

Quality, Innovation and Relevance in Financial Education

# Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education



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[www.ifslearning.ac.uk/PGCHE](http://www.ifslearning.ac.uk/PGCHE)

# Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education

The only HE teaching qualification with a specific focus on financial services

The **ifs** School of Finance Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education (PGCHE) is a unique qualification for those teaching banking and financial services subjects in Higher Education Institutions.

It has been developed to support participants in the mastering of the knowledge and skills necessary to be a successful lecturer, tutor or faculty leader within Higher Education. It provides reflective learning underpinned by scholarship, relating to learning and teaching in Higher Education generally, and in banking and finance specifically.

The **ifs** PGCHE is the first and only financial services specialist programme of its kind and builds directly upon the background of the **ifs**, with a strong focus on blending the academic with the vocational. It provides an internationally recognised learning and teaching qualification underpinned by the **ifs'** unique linkage to, and understanding of, the financial services industry.

*“This PGCHE forum is indeed highly interactive and hardly one to worry about tumbleweed! If anything it is more of a fast growing jungle and one which is hard to keep on top of but amazingly interesting as we go along its path.”*

**ifs** PGCHE student 2011

*“This is my first experience of VLE as a student, and I am finding it a very easy medium to use, I am learning, I can fit it in around everything else, feel part of it, and feel part of a wider group even though I may have only met a few in person. For me, therefore, it is a success.”*

**ifs** PGCHE student 2011



## Studying the *ifs* PGCHE

The *ifs* PGCHE is delivered via distance learning. The programme consists of three compulsory 20-credit modules with the inclusion of a module unique to the financial services industry that enables participants to contextualise their learning and teaching strategies to the sector.

It will enable participants to:

- Develop a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the core elements of learning and teaching principles
- Develop and extend a repertoire of teaching skills in face-to-face, online and distance learning environments
- Investigate and analyse a range of issues relating to learning, teaching, assessment and student support within the provision of banking and finance education
- Critically analyse and evaluate learning and teaching theories and strategies for teaching banking and finance both nationally and within a global context
- Evaluate current research and scholarship in learning and teaching in banking and finance
- Undertake and apply academic research to critique and analyse their own strategies relating to teaching, assessment and the evaluation of learning
- Work at the frontiers of current knowledge and understanding of how adults learn, applying this understanding to individual learning cohorts



## Who is it for?

The *ifs* PGCHE is designed for anyone teaching, or aspiring to teach, banking and financial services subjects in Higher Education.

It will be beneficial for those with teaching experience who wish to apply their existing skills and knowledge more specifically to the delivery of financial services related programmes.

The programme will also be of value to Faculty Heads or Deans who wish to put in place a development programme for their academic teams that ensures they have a common benchmark understanding of both teaching theory and practice and its application to the financial services industry.

## Duration and study time

The maximum study period for the programme is three years. However, applicants will be encouraged and supported to complete the PGCHE in twelve months. The course requires an average of 600 hours of study commitment.

*“ I found the online discussion forum most interesting; the interaction between participants and the tutor really makes you feel part of a community. It definitely helps you think about things from a different point of view. I like the diversity of our backgrounds and all input is welcomed. ”*

*ifs* PGCHE student 2011

## Module content

### Module 1 - Learning and Teaching in Higher Education

This module enables participants to gain an insight into the fundamentals of how learning takes place, teaching and support strategies that may be employed and the use of effective assessment tools to demonstrate learning has taken place. The module also explores the specific characteristics of online and distance learning and will introduce and encourage reflective learning.

### Module 2 - Academic Practice in Banking and Finance

This module explores higher education learning and teaching with specific reference to banking and finance subjects. The module provides participants with an opportunity to explore the specific issues related to their teaching and students' learning within the fast changing and demanding financial services environment.

### Module 3 - Individual Project

This module comprises a 4,000-word project on a topic of the participant's choice (decided in consultation with their supervisor). The module offers the opportunity to develop an individual interest in greater detail, whether in the form of primary research or a review of research within a particular, defined field.



## Student Support and Resources

### Module leaders and personal tutors

Each student is allocated a module leader for each module and a personal tutor throughout the programme. The module leader is able to advise on matters relating to content, pedagogy and assessment. The personal tutor is able to advise on broader matters, such as if a personal or professional challenge might potentially interrupt a participant's study.

### Virtual Learning Environment

The **ifs** Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) supports and guides students throughout their studies. Resources include:

- Study guide
- All programme materials and activities
- Interactive forums and blogs with online communication between peers and tutors
- Academic journals
- Access to **ifs KnowledgeBank**

### **ifs KnowledgeBank**

Our online library is exclusively available to **ifs** students. It gives access to a wealth of valuable knowledge including:

- Recommended reading
- Databases
- Full text journals
- E-books
- Subject gateways and other intelligence tools

## Assessment

To support student engagement and reflect the academic and practitioner blend of the programme, assessments are designed to be as authentic as possible enabling participants to draw upon the reality of their learning and teaching contexts. A range of assessment tools is used including online forums, essay style assignments, reflective journals and an individual project.

## Entry criteria

Entry requirements for the *ifs* PGCHE are normally:

- A first degree (normally 2:1 or above) or equivalent (e.g. a professional qualification recognised at being at degree level)
- At least two years' experience of teaching, training or learning support
- Industry experience is preferred, but not essential

Applicants may be interviewed and/or required to submit a piece of written work in addition to their application to enable an assessment to be made of their suitability for the programme.

Applicants for whom English is not their first language would be expected to demonstrate competence through achieving an IELTS score of normally 7.0 (with no element below 6.5).

Exceptional candidates not possessing these requirements may be considered if they can demonstrate their ability to achieve at this level and contribute to the debates, discussion and work of the learning set.

## Programme fees

The programme fee is £1,800 per student. This fee covers materials, assessment and tutor support.



## Next steps

The application period for September 2012 entry opens from January 2012 and will close on Monday 16 July 2012.

To register for this programme please apply online at [www.ukpass.ac.uk](http://www.ukpass.ac.uk)

For further information about the qualification or to apply please visit our website [www.ifslearning.ac.uk/PGCHE](http://www.ifslearning.ac.uk/PGCHE) or contact Student Services, Professional Higher Education on +44 (0)1227 829499 or email [enquiries@ifslearning.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@ifslearning.ac.uk).

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## About the **ifs** School of Finance

The **ifs** School of Finance is a registered charity, incorporated by Royal Charter and has a remit to provide the financial services industry with a skilled and competent workforce while also promoting a better understanding of finance amongst consumers.

The **ifs** is the only specialist financial education body that is able to award its own taught degrees, a status that reflects the quality of all its programmes. Its financial capability, regulatory 'licences to practise' and higher professional qualifications are directly informed in terms of content and learning experience by the needs of those it exists to educate. They bridge the academic/vocational divide to provide students with essential practical skills and the conceptual and analytical abilities of academic study.

It is this unique and innovative approach that makes the **ifs** the provider of choice for organisations and individuals seeking to improve knowledge, skills and career prospects in the area of finance and financial services.

### **ifs** School of Finance

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