

Level 5 Professional Diploma in Banking Practice and Management: A new award of the *ifs* School of Finance

The Professional Diploma in Banking Practice and Management (PDipBPM) was recently validated by an independent panel as an award of the *ifs* School of Finance.

The PDipBPM was launched in 2007. It was designed, developed and delivered by the *ifs* School of Finance but awarded by the University of Kent. Following the grant of Taught Degree-Awarding Powers (TDAP) in 2010, the *ifs* has validated all its existing programmes, as well as developing new programmes such as the full-time BSc (Hons) in Banking Practice and Management.

At the validation event the programme was reviewed and approved by a panel of external academics and practitioners. The recommendation for approval as an *ifs* award adds further credence to the *ifs*' position as the only independent degree awarding institution exclusively serving the specific needs of the financial services sector.

For existing students:

If you are already registered for an *ifs* Level 5 programme (Foundation Degree / Professional Diploma) you will be unaffected and your qualification will remain awarded by the University of Kent.

For new students:

If you are a student registering for the Professional Diploma in Banking Practice and Management from 2012 onwards, your qualification will be awarded by the *ifs* School of Finance.

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. Why is the PDipBPM being validated as an award of the *ifs* School of Finance?

Following the grant of Taught Degree-Awarding Powers (TDAP) in 2010, the *ifs* has validated all its existing programmes, as well as developing new programmes such as the full-time BSc (Hons) in Banking Practice and Management.

The decision to validate the PDipBPM as an award of the *ifs* is a natural progression as the *ifs* consolidates and builds upon its grant of TDAP and adds further credence to the *ifs*' position as the only independent degree awarding institution exclusively serving the specific needs of the financial services sector.

2. Why has the Foundation Degree title been dropped?

The decision to validate the Level 5 as a Professional Diploma was made by the *ifs* Higher Education Academic Strategy Committee (HEASC). This decision was taken as numbers achieving the Professional Diploma were greater than those for the Foundation Degree and in recognition that clearly designated professional awards align more closely with the *ifs*' target market and with its strategy.

3. I am already studying at Level 5, how will this change impact students like me?

If you are already registered for an *ifs* Level 5 programme (Foundation Degree / Professional Diploma) you will be unaffected and your qualification will remain awarded by the University of Kent.

4. I want to study Level 5 in the future, how will this change impact students like me?

This change will mean that you will study for and be awarded the Professional Diploma in Banking Practice and Management from the *ifs School of Finance*. There will be no other difference from students studying for a qualification awarded by the University of Kent – all modules will be available to all students with all study materials and assessments the same.

5. When will the *ifs* start to award the Professional Diploma?

Students registering for courses starting from 1 May 2012 will be registered for the Professional Diploma in Banking Practice and Management awarded by the *ifs*.

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

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