



The Institute
of Banking



A recognised
college of UCD

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irish
funds

Summit
Finuas
Skillnet

Professional Diploma in Applied Alternative Investments

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Postgraduate Education 2018/2019
www.iob.ie/postgrad

Who we are

The Institute of Banking

The Institute of Banking is the largest professional institute in Ireland. We are a community of over 34,000 members who work in banking and international financial services in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Professional development of our members through education is at the heart of what we do.

The Institute provides university level programmes to enable our members achieve and sustain their professional qualifications and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) - essential in meeting customer and regulatory expectations.

More than 10,500 individuals studied with us last year and over 25,000 members are registered for CPD schemes administered by the Institute.

Excellence in education – a recognised college of UCD

As a recognised college of University College Dublin (UCD) and the standout financial services educator, we offer qualifications of the highest standard.

We currently have more than 40 programmes ranging from Professional Certificates (level 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)) to Masters Degrees (level 9). We design our programmes to be practical and relevant, and grounded in academic rigour.

Irish funds

The objective of Irish Funds is to support, complement and develop the funds industry in Ireland. We represent the industry in discussions with Government, its departments/agencies and the Central Bank of Ireland to ensure that the environment and infrastructure available can support the continued development and growth of the industry.

Through the development of industry policy, guidance papers, technical briefings and the output of our working groups, we assist in the defining of practice across a range of complex areas such as compliance, valuation, accounting, share dealing and registration. The partnership between members ensures that a full range of perspectives and insights are represented in the formulation of guidance papers. In doing so, we provide a valuable service in generating and disseminating information in an effective and complete way.

Irish Funds raises the profile of the industry to promote Ireland as the premier centre of excellence to domicile and service international investment funds. We promote awareness of the funds industry both internationally and domestically by hosting conferences, events and seminars and by engaging with the media. Irish Funds is committed to the continued development of its most valuable resource - its people.

For further information, visit www.irishfunds.ie.

Summit Finuas Skillnet

The Summit Finuas Skillnet is part of the Finuas Networks Programme. The Summit Finuas Skillnet programme is dedicated to providing training and networking opportunities for the international financial services sector.

The Network aims to support the sector in maintaining Ireland's position as a top international financial services centre through investment in the specialist skills and expertise of its workforce. The Network is led by a steering group which includes member companies and the leading financial services industry associations.

Network activity

The Summit Finuas Skillnet was established in mid-2009. Since then we have delivered over 500 courses to over 8,000 participants from 300 companies operating in the international financial services sector in Ireland. Courses have ranged from specialist workshops in Solvency II and Basel III, certified programmes in Financial Regulation and Complex Financial Instruments up to postgraduate/Masters Level i.e. MSc in Risk Management and the Professional Diploma in Applied Alternative Investments.

Why get involved

- Avail of a comprehensive range of specialist courses designed for the international financial services sector
- Opportunity to significantly reduce training costs through the availability of grant funding
- Provides the opportunity to work with education and training providers to update and amend course content in line with market developments
- Ensure your employees acquire the latest skills to maintain your organisation's competitiveness
- Opportunity to network and collaborate with other member companies

How to get involved:

- Sign up for free at: www.summitfinuasnetwork.com
- Email: info@summitfinuasnetwork.com
- Tweet us: @summitfinuas
- LinkedIn: @SummitFinuasNetwork

Introduction



The investment industry is in the midst of one of the most significant evolutions in decades. Investors are allocating more and more funds to alternative assets and alternative investment strategies as they seek higher yields and stronger returns. This is manifesting itself in a major change in the type of products which investors are demanding and in the broadness of fund types which the investment industry is managing.

As alternative assets and alternative investment strategies have become increasingly mainstream, from hedge funds through to private equity, and from credit funds through to infrastructure, the funds industry faces the challenge of upskilling to meet this wave of new investment structures. It is critical for long term success that professionals who work in the industry, understand how the move to alternatives demands a broader understanding of the investment landscape and the choice of asset type available to investors.

To this end, The Institute of Banking, in association with Irish Funds, is pleased to introduce this brochure for the Professional Diploma in Applied Alternative Investments. The programme will provide you with a unique opportunity to gain a qualification, accredited by University College Dublin, in the area of applied alternative investments.

I look forward to welcoming you on the programme.

Kevin Mc Connell CFA
Programme Director

About the programme

Who is this programme for?

The Professional Diploma in Applied Alternative Investments provides an opportunity for professionals working in the international financial services to develop their expertise in the growing alternative assets market.

Increasingly, alternative assets which includes hedge funds, commodities, private equity, structured products and real asset investments such as infrastructure investments are becoming mainstream investments which are predicted to grow.

The international investment fund industry faces the challenge of upskilling to meet this wave of new investment structures. Given the breadth of alternative assets the programme will appeal to professionals working in international financial services who want to develop expertise in alternative investments. It is critical for long term success that those who work in the industry understand how the move to alternatives demands a broader understanding of the investment landscape and the choice of asset type available to investors.

Benefits for you and your organisation

The overall aim of the programme is to develop your technical knowledge and skills in alternative investments. It will:

- Advance your knowledge and understanding of valuation issues relevant to alternative investments and alternative investment funds.
- Progress your understanding of long-term trends in the demand for alternative investments.
- Deepen your knowledge and expertise in the range of alternative investment strategies.
- Introduce the relevance and importance of alternative investments to various types of investors.
- Develop your knowledge of legal and regulatory issues affecting alternative investment funds.

Award

When you successfully complete the three modules of this programme, you will be awarded the Professional Diploma in Applied Alternative Investments from UCD (at postgraduate level 9).

Curriculum

The programme comprises of three modules as follows:

- 01 Investment Valuation and Risk
- 02 Applied Alternative Investment Strategies
- 03 Legal and Regulatory Aspects of Alternative Investments

“The investment industry is constantly evolving and so it is paramount to keep abreast of new industry thinking.”

This programme incorporates practical workshops and fieldwork whilst encouraging students to complete their own research. The programme moves away from ‘read the book’ type of learning and forces the students to think as an Investment Manager would.”

Paul Duffy
Capita Asset Services

01

Investment valuation and risk (NFQ level 9, 10 ECTS)

The module introduces the principles underpinning asset valuation and risk analysis to provide a foundation for exploring fund valuation drivers relevant to alternative investment funds. It presents a range of alternative investments available to investors and explains their drivers of market performance. It also explores the key economic variables impacting returns in conjunction with performance evaluation methodologies relevant to alternative investment funds. The module concludes with an analysis of the empirical evidence identifying trends for alternative investments and the structural drivers of the predicted increase in long-term demand.

02

Applied alternative investment strategies (NFQ level 9, 10 ECTS)

This module builds upon investment valuation and risk to develop a deeper understanding of available alternative investments including private equity, hedge funds and managed funds, commodities, real assets and structured products. Next, it considers key issues in relation to asset allocation and portfolio management and develops an understanding of alternative fund management and issues of illiquidity risk which has important implications for endowment and foundation portfolios and pension fund portfolio management. This module concludes with an analysis of risk management, manager selection and due diligence.

03

Legal and regulatory aspects of alternative investments (NFQ level 9, 5 ECTS)

This module introduces the rationale and structure of regulatory regimes for investment funds domiciled and operation in Ireland, examining the basis for regulation and the institutions responsible for regulation at domestic and EU levels. It develops students' ability to critically analyse a piece of regulatory legislation and identify the legal and regulatory obligations imposed by the regulation. It will also examine the preparation of a memorandum in relation to a new piece of regulation, highlighting the obligations it imposes and the competencies necessary to discharge those obligations and the tools available to the regulator to enforce such regulation.

Further Information

Entry requirements

The minimum entry requirements for the programme are:

- Honours degree (second class honours grade 2 award or higher) in business or a related discipline etc. and have at least one year's experience in the funds industry

Or

- Admission may also be considered for experienced professionals who do not meet the admission requirements as set out in a) where they can demonstrate learning through work and training which makes them a suitable candidate for the programme (i.e. they will have significant experience in a senior funds role with responsibility for decision-making).

Professional body membership

You must be a current member of the Institute, or become a member, to undertake this programme.

Membership is currently €40 per calendar year.

Fees

The programme fee is €3,250.
Summit Finuas Skillnet price €2,375**

We encourage candidates to register for the full academic year but if you choose to register on a per module basis the fees are broken down as follows:

Module	Fees	Summit Finuas Network Price
Semester 1 2018/2019		
Investment Valuation and Risk	€1,300	€950*
Semester 2 2018/2019		
Applied Alternative Investment Strategies	€1,300	€950**
Legal and Regulatory Aspects of Alternative Investments	€650	€475**

*2018 modules are eligible for Summit Finuas Skillnet funding for a limited number of places on a first come first served basis.

**The availability of funding for modules in future semesters will be confirmed in advance of their commencement.

Tax relief may be available to candidates who are paying fees in a personal capacity. Further information is available from www.revenue.ie.

Application Process

Early applications are encouraged. An application form may be downloaded from The Institute of Banking website (www.iob.ie/alternatives).

The closing date for applications is 27 August 2018. Applications received after this date will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis, if places are available.

Duration

From Oct 2018, this programme will be delivered over two semesters. The programme will commence with Module 01. Investment Valuation & Risk.

Delivery

This programme is delivered on a part-time basis & for each module lectures will take place in Dublin City Centre (IFSC). Each 10 ECTS module comprises of up to 30 lecture hours per semester and the 5 ECTS module comprises of 15 hours delivery per semester.

Assessment

Assessment is a combination of continuous assessment and written exams. The pass mark is 40% in all modules in line with UCD academic policies.

Programme commencement

The programme commences in October 2018.

Interested? Next steps

For further information on the Professional Diploma in Applied Alternative Investments visit www.iob.ie/postgrad or you can contact:

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“Over 20% of the world's assets under management will be in alternative assets by 2020. The shift to alternatives is gathering pace as investors search for superior risk/return and yield...”

PWC

Spring 14

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