn

An exciting new learning experience platform, and an IOB app personalised to your professional development needs. IOB Learn will give you access to a new suite of micro learning and curated learning content across a number of channels.



Your essential career partner

Through IOB Learn we empower you to explore your talent and potential. We fuel your personal growth and career trajectory.



Your professional community

Membership of your industry’s professional body, the largest professional membership community in Ireland, brings you into a community of like-minded people. Professionals from across financial services working in a similar specialism as you, dealing with similar challenges to those that you face. Through in-person events, digital events and forums you can hear key note speakers and share experiences, exchange knowledge, network, expanding your contacts and personal profile.

- Invitations to in-person and virtual events and networking opportunities.
- Access to breakfast briefings / lunch and learns.
- Access to the latest insights, thought leadership, emerging issues and trends.

Corporate membership

Learn more about the value and benefits of becoming a corporate member of IOB.



Strategy and Governance

IOB Council (board of directors) and Council committees are responsible for the effective, prudent and ethical oversight of IOB, setting its strategic aims and direction. Corporate members are entitled to either appoint or elect persons to Council.

Active engagement, participation and leadership in IOB Council and Council Committees is a commitment to setting and maintaining high professional and ethical standards, and enhancing the technical expertise of the financial services industry.



Talent development

An organisation’s greatest resource is its people. IOB’s wide range of applied education and lifelong learning programmes develop your talented staff.



Future skills

Financial services continues to change rapidly. IOB helps build transferable skills for the individual and a more flexible workforce for your organisation.



Regulatory compliance

Where relevant, our education qualifications, professional designations and CPD schemes meet the Central Bank of Ireland’s Minimum Competency Code and Fitness and Probity requirements. Our new EdQ credentialing platform supports you in meeting your regulatory responsibilities.



Professional standing

IOB offers a range of professional designations which are a recognition of educational achievement and professional standing. They are a badge of excellence and an endorsement of academic qualifications, professional knowledge and experience. Several of the designations are recognised worldwide.



Independent assurance

IOB is an independent stamp of assurance that supports organisations in engaging, motivating and empowering their employees to learn and perform.



Corporate community

Build your network with a community of peers – learn from other leading organisations, share your knowledge and expertise.

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