

MSc in Banking Practice and Management and Chartered Fellowship

Full-time Prospectus 2012-2013

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Welcome

The MSc in Banking Practice and Management and Chartered Fellowship is a unique, specialist postgraduate qualification for those aspiring to senior roles in banking and financial services. It is delivered in the City of London, one of the world's most important financial centres and provides direct access to the prestigious *ifs* School of Finance Chartered Fellowship.

The MSc is designed to provide you with the advanced knowledge, skills and analytical tools that are required to lead effectively in complex financial services organisations. We aim to give you an advantage in both the recruitment market and in the work-place by developing your abilities and understanding and by giving you an opportunity to immerse yourself in the industry while you study.

Like all of our professional higher education qualifications the content and learning experience of the MSc is directly informed by what employers tell us they look for from potential recruits. The MSc bridges the academic/vocational divide to provide you with essential practical skills and the conceptual and analytical abilities of academic study.

It is this unique and innovative approach that makes the *ifs* the provider of choice for organisations and individuals seeking to improve the knowledge, skills and credentials necessary for a management career within a broad spectrum of financial services organisations.



Martin Day MBA Aifs
Vice Principal



The future will be brightest for those who demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism. Professional qualifications are likely to be an increasing advantage in climbing to the top of the banking world. More generally, they will be key in delivering improvements in the standard of service offered by the financial sector, which is so important to economic growth, not just to this country but to the global economy.

Dr Paul Fisher
Chairman, *ifs* School of Finance &
Executive Director for Markets
Bank of England

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.

Heritage

The *ifs* School of Finance is a not-for-profit professional body and educational charity, incorporated by Royal Charter.

We have been educating financial services professionals for over 130 years and have 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.

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 degree on a par with any other, but also a professional qualification recognised by financial services employers the world over.

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*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 Metal 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.*

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



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 that you need to prepare for a successful career and crucially reflect what employers look for in potential recruits.

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 from our students about their courses of study and ensuring that the student community is well represented in all relevant decision-making bodies.



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 within 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. **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 Générale
BNP Paribas	UBS
Citigroup	Visa International
Deloitte	West Bromwich Building Society
Deutsche Bank	Yorkshire Building Society
Ernst & Young	Zurich Financial Services
HSBC	

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.

Student membership

Immersion into the industry...
right from day one

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

All students studying our programmes 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 Darren Ketteringham, partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers; Alan Higgins, Head of Investment Strategy, RBS Coutts; Dennis Turner, Chief Economist, HSBC; and Allister Heath, Editor, City AM who all gave us a fascinating insight into their experiences and achievements.

The **ifs** also runs 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.

MSc in Banking Practice and Management* and Chartered Fellowship

Global events of the last few years demand that the banking professionals of today and the future are able to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the important issues facing both the financial sector itself and the worldwide economy. Banks expect their employees and, more specifically, senior managers to have the requisite skills to operate to the highest professional standards.

By studying the **ifs** School of Finance MSc in Banking Practice and Management and Chartered Fellowship programme, you will develop the necessary analytical tools and learn how to evaluate

contemporary topics in the banking industry, thereby differentiating yourself from your peers in the competitive, fast-moving world of financial services.

The core of the programme builds knowledge of the essential aspects of strategy, risk and regulation that are vital for progression in any area of financial services. You are also able to tailor your studies towards your specific career interests through the selection of two option modules in the second term. These option modules allow you to build specialist knowledge of strategic management concepts such as the marketing options available to the industry, the effective management of an organisation's staff or the management of a bank's balance sheet.

There is also an opportunity to enhance your understanding of the products available to banks to support both their largest clients, through the corporate and investment banking markets, as well as their SME customers.

Due to our location in the heart of the financial district, as well as our widespread industry links, we are able to offer you valuable exposure to a broad range of guest speakers from the banking sector and lectures by senior industry professionals.

*subject to validation

The programme focuses on the big issues in the industry and will prepare you for the challenges you will face in your career. Above all, we place an emphasis on strategic issues, risk management and banking regulation – all areas in which future senior managers increasingly need an advanced understanding. Banks play a valuable role in supporting customers to achieve their goals. However, this can only be achieved if current and future industry professionals fully appreciate the nature of the business they are in and understand the tools of analysis they need.

Dr Anthony Gandy, FCIB
Reader, Postgraduate Programmes
ifs School of Finance

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We aim to put professionalism and employability skills at the heart of our programmes by bridging the academic and vocational divide. Our professional higher education programmes fully reflect our links with the financial services industry to give students the strongest possible professional development and career progression.

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**Martin Day, Vice Principal
ifs School of Finance**

Programme structure

The MSc is studied over the course of one year in terms of 14 weeks:

Term One

You will begin your studies by developing an understanding of banks and the challenges which the industry faces and learn how to analyse and critically interpret financial and non-financial information. You will consider the economic environment from the perspective of both financial institutions and the businesses they serve as well as develop your research skills in preparation for the final dissertation element.

September – January

- Programme Induction
- Banking Structures and Strategies
- Financial and Bank Accounting
- Research Methods (Dissertation preparation module)
- Banking and the Economic Environment

Term Two

The second term introduces the interrelated and critical areas of Banking Regulation and Bank Risk Management. You will study the key principles of risk and regulation and the important systems and functions which try to prevent catastrophic failure in financial institutions and markets. Option modules allow you to tailor your studies to your specific interests.

February – May

- Bank Risk Management
- Banking Regulation

Choose two options* from:

- Capital Markets and Bank ALM
- Commercial and Business Banking
- Financial Services Marketing
- Strategic HR

Term Three

The dissertation of 15,000 words brings together the knowledge and skills learnt throughout the programme and will give you the opportunity to build on a topic of particular interest to you within the financial services sector.

June – September

- Dissertation

*Availability of option modules subject to minimum student numbers.

Learning and Teaching

The *ifs*' approach to learning and teaching 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.

Undertaking the MSc in Banking Practice and Management and Chartered Fellowship involves a mixture of face-to-face lectures and seminars, group activities, and independent study and research. Term length is 14 weeks, with each module normally taught over 11 weeks at our London campus. The remaining 3 weeks are typically allocated to assessment work, including coursework preparation and time to revise for your exams.

Our team of lecturers brings practitioner expertise, together with academic experience and research skills across a range of subject disciplines within the financial services sector, including financial regulation, financial technology, bank treasury management, client relationship management and credit risk management.



Assessment

A range of assessment tools are used including open and closed book examinations, assignments, case studies, projects and reports. There are a maximum of two assessment components per module, normally taking place mid-term and at the end of each module.

“The MSc is about equipping yourself to be able to undertake a senior leadership role within a financial services organisation. The responsibility for any senior leader in this type of role is huge, as are the implications of decisions made. To take time out to assess how numerous financial organisations undertake their activities, the past successes and failures, the impact of decisions made..... Wrap this up in the environment within which financial organisations operate, the economy, the industry, the assumptions upon which changes are made - and you have the MSc. Without this understanding I could not realistically have reached my potential within the industry. My focus now is to achieve as much as possible whilst studying and to see where it takes me!”

**Neil Ward, BSc (Hons) ACIB
ifs MSc student 2011/12**

Entry criteria

The entry requirements for the MSc in Banking Practice and Management are as follows:

- **Normally a 2.1 Honours degree** (or equivalent) in a banking, economics or finance-related discipline from a recognised institution.
If you hold the *ifs School of Finance Associateship* (or ACIB) / BSc, or a comparably challenging relevant undergraduate qualification, you are encouraged to apply even if you do not meet this criterion.
We would also consider candidates with extensive relevant financial sector experience.
- **If English is not your first language**, you will need to satisfy one of the following requirements:
 - An IELTS score of 7.0 or above overall with no element below 6.5 (or equivalent),
or
 - Evidence that your first degree studies (excluding science, technology, engineering or mathematics subjects) were conducted and examined in English.

In some cases, applicants may be interviewed and/or asked to submit a piece of written work, in addition to their application, in order to assess their suitability for the programme.

Want to find out more?

If you have any questions regarding the programme or your application, please contact the Admissions, Academic Management and Student Services Office:

E: enquiries@ifslearning.ac.uk

T: +44 (0)1227 829499

W: www.ifslearning.ac.uk/fulltimeMSc

We can also arrange visits to our London campus or informal one-to-one sessions (either face-to-face or by telephone) with the Postgraduate Programme Manager.

How to apply

Full details on how to apply can be found via our website at www.ifslearning.ac.uk/fulltimemsc. As part of the application, you are requested to submit a personal statement in which you should tell us about your career aspirations, why you want to study the MSc in Banking Practice and Management and how you feel you will contribute to the programme.

Application deadlines

The application deadlines for September 2012 entry are as follows:

- 25 June 2012 International applicants
- 30 July 2012 UK / EU applicants

There are a limited number of places available on the programme and, therefore, we would recommend that you apply **as early as possible**. Once an offer is made, you will have fourteen days to accept the offer.

To apply online and for details of deposit payments, visit www.ifslearning.ac.uk/fulltimemsc

Fees

Fees for entry in September 2012

UK / EU	£10,500
International	£13,700

Three entry scholarships are available each year covering one third of the MSc in Banking Practice and Management programme fee. One scholarship has been reserved exclusively for *ifs* alumni.

To be eligible to apply, you must meet the minimum entry criteria and be able to confirm that you are solely self-funded.



Chartered Fellowship of the *ifs* School of Finance

Chartered Fellowship of the *ifs* School of Finance (CFifs) represents the pinnacle of academic and professional achievement in the field of financial services, and is a recognised mark of senior status within the banking industry. Direct entry to the Chartered Fellowship is only available to those individuals who successfully complete a Masters qualification with the *ifs* School of Finance and, once you have gained three years' relevant professional experience, you will be entitled to use the designation CFifs.



Campus location

London offers an extensive metropolitan lifestyle 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, offering an incredibly diverse mixture for music, art and food lovers.

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.

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 meets your needs.

We have links with organisations which offer high quality, affordable student accommodation in London and are able to help you with your search:

UNITE - unite-students.com

Opal - 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, easyroommate.com, or spareroom.co.uk

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.

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.

The *ifs* provides a comprehensive induction programme to help its students settle into London life. In addition tourist websites such as www.timeout.com and www.visitlondon.com can offer advice and resources for exploring London and the surrounding areas.

For more information about applying to study in the UK, please visit the British Council website www.britishcouncil.org or www.educationuk.org

If 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

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





Quality, Innovation and Relevance
in Financial Education



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