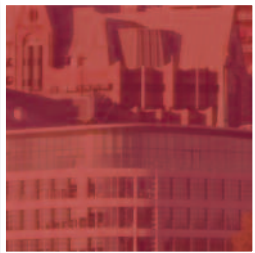


Quality, Innovation and Relevance in Financial Education

Part-time Postgraduate Programme



**MSc in Banking Practice and Management and Chartered Fellowship
Postgraduate Diploma in Banking Practice and Management*
Postgraduate Certificate in Banking Practice and Management***

* Subject to validation

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Part-time Postgraduate Qualifications from the *ifs* School of Finance

Global events of the last few years demand that today's banking professionals are able to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the issues facing both the financial services sector and the worldwide economy.

In the current financial services environment, banks increasingly expect their managers not only to display leadership skills but also to possess an in-depth knowledge of the banking industry, whilst operating to the highest professional standards.

The postgraduate programme in Banking Practice and Management offered by the *ifs* covers topics of critical importance in the banking sector. It enables you to develop the necessary analytical tools to evaluate contemporary industry issues, thereby differentiating you from your peers in the highly competitive, fast-moving world of financial services.

The *ifs* postgraduate programme:

- features highly **relevant content**, focusing on the topics of greatest importance in the current banking environment
- provides direct entry to the prestigious *ifs* School of Finance **Chartered Fellowship**, only available to holders of the MSc in Banking Practice and Management
- offers you the opportunity to gain a postgraduate qualification **within an 8 month study period**
- is studied through **a combination of online distance learning and face-to-face workshops**, allowing you to study at your own pace and where and when suits you best
- has been designed and delivered in **collaboration with the financial services industry** to ensure you develop the knowledge and skills required for a successful management career.

Who would benefit from studying the programme?

The MSc programme is aimed at professionals currently holding, or aspiring to, senior management positions within the financial services industry.

This includes those on fast-track or management trainee programmes or those with existing managerial responsibilities who wish to underpin their practical experience with theoretical understanding.

About the *ifs* School of Finance

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.

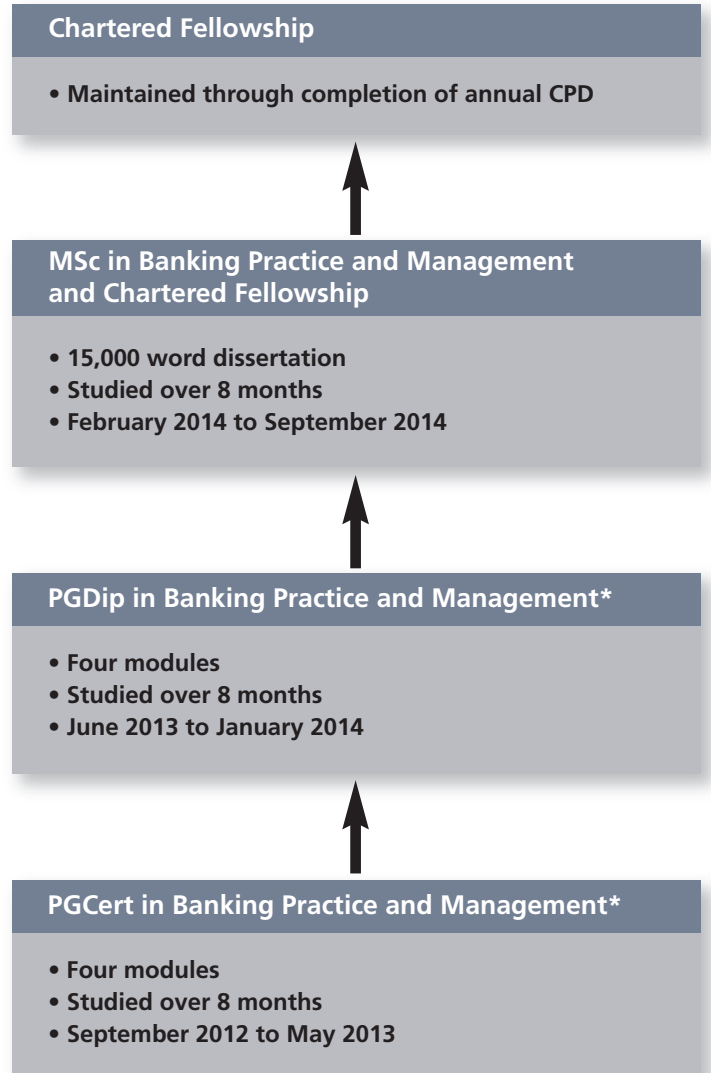
Founded in 1879 as the Institute of Bankers we have remained at the forefront of professional education in financial services ever since and have an unrivalled reputation within the banking and financial services industry for producing graduates of the highest calibre, with a detailed understanding of the industry and the practical skills to apply that knowledge in the workplace.

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.

The programme

The programme is split into three levels, each of which leads to the award of a recognised postgraduate qualification in its own right. This flexible approach provides a number of 'stopping-off' points on the way to achieving the full MSc and Chartered Fellowship.

The first stage of the programme can be achieved in eight months and the entire programme can be completed in two years. However, the structure also allows students to build towards their MSc over a longer period of time as their career develops, while providing recognition of their achievement at each stage.



*Subject to validation



The Programme

Postgraduate Certificate in Banking Practice and Management (PGCert)*

The PGCert is designed to enhance your understanding of the functions of banks and the challenges which the industry faces as well as develop essential skills in analysing and critically interpreting financial and non-financial information. It also introduces the interrelated and important areas of banking regulation and risk management. You will study the key principles of risk and regulation and the important systems and functions which seek to prevent catastrophic failure in financial institutions and markets.

Postgraduate Diploma in Banking Practice and Management (PGDip)*

Following completion of the PGCert, the PGDip develops a broader understanding of the nature and value of banking to customers, the economy and wider society. You will consider the economic environment from the perspective of both financial institutions and the businesses they serve and will be able to tailor your studies towards your own career interests through the selection of two option modules.

These option modules allow you to build specialist knowledge of strategic management concepts such as the distribution and 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. The PGDip will also develop your research skills in preparation for the dissertation to be undertaken as the final element of the complete MSc.

MSc in Banking Practice and Management and Chartered Fellowship

Having successfully achieved the PGDip, completion of the final dissertation element brings together the knowledge and skills learnt throughout the programme and gives you the opportunity to build on a topic of particular interest to you within the financial services sector. Successful completion of the dissertation leads you to the award of the MSc in Banking Practice and Management and also to the prestigious **Chartered Fellowship**.

Students would be asked to rescind their original award upon completion of the higher award.

* Subject to validation.

▼ Availability of option modules subject to minimum student numbers.

Core Modules

- Banking Structures and Strategies
- Financial and Bank Accounting
- Bank Risk Management
- Banking Regulation

Compulsory Modules

- Research Methods
(dissertation preparation module)
- Banking and the Economic Environment

Option Modules (choose two)▼

- Capital Markets and Bank ALM*
- Commercial and Business Banking
- Customer Channel Strategy
- Financial Services Marketing
- Strategic HR

Core Module

- 15,000 word dissertation

Learning Experience

Online Distance Learning

The MSc in Banking Practice and Management has been designed so that you can fit your study around your work and other commitments. Resources include:

- week-by-week study guide for each module
- links to academic journals and recommended and optional readings
- lecturer-led online tutorials
- learning technologies such as blogs, wikis and asynchronous forums to support debate and discussions
- full access to the **ifs**' online library, **ifs** KnowledgeBank

Face-to-face Workshops

The course is supplemented by a number of one-day face-to-face workshops (normally four per term) held at the **ifs** campus in London which will give you a great opportunity to meet your fellow students and the programme team. The workshops are designed to embed the core concepts of each subject and allow you to benefit from direct engagement with guest speakers from the financial services industry and lecturers. Workshops are an integral part of the course, consolidating your distance learning and often closely linking to the assessment components. They should be considered as compulsory and you must be able to commit to attend upon application.



“

An excellent programme with highly relevant content that, crucially, is proving useful in my role. The workload is highly demanding and requires a very disciplined approach to time planning but the value of the programme is more than enough reward for the effort.

”

David Farley
BSc (Hons) AdvDipRFS CAifs
MSc Student 2011/2

Study Time

As you would expect at postgraduate level, this is a challenging course and we estimate that each module will require approximately 150 hours of study over the whole programme, including time for assessment preparation and background reading.

Chartered Fellowship

The Chartered Fellowship of the **ifs** School of Finance is a recognised mark of senior status within the banking arena. It is only available to holders of the MSc in Banking Practice and Management (provided they hold a minimum of three years relevant professional experience) and, as such, Chartered Fellows are a select group of professionals representing the pinnacle of academic success, as well as a high standard of achievement in the industry.

To achieve and maintain Chartered Fellow status, participants must complete an annual programme of high-quality Continuing Professional Development (CPD) which contributes directly to pre-defined development objectives. Chartered Fellows are entitled to use the honorific 'Chartered Fellow of the **ifs** School of Finance' and the designatory letters 'CFifs'.



Entry criteria

The entry requirements for the programme 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.

The real benefit is that the subjects, although specific to a particular field, allow the student to focus on areas of particular interest or where skills specifically need to be developed. For me, after a number of years working in customer facing roles, it's being able to think about the environment within which financial services organisations operate. Viewpoints include economic, regulatory and strategic perspectives.

**Neil Ward BSc (Hons) ACIB
MSc Student 2011/2**

Entry Fees - September 2012

Each level of the programme can be applied for separately, though students must complete each level before commencing the next. A reduced overall fee is available to those who apply for the entire programme.

Qualification	Credits	Fee	Fee if applying for the entire programme
PGCert	60	£3,900 (UK/EU Students) £4,900 (International Students)	£10,500 (UK/EU Students) £13,700 (International Students)
PGDip	120	£3,900 (UK/EU Students) £4,900 (International Students)	
MSc and CFifs	180	£3,900 (UK/EU Students) £4,900 (International Students)	

Scholarships

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 for a scholarship, you must meet the minimum entry criteria and be able to confirm that you are solely self-funded.

How to Apply

We ask all candidates to complete an online application form, via our website at www.ifslearning.ac.uk/parttimemsc.

Applications for a September 2012 start must be received by 30 July 2012. Places are limited so we would recommend you submit your application as early as possible.

If you have any questions regarding the programme or for any further information, please contact the Admissions, Academic Management and Student Services Office on +44 (0) 1227 829499 or email enquiries@ifslearning.ac.uk



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