

CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR SECURITIES & INVESTMENT DIPLOMA

The Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI) is the principal provider of qualifications for the financial services industry.

The CISI Diploma is the UK's leading postgraduate finance qualification and covers the areas of securities, investment, compliance, derivatives, corporate finance and operations.

Who should study for the Diploma?

The Diploma is of value to those needing to gain an in-depth theoretical and practical knowledge of the principal techniques and skills in their chosen discipline, in order to be able to provide their clients with confident and professional service.

How can I achieve the Diploma?

Candidates must achieve a pass in any three of the following units:

Bonds & Fixed Interest Markets
Financial Derivatives
Fund Management
Global Operations Management
Interpretation of Financial Statements
Investment Analysis
Private Client Investment Advice and Management
Regulation & Compliance

Key Features

- ✓ The Diploma provides flexibility and choice, enabling candidates to concentrate on areas relevant to their chosen career path.
- ✓ The subjects available are sufficiently broad to provide the skills required to operate in all the major areas of the industry including the increasingly important area of operations management
- ✓ The Diploma is an internationally recognised qualification that is available around the world.
- ✓ Diploma papers reflect situations and issues that practitioners encounter. Candidates are required to apply their knowledge to answer case studies, write reports and explain techniques and terminology.

“Brewin Dolphin recognises the CISI Diploma as an important part of the building blocks that ensure our employees meet the highest levels of professional excellence. Our investment managers aim to achieve the CISI Diploma which gives us great confidence in them and our clients great confidence in us.”

*Sophie Hughes
Head of Training & Development
Brewin Dolphin Ltd*

Which units should I study?

Bonds & Fixed Interest Markets

Covers the characteristics and structures of the principal types of fixed interest securities, issuers and markets.

Ideal for candidates employed in capital markets, investment management and private client advice.

Financial Derivatives

Covers the characteristics of derivatives including forwards, futures, swaps and others traded in the UK, their relationship to the underlying cash securities and their use in achieving investment objectives. Students will learn to control the risks of financial derivatives portfolios.

Suitable for those employed in capital markets and asset management.

Fund Management

Covers the activities, knowledge and techniques required to undertake the management of funds for institutional clients.

Designed for candidates employed in investment management of funds of all sizes.

Global Operations Management

Covers the regulatory structure of the main markets, the dealing and market environment, risk and control, settlement systems, operations and procedures used in the UK and internationally.

Ideal for those working in operations at a supervisory level who are aspiring to a management role or those needing an in-depth knowledge of the area.

Interpretation of Financial Statements

Covers the key elements in understanding the preparation and interpretation of company accounts. Enables candidates to assess financial information provided by companies effectively. Candidates will be sent up to three financial statements approximately four weeks before the exam and will be examined on one of these.

Investment Analysis

Learn to evaluate, describe and make recommendations on equity investments to private and institutional investors.

Ideal for those requiring a higher level of analytical skill.

Private Client Investment Advice & Management

Learn to identify clients' needs and provide solutions to them. This is a demanding unit, and candidates are required to hold a benchmark qualification giving them existing adviser status before attempting it.

Regulation & Compliance

The regulatory framework of the financial services industry, including participants' legal and ethical constraints, principles and policy are comprehensively covered in this unit.

Appropriate for candidates specialising in compliance as well as those requiring knowledge of the subject beyond the minimum regulatory requirements.

Regulatory Recognition



The Diploma is recognised by the Financial Skills Partnership (FSP) as an appropriate examination for many Financial Services Authority (FSA) designated activities. Generally the appropriate examination requirements for an activity require Diploma holders to have obtained a pass in Regulation and Compliance but candidates are advised to check with their compliance officer and refer to the FSP appropriate examination list.

NB The CISI does not require candidates to attempt Regulation and Compliance as one of their Diploma units. The CISI has been recognised as an Awarding Body by Ofqual and as such both individuals and firms can be confident that the CISI's processes, policies and systems meet rigorous quality assurance standards.

Syllabus

To view the syllabus for any of the Diploma units, visit cisi.org/syllabuses

Entry Requirements & Exemptions

There are no formal entry requirements, but most candidates have a first degree.

Exemption against a maximum of one paper is available to holders of certain professional examinations and Masters level degrees. A fee is payable. For further details visit cisi.org/exemptions

How to register for the Diploma

Step 1: Pay a one-off registration fee
Step 2: Book your exam at cisi.org/bookmain
Step 3: Complete a Qualifications Registration Form at cisi.org/qrf

Prices

Visit cisi.org/prices to ascertain current prices.

How is the Qualification delivered?

Diploma examinations are held twice a year, in June and December. The closing date for the June examination is the first week in May. The closing date for the December examination is mid-October. Please visit the CISI website for exact dates.

All advanced units are assessed via written exam, with the results issued approximately 10 weeks after the examination.

Programme Timeline

Examinations are demanding and candidates are advised to attempt only one paper at each sitting. The Diploma typically takes between 18 months and two years to achieve.

There is no recommended order, but candidates are advised not to attempt Investment Analysis without either passing Interpretation of Financial Statements or having an appropriate financial qualification.

Studying for the Diploma

Formal training is available through a CISI accredited training provider. The CISI accredits training providers that deliver high quality training and support to candidates preparing to sit CISI examinations. To find an ATP near you, visit cisi.org/ATP

In addition to, or instead of formal training, candidates can choose the self-study route.

Recommended study times

All Diploma units **200 hours**

CISI CPD Scheme

Members can earn CPD hours for studying, sitting and passing examinations. For more information visit cisi.org/cpdscheme

Specialist Diploma Programmes

Diploma in Investment Compliance

The Diploma in Investment Compliance has been designed for compliance professionals working in the securities and investment industry. The qualification recognises the importance of compliance staff having a good understanding of UK legislation and FSA regulation and the ability to explain it to advisory and operations staff in the organisation.

For more information please visit cisi.org/dic

Diploma in Investment Operations

The Diploma in Investment Operations is aimed at individuals working in operations and/or administration who are seeking to develop their professional and technical skills in the financial services industry. It will be of particular value to firms keen to prepare staff for more demanding roles which require a broader understanding of the environment in which the firm operates.

For more information please visit cisi.org/dio

CISI Membership

All candidates registering for the CISI Diploma are automatically registered as student members of the Institute. Student membership includes:

- ✓ access to CPD log
- ✓ access to CISI TV
- ✓ access to Professional Refresher modules
- ✓ four free continuing professional development events per year
- ✓ *Securities & Investment Review* online
- ✓ discounts on conferences and training courses
- ✓ online dictionary of securities and investment terms

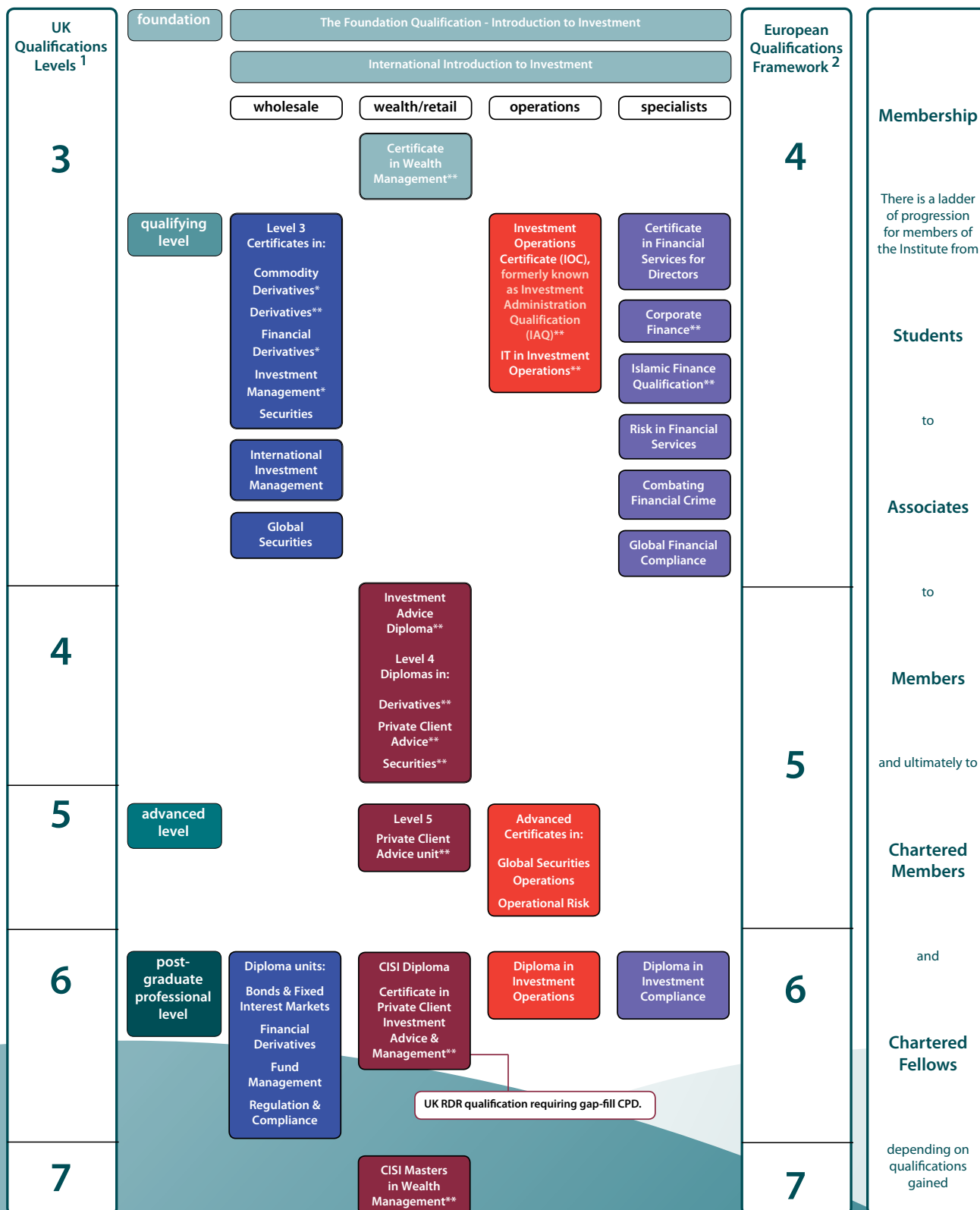
On completion of one or two papers, candidates are eligible to become Associate (ACSI) members of the CISI. On successful completion of the Diploma (all three papers) candidates can proceed directly to full membership status (MCSI).

Additional MCSI benefits include:

- ✓ Access to the CISI online CPD scheme
- ✓ Unlimited access to over 100 free CPD events a year
- ✓ Access to the CISI Operations Forum

and many more....

The Qualifications and Credit Framework



1. This column is a guide only. Within the chart, National Qualifications Framework* and Qualifications and Credit Framework** accredited qualifications are marked accordingly.
 2. The European Qualifications Framework is an overarching qualifications reference framework that links the qualifications of different countries together.

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