

RETAIL BANKING

LEVEL **9**

Pathway to MSc in

Financial Services

2021—2022



A recognised college of UCD

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.

Award

Successful participants will be awarded the MSc in Financial Services from UCD. This is a level 9 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Completing this programme will allow participants to stand out among their peers, providing participants with a competitive advantage with colleagues, clients and prospective employers by developing the necessary skills and experience needed to succeed in today’s dynamic work environment.



A new era

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

IOB Learn

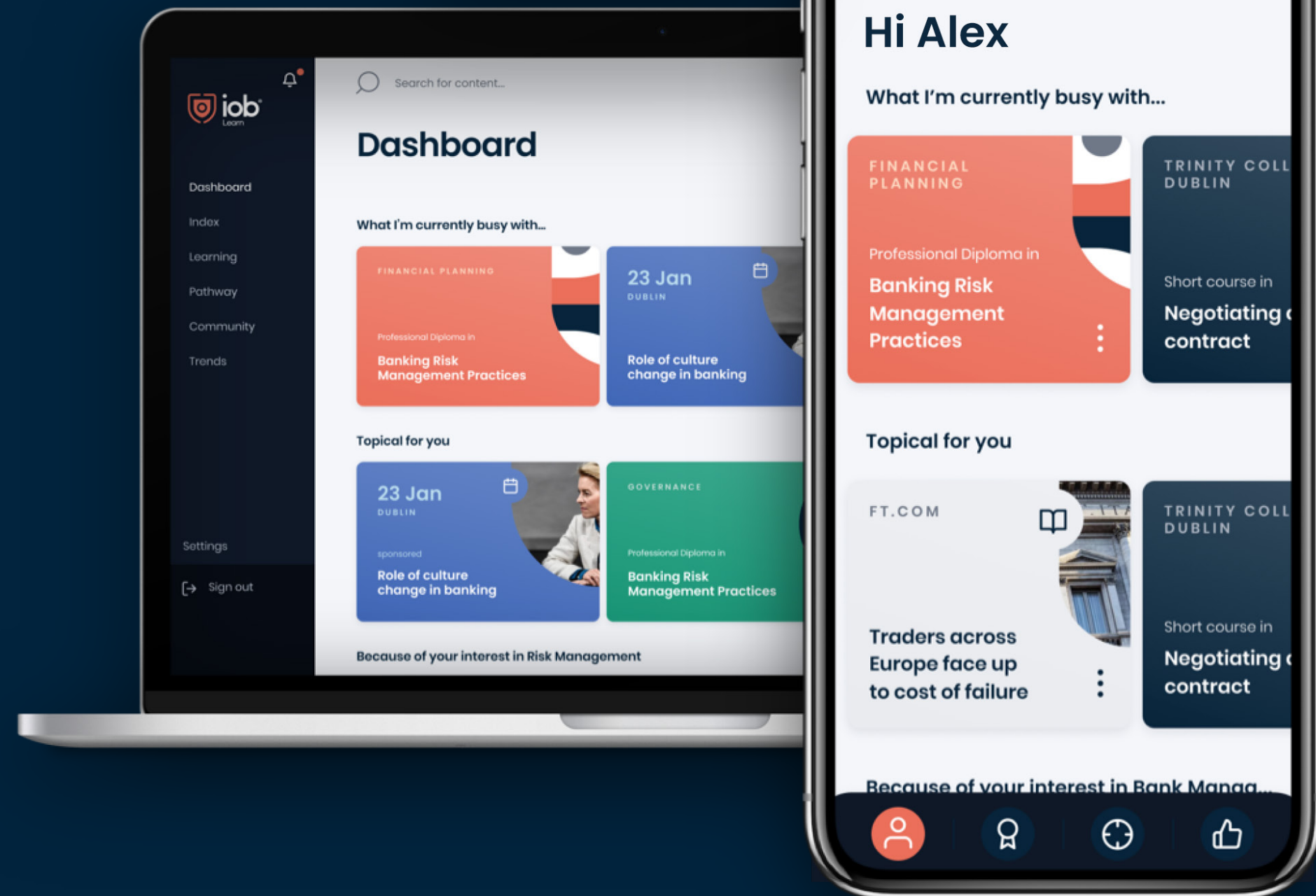
Our new learning experience platform, IOB Learn, is a digitally enabled, intuitive, personalised, lifelong learning and career ecosystem. For everyone working in financial services, including investment funds and international financial services.

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

Pathway to MSc in Financial Services

The Pathway to the MSc in Financial Services is a flexible way for you to master critical skills that are aligned to your career plans and that prepare you for tackling complex financial services management challenges.

If you're an experienced professional who wants to deepen expertise in your chosen career while enhancing your strategic mindset, then this flexible MSc Pathway offers you the very best learning experience and a world-class qualification.

The Pathway is a progression route which allows you to achieve your MSc in Financial Services as a series of 'bite-sized' Professional Diploma awards. With lectures delivered online, students can study from anywhere in Ireland.

Who is this programme for?

The programme is ideal for financial services professionals who are in leadership positions, or who aspire to leadership roles.

The Pathway to MSc in Financial Services aims to develop expertise in your chosen areas of interest (e.g. Digital, Data, Culture, Risk Management, Retail Banking or Investment Funds) while fostering a strategic perspective to enable you to assess strategic alternatives, identify new growth opportunities, and solve complex problems in financial services.

The curriculum develops industry specific knowledge and research insights and utilises students' practical experience to promote peer learning. An important aspect of the programme is the integration of technical skills and a focus on strategic challenges facing financial institutions to identify opportunities and threats arising in the global marketplace. Students will critically evaluate the implications of operating in a dynamic business environment and the challenges they face in developing and executing strategies to provide value added products, services and solutions as firms seek to create compelling value propositions to support sustainable competitive advantage.

How you will benefit

On completing the MSc in Financial Services graduates will be able to:

- Critically appraise the forces shaping financial services (including regulation, technology, competition, risk, customer/client expectations);
- Assimilate a range of theoretical and empirical evidence to analyse complex problems and develop and evaluate innovative solutions and strategic alternatives;
- Formulate strategy and policy for the financial services firm cognisant of the impact it may have on wider society and the need to recommend courses of action in an ethical and sustainable manner;
- Critically evaluate the trade-offs between an institution's risk appetite, related internal control framework, operating model and its profitability;
- Communicate clearly to stakeholders, using appropriate media and reporting standards, contemporary issues, decisions and developments in retail banking and financial services.

Curriculum

Programme Structure

The Pathway provides an overarching framework of individual professional diploma awards designed to meet students evolving needs. On successful completion of an individual professional diploma (30 ECTS credits), students can carry the credits earned towards achieving the MSc in Financial Services (90 ECTS credits) through subsequent study.

To attain the MSc in Financial Services award, students need to complete two separate Professional Diploma awards of their choice plus the core Professional Diploma in Strategic Management in Financial Services.

Students complete individual Professional Diplomas on a stand alone basis, but need to complete all three Diplomas within seven years to be eligible for the MSc in Financial Services award.

This gives students flexibility to engage with a programme as their career and personal circumstances change.

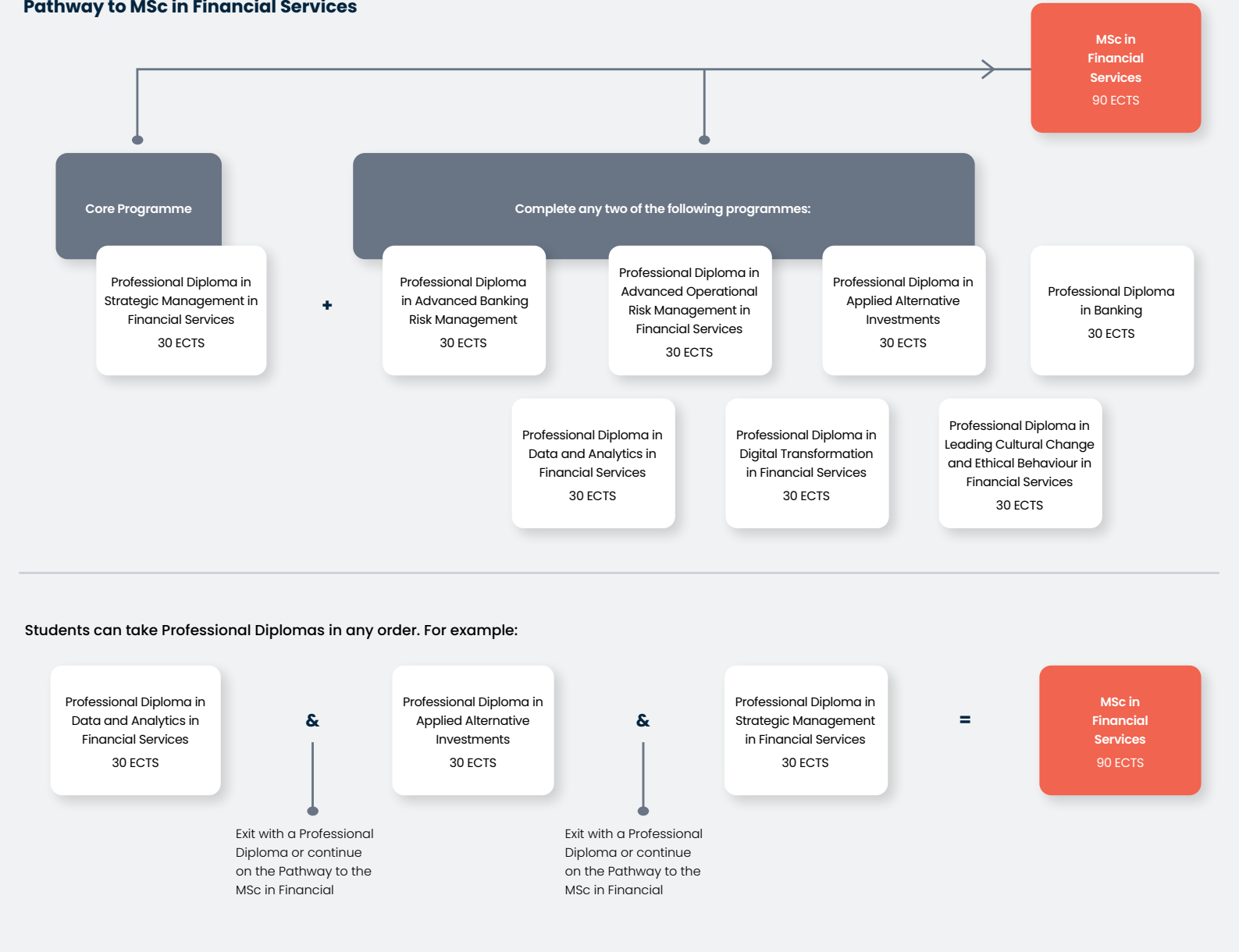
“ IOB’s Pathway to MSc in Financial Services gives professionals fantastic flexibility to develop different skillsets as their career progresses and build towards an MSc qualification from Ireland’s top ranked university. The rapid changes in financial services require professionals to learn continuously in order to perform at their best and succeed and the Pathway to the MSc in Financial Services perfectly meets this need.”

Noel Gavin

Senior Vice President,
Global Lead, CIS Learning & Development at
Northern Trust Financial Services

www.northerntrust.com

Pathway to MSc in Financial Services



Further Information

Entry Requirements

Those interested in embarking on the Pathway to MSc in Financial Services apply in the first instance for one of the constituent Professional Diploma programmes within the Pathways framework.

The entry requirements to these constituent Professional Diplomas in most cases are:

- An Honours degree (min. 2.2 L8 NFQ)
- or
- Admission may also be considered for experienced professionals who do not meet the admission requirements as set out above, where they can demonstrate knowledge through their work i.e. they have more than 5 years' experience in a management role (to be considered on a case-by-case basis).

Continuing professional development

If you hold an IOB designation or a designation managed by IOB, CPD hours may be awarded on successful completion of this programme.

Award

When you successfully complete this programme, you will be awarded a MSc in Financial Services from UCD.

This is a level 9 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Delivery and Assessment

The programme is delivered online, please visit iob.ie/programme/msc-financial-services for details on the assessment methods.

Professional Body Membership

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

How to apply

To apply online, visit iob.ie/programme/msc-financial-services

Contact us

Aisling Kellegher
Programme Manager

E: education@iob.ie



Key Dates 2021–2022

Autumn Trimester September 2021 – January 2022	Level 9 September Start†	Level 9 October Start†
Closing date for applications*	29/08/2021	13/09/2021
Closing date for module registrations	03/09/2021	01/10/2021
Trimester start date	13/09/2021 (Year 1) 06/09/2021 (Year 2)	04/10/2021
Re-registration closing date	05/11/2021 for Dec exams 12/11/2021 for Jan exams	12/11/2021
Module withdrawal date	05/11/2021 for Dec exams 12/11/2021 for Jan exams	12/11/2021
Exam period	04/12/2021 – 12/12/2021 OR 03/01/2022 – 23/01/2022	03/01/2022 – 23/01/2022
Exam results release date	04/03/2022	04/03/2022

Spring Trimester January 2022 – May 2022	Level 9
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	Level 9****
Closing date for applications*	28/05/2022
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	15/09/2022 – 25/09/2022
Exam results release date	28/10/2022

* Places may be available after this date depending on availability

† Check individual programme pages on [iob.ie](#) for start dates
Dates may change – check IOB Learn and [iob.ie](#) for up-to-date information



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.

IOB
1 North Wall Quay, Dublin 1,
D01 T8Y1, Ireland
Phone: +353 (0)1 611 6500
Email: info@iob.ie
iob.ie



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