

# Undergraduate prospectus 2013

Full-Time Programmes

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# Professional degrees for careers in banking and finance

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# Contents

## About the *ifs School of Finance*

About the <i>ifs School of Finance</i> .....	4
Our links to the financial services industry .....	6
Campus locations .....	7

## Student Life

An experience beyond learning .....	10
Student support and advice .....	12
Teaching and learning .....	13
Money matters .....	14

## Courses

BSc (Hons) in Banking Practice and Management.....	18
BSc (Hons) in Finance and Accounting for Financial Services ...	20
BSc (Hons) in Finance, Investment and Risk .....	22

## Further Information

<i>ifs</i> student membership .....	26
Part-time study and flexible learning .....	27
Entry criteria .....	28
How to apply .....	29
Fees .....	29
Chartered Associateship .....	29
How to find us .....	29
International students.....	30
Open days 2012 .....	32







# About the *ifs* School of Finance



## About the *ifs* School of Finance

With its dedicated focus on banking and finance and over 130 years experience of educating financial services professionals, the *ifs* School of Finance offers you a learning experience of the highest quality designed to give you the knowledge, skills and insight that you need for a successful career.

The *ifs* School of Finance is a not-for-profit professional body and educational charity incorporated by Royal Charter. We hold the same taught degree-awarding powers as a university but are unique in our dedication to banking and finance subjects. If you are looking for a degree that prepares you for a successful career in the banking and finance sector then the *ifs* has much to offer.

### Heritage

We have been educating financial services professionals for over 130 years and hold an unrivalled reputation within the banking and financial services industry for producing graduates of the highest calibre, with a detailed understanding of the industry and the practical skills to apply that knowledge in the workplace.

Founded in 1879 as the Institute of Bankers we have remained at the forefront of professional education in financial services ever since. *ifs* alumni are employed by every major banking institution in the UK and can be found in senior positions right across the international financial services industry. There are in excess of 59,000 alumni of *ifs* degree programmes in over 120 countries.

“

*Banking is a service industry, and service industries survive on the talent of those they employ. Given the technical nature of, and the relentless pace of evolution across, what banks do, relevant professional education is essential for developing and maintaining a talented workforce in banks.*

*The *ifs* School of Finance has been integral to the banking sector for 130 years because of its ability to provide that. I welcome the granting of power for the *ifs* to award degrees, as I have every expectation that it will raise even further the standards of the qualifications of those who benefit from what they do.*

”

**John Varley,  
former Group Chief Executive,  
Barclays Bank plc,  
Hon DSc (Banking and Finance)**



## Professionalism

We are the only UK degree awarding institution that is also an internationally recognised professional body. Many employers look for professional qualifications when recruiting. Studying with the **ifs** not only gives you a recognised and respected honours degree on a par with any other, but also a professional qualification recognised by financial services employers the world over.

## Employability

We have made employability a cornerstone of all our programmes and are focused on producing graduates that have the critical combination of knowledge, practical skills and understanding that can be applied in the professional world.

Many major banks include **ifs** qualifications within their management development programmes. They cover the essential understanding needed to prepare for a successful career and crucially reflect what employers look for in potential recruits. Work-based Learning is strongly encouraged and support is provided in finding suitable work placements and internships.

## Student focus

We regard our students highly and believe they deserve to be provided with knowledge and skills and given a learning experience that has a genuine and positive impact on their professional and personal lives. We are committed to delivering our teaching in innovative ways and to offering programmes that represent real value for money in terms of student support, contact time and course content that prepares them for successful careers in banking and finance.

We always place our students at the core of our approach, regularly gathering and acting upon feedback about their courses of study and ensuring that the student community is represented in all relevant decision making bodies.

“

*HSBC is committed to ensuring our people continue to enhance their knowledge and skills, increasing professionalism and strengthening the relationships with our customers. The qualifications offered by the **ifs** School of Finance embed a core understanding of the financial services market and the technical skills required to be our customers' trusted adviser of choice.*

”

**Gregg Carnaffan,**  
**Graduate Development Manager,**  
**HSBC Bank plc, UK**



## Our links to the financial services industry

Our long-standing and well-established industry links enhance the teaching and learning experience for all our students. You can gain valuable exposure to potential employers through seminars and excursions, and the active alumni network of over 100,000 industry professionals with whom you can engage through our various alumni events and professional networking groups.

We are strongly supported by the financial services industry, in particular the major financial institutions which employ large numbers of **ifs** students and alumni. Gaining an **ifs** qualification offers you an edge in a competitive recruitment marketplace and the knowledge and skills you need to underpin a successful and fulfilling career.

**ifs** alumni can be found working for leading organisations in financial services and related sectors across the UK and Internationally, including:

Accenture	Lloyds Banking Group
Allied Irish Bank	Nationwide
American Express	National Australia Group
Aon	Norwich Union
Axa	PricewaterhouseCoopers
Bank of England	Prudential
Bank of Ireland	RBS Group
Barclays	Santander
BDO Stoy Hayward	Société Général
BNP Paribas	UBS
Deloitte	Citigroup
Deutsche Bank	Visa International
Ernst & Young	West Bromwich Building
Society	Yorkshire Building Society
HSBC	Zurich Financial Services
Legal and General	

Our industry links are further enhanced by the opportunities we offer our students to engage and interact with the financial services community which include guest industry speakers, access to alumni events, internships and our professional mentoring scheme.

*The great thing about the **ifs** School of Finance is, not only do you learn all the required theory to succeed, but you are also exposed to the real world settings of the financial industry, through the trips that they organised for us. The most recent to the London Metals Exchange showed us the intense and dynamic atmosphere of a live trading floor. The **ifs**' faculty has a vast experience in the financial industry and the variety of teachers has proven to be very supportive both in and outside of class.*

**Farah Al-Malazi**  
**ifs School of Finance BSc student**



# Campus Locations

Study for *ifs School of Finance* degrees is offered at campuses in London, Birmingham and Leeds with a number of further campus locations planned across the UK. Whilst each campus is unique by nature of its location, the *ifs* is committed to delivering an equivalent exceptional learning experience to you irrespective of the campus you attend.

## London

Our London campus, Peninsular House, is situated near Monument in the heart of the City's financial district and surrounded by many of the world's leading financial institutions.

Peninsular House provides an excellent, professional, modern learning environment. Each lecture room is fully air conditioned and incorporates state-of-the-art audio-visual and conference equipment. Dedicated areas are available for students study, group and project work with extensive IT resources on hand.<sup>†</sup>

## Birmingham

Our degree programme is delivered in partnership with Birmingham Metropolitan College at its Matthew Boulton Campus.

The buildings and facilities at Birmingham Metropolitan College have everything you would expect from a modern, progressive college. Based in the heart of the city, Matthew Boulton Campus has won a RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) award for Design Excellence. Built in 2005, this impressive building has many outstanding features including dedicated student areas, well equipped learning suites and facilities of the highest standard.



## Leeds

Our degree programme is delivered in partnership with Leeds City College at its Park Lane Campus. Leeds City College is one of the UK's largest colleges and operates out of a number of main campuses. Its Park Lane Campus is ideally located within walking distance of the city-centre. The buildings provide modern, learning environments and include specialist curriculum teaching facilities, a refurbished and well equipped library, student social areas and refectory canteen.

The Campus is home to the Leeds City College Academy, a seven storey / sixty room energy efficient building which incorporates solar panels to generate electricity and the roof is covered with "sedam" to provide insulation and "green space" in the city.

## Other locations

In response to increasing demand, we will also be offering *ifs* degree programmes through selected academic partners in other major cities across the UK.

To find out more please visit [ifslearning.ac.uk](http://ifslearning.ac.uk)

<sup>†</sup> Lectures take place at Peninsular House and in other central London academic partner locations.



General  
Internet  
10.00  
15.00  
20.00  
25.00  
30.00





Student life



# An experience beyond learning

Studying at the *ifs* School of Finance is about more than simply getting a degree. Our city locations and the professional environment we provide give you the opportunity to develop essential life and professional skills whilst also enjoying access to a wealth of enriching culture and entertainment.

## London

London offers an extensive metropolitan life-style that is unmatched anywhere else in the world. The *ifs* campus, in the heart of the financial district, is surrounded by a plethora of history, culture and entertainment opportunities.

Within a few minutes of the campus by foot or underground you'll find the iconic historical sites of the Tower of London, St Paul's Cathedral, Trafalgar Square, the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace. For art lovers, the Tate Modern, the National Gallery and the South Bank Centre are within easy reach while theatre goers are spoilt for choice with the West End a few minutes away and Shakespeare's Globe theatre a stone's throw across the river.

Mayfair, Oxford Street and Soho, some of the most famous entertainment and shopping districts in the world are a short tube journey away, with their diverse restaurants, buzzing nightlife scenes and flagship stores. The *ifs* is also well located for fashionable parts of London such as Camden, Shoreditch, Old Street and Brick Lane whose trendy bars, restaurants and clubs are destinations for an incredibly diverse mixture of music, art and food lovers.



## Birmingham

Birmingham is the UK's second largest city. It's a lively, dynamic, multicultural metropolitan city offering a world class cultural scene, superb shopping, fantastic nightlife and access to some of the UK's most breath-taking countryside. Home to some 50,000 students, Birmingham is a city tailored for every student's needs. There is always something to do whatever your preference with plenty of bars and clubs located on the well known Broad Street, Mailbox and Brindley Place areas. Cafes and restaurants situated all over the city deliver every type of cuisine imaginable. The diversity of the music scene covers every genre you could imagine, the city is bursting with house, R & B, drum and bass, rock, 70's & 80's, indie, jazz, soul, garage and classical hosted at the Birmingham Symphony Hall, one of the world's finest concert halls.

Birmingham has a fine tradition of shopping amenities, playing host to the renowned Bullring, one of Europe's largest shopping developments. Birmingham is also host to many great events and shows and has an artistic scene that reflects the softer side of the city. The Alexandra, Hippodrome and Birmingham Repertory Theatres often have the latest opera, screen-play and comedy acts performing and the many art galleries really encapsulate the city's modernisation.



## Leeds

As the fourth largest city in the UK, Leeds is exciting and ever growing. It frequently ranks among the most popular student destinations in the country as well as being a cost effective place to study. From one of the best shopping experiences outside London, to restaurants serving up international cuisine from around the world, Leeds has much to offer.

Leeds has a thriving social scene with its clubs, bars and pubs offering something for every taste. It has some excellent music venues and festivals, which have played host to some of the world's biggest names, and a reputation for being one of the UK's favourite clubbing destinations.

Art galleries, historic sites and sculpture parks in and around Leeds house some of the finest art collections in the UK and for those who enjoy the great outdoors, there are plenty of open spaces to explore.

For sports fans, Leeds is well known for its legendary sporting heritage and is home to a number of renowned football, cricket and rugby clubs.



## Students' Union

All students based at the **ifs** London Campus are entitled to become associate members of the University of London Union (ULU). ULU is located on Malet Street in central London, just a short journey from the **ifs** on the underground. ULU comprises the major universities in London and is run for students by students themselves. Membership entitles you to get involved with everything that ULU has to offer including access to bars, places to eat, entertainment, clubs and societies.

Students based at the **ifs** Birmingham and Leeds campuses will have access to each college's active Students' Union, which organise trips, social and sporting events.

The Students' Unions are run by the students themselves and being a member means you are entitled to apply for an NUS card, which enables you to get discounts locally and nationally on clothes, books, music, cinema tickets, travel clubs and restaurants.



# Student support and advice

All **ifs** students have access to guidance on a range of issues including study support and resources, advice on practical matters such as finding accommodation and confidential pastoral support and advice.

## Programme Manager and Lead Tutor Support

At each campus delivering our programmes we provide a focal point of student contact and support in the form of a programme manager or lead tutor. Their role is to ensure that our programmes are delivered on their promise and are meeting the needs of our students. They are easily accessible by students and can provide support and advice on any aspect of study or student life.

## Advice and Pastoral Care

The **ifs** also has a dedicated team of advisors who are on hand to assist students. They are able to provide advice on pastoral matters in the strictest confidence and where appropriate put students in contact with a range of other supporting organisations.

The advisers in our Admissions, Academic Management and Student Services Offices are also available to support students who may be experiencing difficulties with their studies.

Chaplaincy support is available to London students. Birmingham and Leeds students are able to use the free, confidential student counselling service available at each college.

## Mentoring

The **ifs** also operates a student mentor scheme. Mentors have first hand experience of studying with the **ifs** and can offer support with study skills, motivation, and time management. They are committed to helping you overcome any issues you might encounter on the path to successful completion of your course. **ifs** mentors are already working within the financial services industry so can also offer advice and guidance on career development and securing employment.

## Careers

We offer a wealth of career support to our students. In addition to our mentoring scheme we also provide guidance to students on such things as CV preparation and interview techniques. We run an annual programme of careers seminars and provide opportunities to network with employers at our alumni events and lectures. We also provide assistance to our students in securing work placements during their studies.



## Teaching and learning

The *ifs*' approach to teaching and learning ensures that you complete your studies with a deep theoretical understanding and the real-world practical knowledge needed to apply that theory in the workplace.

### Study

In your first year there will be approximately 12 to 14 hours face-to-face teaching contact time per week. As with any programme at degree level, you will also be expected to undertake a considerable amount of independent study. On-line discussion forums will support your developing abilities to critique and challenge models. You will learn the theoretical frameworks and explore their use through research, report writing and via debate and discussion with your fellow students.

### The Lecturing Team

We ensure a blend of academic and vocational experience within our lecturing team. Many of our lecturers have themselves worked in the financial services industry and this enables them to help you understand how the theory relates to practice.



“

*This qualification helped me take the academic theory learned and put it into a working, everyday context that was relevant to banking.*

*Added to this, the tutors on the course were incredibly supportive and really ensured the content was “alive” and tailored to the fast paced environment of banking.’*

”

**Andrew Cooke,**  
***ifs* degree student**

### Putting it into context

Throughout the duration of your studies you will have opportunities to understand how your learning can be applied to the workplace. You will hear from a variety of guest lecturers who hold senior positions within the industry and as such are able to give you unrivalled insight and understanding of the subjects under discussion. We also provide opportunities for students to engage with industry professionals via our alumni events and networking programmes and our student mentoring scheme.

We strongly encourage work based learning, either as part of the course itself or as a complementary activity to support your studies and your future employment prospects. The course team can provide assistance to you in identifying and securing suitable placements and internships. It will work with employers to ensure that any placements are adding genuine value to your studies and experience.





# Money matters

Under the present arrangements, if you are a full-time student studying on your first higher education course, you can apply for a government loan for your tuition fees along with a means-tested maintenance loan to help with your costs of living. You may also be eligible for additional support in the form of maintenance grant.\*

The *ifs* also offers a range of scholarships and bursaries.

## Government Grants and Loans\*

Government grants and loans can help to cover student tuition fees and living costs. Financial support and applications are available for students from the UK, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and EU countries.

- **Tuition fee loan** - Covers your full tuition fees and is paid directly to the learning provider which means you will not have to pay the tuition fee prior your studies commencing or during your course. More details are available from the Student Loans Company at [www.slc.co.uk](http://www.slc.co.uk)
- **Maintenance loan** – Students can apply for a further loan to assist with living costs, the final amount will depend on your household income.
- **Maintenance grant** - A means tested non-repayable grant is available for eligible students from lower-income backgrounds.

\*These arrangements apply to new students for the 2012/13 academic year. The Student Support package for 2013/14 and future years has not been decided and may change. For detailed information on all aspects of government financial support please visit:

[direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)



## Scholarships and Bursaries

A number of first year scholarships are available to recognise and reward high academic achievement by students who have already studied with the *ifs* School of Finance. These are awarded upon commencement of studies in the first semester to the highest achieving students of *ifs* Certificate and Diploma in Financial Studies qualifications.

At years 2 and 3, further scholarships are available to recognise and reward high academic achievement in the preceding academic year. Bursaries are also available to help students from low income families. For more information please visit [ifslearning.ac.uk/feesandfunding](http://ifslearning.ac.uk/feesandfunding)

## Tuition Fees

Our fees are set at a level that reflects the academic quality and professional relevance of our programmes. We are able to offer a learning experience of the highest quality and qualifications that are internationally recognised at a lower cost than traditional universities. This is because we are not burdened by large overheads for such things as estates management and our specialist nature allows us to focus our resources squarely on the teaching of our programmes. Tuition fees for 2013 are yet to be confirmed, however fees for 2012 ranged from £5,750 to £6,000 per annum.

Students undertaking full-time *ifs* programmes are eligible to apply for a loan from the Student Loans company. Please see page 14 for more details.

## Accommodation

The *ifs* does not own any accommodation itself but for the time you are studying with us we can help you find accommodation that perfectly meets your needs.

We have links with organisations who offer high quality, affordable student accommodation in London, Birmingham, Leeds and other major UK cities who will be only too pleased to help you with your search:

**UNITE** - [unite-students.com](http://unite-students.com)

**Opal** - [opalstudents.com](http://opalstudents.com)

You will also be able to find accommodation in the area you wish to live by looking in the local press or using websites such as [gumtree.com](http://gumtree.com), [easyroommate.com](http://easyroommate.com), or [sparerroom.co.uk](http://sparerroom.co.uk).







# Courses

# BSc (Hons) in Banking Practice and Management

**UCAS Code N310**

The BSc (Hons) in Banking Practice and Management draws upon the many years of experience held by the *ifs* in educating banking professionals and our unrivalled understanding of the banking and financial services industry.

The programme covers all the essential understanding that you need to prepare for a successful career in banking and financial services management. Crucially it reflects what employers tell us they are looking for from potential recruits.

In the first year you will get to grips with the workings of the sector both from an organisational point of view and in respect of the financial markets. You will also gain a thorough grounding in the essential concepts of risk that underpin financial decision making at every level, and an appreciation of the different customer groups and their financial needs.

The second year builds specific understanding of the commercial environment in which banks operate and the principles of management and organisational effectiveness. There is also an opportunity to build specialist knowledge in retail or corporate financial services.

Through our links with the major financial services organisations, we can also help students to secure work placements or internships to enable them to undertake Work-based Learning.

In the final year the focus is on developing and embedding core strategic concepts, enhancing decision-making ability and growing the detailed industry knowledge that is essential for a successful management career in banking and financial services. Throughout the programme you will have the opportunity to be introduced to, and interact with, financial services employers through visits, industry speakers and practical workshop activities.

Please turn to page 28 for entry requirements, alternatively detailed programme specifications can be found at [ifslearning.ac.uk/PHEModules](http://ifslearning.ac.uk/PHEModules)





## Programme structure

### First-year modules

- Fundamentals of Leadership and Management
- Financial Markets and Risk
- Assessing Financial Performance
- Marketing in Financial Services

### Second-year modules

- Organisational Management in Financial Services
- Financial Services: The Commercial Environment

### Second-year elective modules

- Retail Financial Services
- Corporate Financial Services
- Work-based Learning

### Third-year modules

- Strategic Management in Financial Services
- Research-based Dissertation

### Third-year elective modules

- Globalisation of Financial Markets
- Risk Financing and Management
- Credit Analysis and Lending

*The Financial Markets and Risk module gives a good overview of the financial system and as banks and building societies have different business models this was very helpful in my understanding of the recent global financial crisis...the Customers and their Needs module gave me some good ideas for improving sales and building further on long term customer relationships, while the Measuring Performance module has increased my understanding of financial management especially the importance of adequate cash-flow.*

**Sheena Hunter,  
Branch Manager,  
Darlington Building Society**

## Career Opportunities

Graduates of this course would normally go on to careers in retail financial services or corporate banking and would be particularly well placed to enter executive and management trainee schemes. Typical future roles for graduates include leadership positions in the central functions of large institutions or areas such as branch or regional management, corporate lending and credit, relationship management and product development. The programme is also an excellent foundation for the study of finance at a higher level such as the **ifs** MSc in Banking Practice & Management and Chartered Fellowship (CFifs).

# BSc (Hons) in Finance and Accounting for Financial Services

**UCAS Code NN34**

The BSc (Hons) in Finance and Accounting for Financial Services prepares you for a finance and accounting related role in the financial services industry whilst also giving you the credentials you need to pursue a career in other sectors.

In the first year you will gain a thorough grounding in both the workings of the financial services sector and the fundamental principles of accounting and finance. This will include the development of an appreciation of economic theory and the operation of financial markets along with an introduction to how the quantitative methods are used to measure financial performance and the essential concepts of risk.

The second year allows you to develop a more detailed understanding of core accounting and financial principles such as taxation, management and financial accounting and business law whilst also gaining an appreciation of the commercial environment in which financial services organisations operate.

In the third year you will explore and become familiar with the ways and means by which finance and accounting impacts the strategic management of organisations. Subjects such as financial reporting and corporate risk management are examined in detail along with the high-level principles of corporate governance. You will also be able to explore core course themes further via the final year project.

Please turn to page 28 for entry requirements, alternatively detailed programme specifications can be found at [ifslearning.ac.uk](http://ifslearning.ac.uk)

The *ifs* will be seeking maximum exemption against the ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) Fundamentals papers for students who successfully complete the *ifs* BSc (Hons) in Finance and Accounting for Financial Services.



## Programme structure

### First-year modules

- Financial Markets and Risk
- Assessing Financial Performance
- Fundamentals of Leadership and Management
- Introduction to Quantitative Methods for Finance and Investment
- Economics

### Second-year core modules

- Financial Services: The Commercial Environment
- Corporate and Business Law
- Management Accounting
- Taxation

### Third-year modules

- Financial Reporting and Analysis
- Financial Management
- Governance, Auditing and Risk
- Final Year Project

“

*The maths and balance sheet analysis on the course really help embed your understanding and I think that, although you can learn strategy as much as you want, it is understanding numbers that is core to banking. The Corporate Finance modules are critical to the job I do and go to the heart of a successful banking career.*

”

**Clare Burton,**  
***ifs* degree student**  
**Corporate Credit Analyst,**  
**HSBC Bank plc,**

## Career Opportunities

Graduates of this course are likely to go on to careers in a number of areas of finance including financial and management accounting; business planning, corporate finance and risk management. The *ifs* will be seeking maximum exemption against the ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) Fundamentals papers for students who successfully complete the *ifs* BSc (Hons) in Finance and Accounting for Financial Services, in which case the programme will also provide a progression route to becoming a Chartered Accountant.





# BSc (Hons) in Finance, Investment and Risk\*

**UCAS Code N300**

The BSc (Hons) in Finance, Investment and Risk\* is a new programme designed for students who want a career in investment banking and related roles. It provides the opportunity to study for a directly relevant degree in a business-like environment that gives unique exposure to, and immersion in, the financial services industry.

The programme will enable you to develop a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the core elements of investment and financial analysis and risk management that underpin sound decision-making. It will provide you with opportunities to investigate and analyse a range of issues relating to financial markets and the financial services sector (particularly investment/corporate banking) and its national and international environment.

Alongside study of the broader environment in which investment banking operates, the programme will also develop your understanding of key aspects of equity markets and investments, security analysis, asset classes and bond and equity pricing as well as covering portfolio management, derivatives, and alternative investments.

Critically, the programme also provides you with the opportunity to evaluate the impact of changing regulatory and operating conditions and gain insights into and understanding of the local and global tensions in banking and financial services. Ethics and professional standards form a key component of the course and will be taught at each level of the programme.

\*subject to validation





## Programme outline

### Year 1

The first year provides you with a thorough grounding in key areas of financial markets, assessing financial performance, economics and quantitative methods. The focus will be on introducing tools that will support investment analysis later in the programme as well as enhancing your quantitative skills. You will gain an appreciation of economic theory and the operation of financial markets as well as the essential concepts of risk.

### Year 2

The second year will focus on developing your knowledge, both theoretical and practical, of key aspects of equity markets and investments, security analysis, corporate finance and associated risk management frameworks and models. You will develop a more detailed understanding of asset classes and bond and equity pricing and build on study in year one to consider modelling and testing in finance and risk management.

### Year 3

In year 3, further investment-specific modules will cover portfolio management, derivatives, alternative investments and financial reporting and analysis. You will gain an in-depth knowledge of these subject areas to enable financial evaluation for decision-making at a more strategic level. You will also be able to explore course themes via the final year dissertation component.

In addition, and throughout each level of study, you will be introduced to and gain an understanding and appreciation of the importance of ethics and professional standards.

## Career Opportunities

Graduates of this course are likely to go on to careers in a wide range of investment banking roles as traders, fund and asset managers, analysts and brokers. Students will be supported throughout their studies to gain summer internships with leading investment banks to give their career a head start. The programme is also designed to be an excellent foundation for the CFA Institute's globally recognised CFA award or further specialist studies in Finance at Masters level.





A photograph of two men in a professional setting. In the foreground, a man with dark hair, wearing a green shirt and a dark tie, is looking down with a thoughtful expression, resting his chin on his hand. In the background, another man in a light blue shirt and tie is seated at a desk, working on a laptop. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an office environment. A semi-transparent dark blue banner is overlaid on the bottom half of the image, containing the text 'Further information' in white.

Further  
information



## *ifs* student membership - immersion into the industry right from day one

Our programmes are different. Right from day one we give you the opportunity to become part of the financial community. These opportunities help develop your confidence as well as giving you a real insight into what it is like to work in financial services.

All students studying our full-time degrees automatically become student members of the *ifs* School of Finance. Membership of the *ifs* makes you part of a global community of financial professionals and gives you access to a range of services that support both your personal and professional development.

As a student member you are able to attend regular Professional Networking events with *ifs* Alumni where you have the opportunity to hear from industry leaders. Recent high-profile speakers have included Peter Keenan, Head of Customer Propositions at HSBC; Alan Higgins, Head of Investment Strategy, RBS Coutts; Dennis Turner, Chief Economist, HSBC; and Allister Heath, Editor of City AM who all gave fascinating insights into their experiences and achievements.

The *ifs* also run regular careers and development seminars covering a wide range of personal development subjects. Recent topics have included Networking for Career Success, Creating the Right First Impression, The role of Psychometrics in the Recruitment Process and Effective Job Interview Techniques.

“

*The ifs conducts regular Networking Events that bring together people from the financial sector for topical discussion. We, as students, are able to go to these events to meet and network with members of the institute. These events have played a huge role in getting us to communicate effectively and to try to make new contacts*

”

**Elliott Seal,**  
current *ifs* degree student

In the classroom you will have the opportunity to hear from industry speakers as part of your lecture programme and join the *ifs*' successful mentor programme. Most student mentors are young professionals working in the industry who are also studying part-time with the *ifs*. They can offer full-time students a unique insight into what it is really like working in the financial services industry.





# Part-time study and flexible learning

We also offer our qualifications via part-time and flexible learning. These programmes are ideal for those who wish to gain a highly respected qualification in banking, finance and accounting while working and/or living at home. The study options available and the support provided gives a huge degree of flexibility and enables our students to balance their study with busy work and personal lives.

Our part-time degrees are structured into a series of levels each equivalent to a year of the equivalent full-time programme. Completion of each level of study leads to a well-respected industry benchmark qualification or recognised higher education award in its own right. This flexible approach provides a number of 'stopping-off' points on the way to achieving the full degree.

## Study support

As a part-time student of the *ifs* you will have access to a comprehensive range of services to inform, guide and support your studies.

- Tailored learning materials are provided for each module. These include learning activities and sample questions to enable you to test and confirm your understanding of the subject area.
- The *ifs*' online learning environment gives you access to learning materials, specimen papers, discussion forums and Knowledgebank the *ifs*' e- library which contains a wealth of knowledge to assist you in your studies.
- *ifs* associate lecturers are available to guide your studies. You will be able to contact your associate lecturer through forums on the *ifs* website, by email or telephone, or by traditional mail.
- A series of face-to-face workshops are also available for each module. The workshops are designed to cover the most critical concepts contained within the syllabus of study and are offered subject to demand at a number of locations throughout the UK.

## Financial support for part-time students

From September 2012 new part-time students will be able to apply for tuition fee loans from the Student Loan Company.

In order to be eligible for a tuition fee loan, you must be studying at least 25% of an equivalent full-time course in the appropriate year. Please visit [www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning) for more information about how to apply.

**For more information about part-time study please visit [ifslearning.ac.uk](http://ifslearning.ac.uk) or contact our student advice team on +44 (0)1227 829499**



# Applications & admissions

## Entry criteria

### BSc (Hons) in Banking Practice and Management

A tariff, normally of 300 UCAS points, to include at least one subject qualification at A2 level or the International Baccalaureate or equivalent; this can include up to 120 points gained from the *ifs* CeFS and DipFS qualifications.

**All students are required to hold:**

- GCSE Mathematics at minimum grade C (or equivalent) and
- GCSE English Language at minimum grade C (or equivalent) or an IELTS score of 6.0 or above with no element below 5.5.

### BSc (Hons) in Finance and Accounting for Financial Services

A tariff, normally of 300 UCAS points to include at least one subject qualification at A2 level or the International Baccalaureate or equivalent; this can include up to 120 points gained from the *ifs* CeFS and DipFS qualifications.

**All students are required to hold:**

- GCSE Mathematics at minimum grade B (or equivalent) and
- GCSE English Language at minimum grade C (or equivalent) or an IELTS score of 6.0 or above with no element below 5.5.

### BSc (Hons) in Finance, Investment and Risk\*

A tariff, normally of 340 UCAS points, to include at least one subject-relevant qualification at A2 level or the International Baccalaureate or equivalent; this can include up to 120 points gained from the *ifs* CeFS and DipFS qualifications.

**Students are also required to hold:**

- GCSE Mathematics at minimum grade B (or equivalent) and
- GCSE English Language at minimum grade C (or equivalent) or an IELTS score of 6.0 or above with no element below 5.5.

\*subject to validation.

Applicants for a full-time BSc (Hons) programme may be interviewed and will be required to submit a piece of written work (personal statement) as part of their UCAS application to enable an assessment to be made of their suitability for the programme.

## Mature applicants

Mature students who do not meet the entry requirements will be required to submit a CV supported by a 500 to 600 word statement indicating why they have chosen to undertake the programme and how it will support their career plans. If invited to progress, an interview may be held and a numeracy and deductive reasoning assessment may need to be passed.

**All students are required to hold:**

- GCSE Mathematics at minimum grade C (or equivalent) and
- GCSE English Language at minimum grade C (or equivalent) or an IELTS score of 6.0 or above with no element below 5.5.

## How to apply

All applications for *ifs* School of Finance full-time programmes must be made via UCAS. For more information on how to apply, visit: [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

Your application should reach UCAS by January 2013.

All applications made before the closing date will be considered equally against the stated selection criteria and in the context of the number of available places. The *ifs* will consider late applications only for courses where places are still available.

For more information on applying to study at the *ifs* and to view our admissions policy please visit [ifslearning.ac.uk/admissions](http://ifslearning.ac.uk/admissions)

## Fees

Tuition fees for students commencing their studies in 2013 are to be confirmed. Please visit [ifslearning.ac.uk](http://ifslearning.ac.uk) for more information.

## Chartered Associateship

Once you have successfully completed your degree, and gained a minimum of two years experience of working in the financial services industry or a related discipline, you will be eligible to participate in the *ifs* Chartered Associate scheme.

Chartered Associateship is a mark of senior standing and recognises a commitment to on-going development and high professional standards. It is awarded to alumni who maintain their knowledge and skills post qualification through a programme of high-quality structured Continuing Professional Development (CPD).



## How to find us:

*ifs* School of Finance  
Peninsular House  
36 Monument Street  
London  
EC3R 8LJ

The *ifs* is easily accessible by public transport with Monument and Bank stations a short walk away and from there quick links to all mainline rail stations. London City Airport is close by and direct rail links are accessible to all other London airports.

# International students

The *ifs* School of Finance welcomes applications from international students to study at its London campus.

Based in the heart of the financial district, studying with the *ifs* gives you direct exposure to the banking and finance industry and a qualification recognised and valued by major financial corporations across the globe.

## Location

The City of London is a global financial centre, boasting the headquarters of many of the world's largest international financial institutions. In the wider context, London is also one of the most cosmopolitan and multi-cultural capital cities on the planet with incredibly diverse cultural and social opportunities available.

Although it can be overwhelming, the *ifs* provides a comprehensive induction and orientation programme to help its students settle in to London life. In addition tourist websites such as [www.timeout.com](http://www.timeout.com) and [www.visitlondon.com](http://www.visitlondon.com) can offer advice and resources for exploring London and the surrounding areas.

## International Student Fees

Tuition fees for international students commencing their studies in 2013 are to be confirmed. Please visit [ifslearning.ac.uk](http://ifslearning.ac.uk) for more information.

There are many funding and scholarship options available to help support your studies. Your local British Council office, British Embassy or education authority can guide you towards the best funding opportunities. Also, [www.gostudyuk.com](http://www.gostudyuk.com) is a great resource for various scholarship opportunities.

## Applications & Admissions

The *ifs* welcome applications from international students. Applications open later this year and are normally made via the UCAS website [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

The *ifs* School of Finance UCAS number is I55 and our programmes are listed on the UCAS website with their UCAS course code as follows:

### **BSc (Hons) in Banking Practice and Management**

UCAS Code N310

### **BSc (Hons) in Finance and Accounting for Financial Services**

UCAS Code NN34

### **BSc (Hons) in Finance, Investment and Risk\***

UCAS Code N300

\*subject to validation

For entry criteria please see page 28.

If you do not meet the entry requirements or you require any further information please contact the Admissions, Academic Management and Student Services Office to speak to a student adviser.

Admissions, Academic Management and Student Services Office

**T** +44 (0) 1227 829 499

**E** [enquiries@ifslearning.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@ifslearning.ac.uk)

Office opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm (GMT)



## Further Information

### Visas

If you are a national of a country outside the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland, you will need a Visa to study in the UK. The UK Border Agency (UKBA) website provides full information about the application process, how to apply, guidance notes application forms, and if there are any requirements from your country for health screening: [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk)

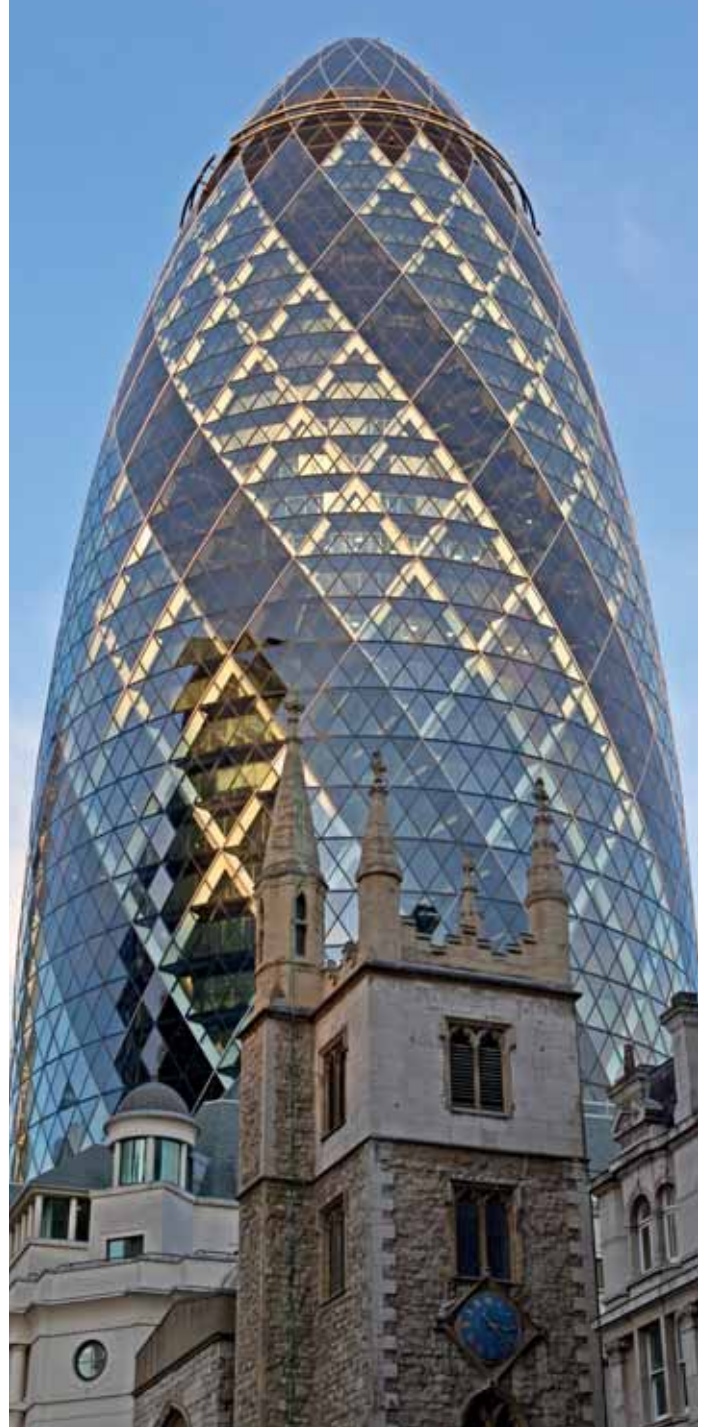
Please note that the process of Visa application can be lengthy and it is advised that you apply as early as possible. Important note: as an international student with a Tier 4 student visa you are subject to UKBA immigration control.

### Working in the UK

The *ifs* aims to give you the best start in student life, so all of the necessary course materials you'll need to aid your studies are provided by the *ifs*. However, you may find that a part-time job is necessary for the extra costs that you will incur whilst living in London.

As an international student, you will be eligible to work a maximum of 20 hours per week during the term-time and during holidays you may have a full-time job. London is a thriving community with a vast range of employment opportunities available to suit all experience and interest levels. Jobs can be found in local newspapers, job centres and website such as [jobs.co.uk](http://jobs.co.uk), [www.gumtree.com](http://www.gumtree.com) and [www.totaljobs.com](http://www.totaljobs.com)

For more information about applying to study in the UK, please visit the British Council website [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org) or [www.educationuk.org](http://www.educationuk.org)



## Open days

Come and see us at *ifs School of Finance* at one of our open days. Take the opportunity to meet academic and support staff, view the facilities and talk to current students about their experiences.

Please visit our website [ifslearning.ac.uk/undergraduateopendays](http://ifslearning.ac.uk/undergraduateopendays) to register to attend an open day and for more information.

### London

#### 2012

Saturday 28 April 2012

Saturday 20 October 2012

Wednesday 7 November 2012

Wednesday 14 November 2012

Dates for open days at Birmingham Metropolitan College can be found at [www.bmetc.ac.uk/college-life/events](http://www.bmetc.ac.uk/college-life/events) and for Leeds City College events, please visit [www.leedscitycollege/opendays](http://www.leedscitycollege/opendays)



## UCAS Fairs 2012

Look out for us at UCAS Fairs around the country in 2012!

Details of the fairs we'll be attending can be found at [www.ifslearning.ac.uk/UCASfairs](http://www.ifslearning.ac.uk/UCASfairs)

5-6 March	Manchester
7-8 March	Lancashire
15-16 March	Hampshire & Isle of Wight
19-20 March	Surrey
20 March	Cornwall
21-22 March	Exeter
21-22 March	Sussex
26-27 March	Thames Valley
28-29 March	London
28-30 March	East Midlands
18 April	Dorset
18-19 April	Northamptonshire
19-20 April	Bristol
24 April	Durham
25 April	Tyneside
25-26 April	Kent & Medway
12 June	Lincolnshire
13 June	Norfolk
13-14 June	Merseyside
14 June	Suffolk
15 June	Cambridgeshire
19 June	Humberside
20 June	Sheffield
21-22 June	West & North Yorkshire
27 June	Staffs
27-28 June	Essex
28-29 June	Birmingham
3-4 July	Hertfordshire

Quality, Innovation and Relevance in Financial Education

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Some photos are used courtesy of the University of London Union.

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