

Changes to the Level 4 Professional Certificate in Banking.

At a recent review of the Professional Certificate in Banking (PCertB[®]) a number of changes and enhancements were approved.

The *ifs* School of Finance is committed to ensuring that its programmes remain relevant and up-to-date. Regular review is an important part of our activity to ensure the continuing relevance of our qualifications.

The review of the PCertB[®] was undertaken by a Programme Team which included external academics and practitioners, *ifs* staff and members of its academic community responsible for delivery and assessment of the programme. The views of students and industry contacts were taken into account as part of the process.

The main changes relate to the streamlining of modules; the introduction of new modules in Retail Lending and Banking Law, and Economics; the renaming of existing modules to provide greater clarity of their content and subject coverage and the full-scale review of all existing modules to ensure they remained relevant and up-to-date.

For further information, please contact the *ifs* Admissions, Academic Management and Student Services Office at enquiries@ifslearning.ac.uk or on +44 (0) 1227 829499.

FAQ

1. What changes have been made to the PCertB and why?

- i. A number of modules will be renamed to better reflect their content:
 - Organisations and Individuals becomes *Fundamentals of Leadership and Management*
 - Customers and their Needs becomes *Marketing in Financial Services*
 - Measuring Performance becomes *Assessing Financial Performance*
 - Managing Corporate and Business Relationships becomes *Corporate Relationship Management*
- ii. Four 15-credit modules will be phased out:
 - Consumer Credit Risk Management (CCRM)
 - Principles of Lending and Credit (PLCR)
 - Relationship and Wealth Management (RAWM)
 - Retail Management in Financial Services (RMAN)
- iii. A new 30-credit module in Retail Lending has been introduced. This module brings together key elements of the 15-credit modules Principles of Lending and Credit and Consumer Credit Risk Management. In addition, the inclusion of a separate 30-credit module in Retail Lending now provides for distinct Corporate and Retail streams at each level of study.
- iv. Two new 15-credit modules have been introduced: Introduction to Banking Law, and Economics. These modules give students the opportunity to study standalone modules in these popular subjects, also making suitable companion modules. However, no co-requisites are necessary.
- v. The credit load of the Introduction to Work-Based Learning module has been changed to 30 credits to reflect its size and scope.

2. I am already studying the PCertB, how will this change impact my studies?

The changes and enhancements to the PCertB will benefit existing students as well as those registering for the first time. The new modules introduced offer students a wide choice of subjects and the inclusion of a module in Retail Lending now provides for distinct Corporate and Retail streams at each level of study. Students who have studied, or are studying, either Principles of Lending and Credit and Consumer Credit Risk Management will however be excluded from taking Retail Lending.

Renamed modules will have updated syllabuses, learning materials and assessments. All information on changes to modules will be available online prior to registration.

3. What happens if the module I am taking is withdrawn and I need to resit an assessment component?

For modules being phased out, the study session starting May 2012 will be the last registration session, with resit sessions scheduled throughout 2012 for different assessment components. This ensures that all students will have at least one resit opportunity.

4. When will these changes be introduced?

The following arrangements have been made for the transition from the existing to the new programme schedule and for the proposed phase-out of modules:

- i. The schedule of new modules will be introduced in November 2012 [part-time], apart from Introduction to Work-based Learning which will change to a 30-credit load from May 2012.
- ii. For modules being phased out, the study session starting May 2012 will be the last registration session, with resit sessions scheduled throughout 2012 for different assessment components.

5. I would like more information, who should I contact?

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