

AlumniConnect

For alumni and friends of the *ifs* School of Finance



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Welcome

Welcome to Alumni Connect, the bulletin for alumni and friends of the *ifs* School of Finance.

It's an exciting time to be part of the *ifs* alumni community and play an active role in your own development, as well as supporting others who want to enter the industry.

Throughout 2011 the *ifs* has been enhancing its services for alumni members. We held a comprehensive programme of professional networking events around the country, more alumni than ever are achieving Chartered Associateship, and Financial World continues to provide expert comment and analysis on the latest industry developments.

Another highlight of the year was the launch of our first full-time degree programme at the end of September, and through your

generous support we will be able to award a number of scholarships and provide improved teaching facilities for these students. You can read about the work of the Alumni Fund and the launch of the full-time degree programme in this issue. You can also find out how you can get involved and donate to the Fund.

As always, we would very much like to keep you informed on what is happening at the *ifs* throughout the year. You can update your contact details at any time by logging onto www.myifsllearning.com and selecting 'my details'.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the many events we hold throughout the year.

With best wishes

Chris Ray
Director of Communications and Alumni Services
ifs School of Finance

ifs welcomes its first full-time students

On 26 September we welcomed our first full-time degree students. The students, many of whom have already studied *ifs* Financial Capability qualifications, will spend the next three years studying our new degree, the BSc in Banking Practice & Management. During the first week the students familiarised themselves with the programme, the City and the many professional support elements that have been brought together to offer them a 'first class' learning experience.

The programme sees an undergraduate student cohort based at the *ifs* School of Finance City campus for the first time. A great deal of preparatory work went into aligning the modules studied in Year 1 with the learning needs of full-time undergraduates.

One element of student support that has been enhanced for the full-time degree is the *ifs* School of Finance Student Mentor scheme. This is an innovative scheme of peer support, underpinned by learning theory.

Many of our full-time students fall into the 18–21 age group and are away from home for the first time. So there might be occasions where they have a concern that they do not wish to direct to their lecturer,

or to the Higher Education Student Advisers at the *ifs*. Therefore, we have added to our existing network of student mentors who can offer informal advice and guidance to their fellow learners.

The scheme is supported by workshops in which volunteers explore potential scenarios they might encounter and frameworks for mentoring. The mentors, existing *ifs* students, are all very enthusiastic about their new role and met students at a social event on 6 October.

The full-time degree opens up wonderful new opportunities for learning, teaching and support. Alumni can support students in achieving their full potential by donating to the *ifs* Alumni Fund or by providing placements and delivering careers talks.

If you would like to give a careers talk or offer a work placement please contact Alumni Services on +44 (0) 207 444 7129 or email alumni@ifsllearning.ac.uk.



Are you connected?

As well as offering many offline networking opportunities, the *ifs* School of Finance also has large active groups on all the main social networking sites. So even if you cannot attend any of the networking events you can still connect with fellow alumni from around the world.

You can join one of our LinkedIn groups and participate in the forums by sending a request to linkd.in/ifsalumni, or you can follow us on Twitter at [@ifsalumni](https://twitter.com/ifsalumni) by scanning the QR code with your smart phone.



So why not join and connect with other *ifs* alumni who log on daily to chat, read the latest *ifs* news, and find out about forthcoming events.

Five new members join the *ifs* School of Finance Board of Governors

The *ifs* School of Finance has confirmed five senior appointments to its Board of Governors. The appointments follow the Bank of England's Dr. Paul Fisher joining as Chairman in March 2011.

The new members are; Antony Jenkins, Chief Executive of Global Retail Banking at Barclays, Chris Sullivan, Chief Executive of Corporate Banking at RBS, Brendan Cook, General Manager and Head of Retail Banking and Wealth Management at HSBC, Dr Christine Braddock CBE, Principal and Chief Executive of Birmingham Metropolitan College, and David Nicholson, Managing Director of Halifax Community Bank, part of Lloyds Banking Group.

Supporting young talent

Henry Grunfeld was the co-founder of SG Warburg and chairman from 1964 to 1974. He established the Henry Grunfeld Foundation in 1994 to help people working in the City of London advance their careers, irrespective of their cultural or financial background.

In the mid-1990s the *ifs* School of Finance was invited to assume control of the Henry Grunfeld Foundation, with its Board of Governors acting as trustees. As well as funding scholarships for INSEAD MBA students, the Foundation funds *ifs* research fellowships and more recently allocated £65,000 to provide support for our new full-time students.

Norman Wu, President of the *ifs* Singapore Professional Network, attended the INSEAD MBA opening ceremony in Singapore on 29 August on behalf of the *ifs* School of Finance, where he met Finley Wright, the latest recipient of a scholarship from the Henry Grunfeld Foundation.



To find out more information about the *ifs*' work with the Henry Grunfeld Foundation, please visit www.ifslearning.ac.uk/donate

Alumni networking opportunities

ifs Professional Networking events take place throughout the UK and around the world. They give *ifs* alumni the opportunity to network and connect with each other in a relaxed environment.

All alumni members get free access to Prestige Lectures and personal development events as part of their annual subscription.

Among the speakers we welcomed in 2011 were high-profile industry leaders Darren Ketteringham, partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers; Alan Higgins, Head of Investment Strategy, RBS Coutts; and Dennis Turner, Chief Economist, HSBC, who gave us a fascinating insight into their experiences and achievements.

We also heard from speakers such as Allister Heath, Editor of City AM, and Emma Sinclair, CEO and founder of Target Parking, speaking as part of our popular High Flyers series, which focuses on new entrants into the industry and is aimed at supporting career progression.

We have many exciting events already in place for 2012. You can find details of the current events programme at www.ifslearning.ac.uk/events



Financial World

Financial World is the award-winning magazine included as part of your alumni membership subscription. It is unique in the marketplace, as it brings together some of the best financial journalists, commentators and experts in the worldwide financial services industry.

Throughout 2011 the magazine continued to keep alumni up to date and provide expert comment on the latest industry developments. In February, Mark Cliffe, Chief Economist of ING Savings, examined how rising inflation contributed towards the unrest in the Middle East. In June, Alex Brummer, City Editor of the *Daily Mail*, discovered how a new financial deal with the government meant the monarchy had more to celebrate than just Prince William's wedding. And in September a special series of articles looked at how the IMF is struggling to remain relevant to emerging nations.

If you missed any of these articles, they are still available on the *Financial World* website, access to which is also included as part of your subscription.

ifs Alumni Fund makes a difference

The *ifs* School of Finance established the Alumni Fund in 2010 to offer wider access to its programmes and to allow alumni an opportunity to give something back by investing in the next generation.

Increasing fees and the competition for places are deterring many talented young students from continuing their studies and they are missing out on the opportunity to realise their full potential. The *ifs* Alumni Fund provides assistance by awarding scholarships to help students with education and maintenance costs, as well as providing funding for teaching resources essential for studies.

The Fund aims to raise £100,000 in donations and pledges by 2015. The Fund is open to regular donations via direct debit and one-off pledges from *ifs* alumni and those working in financial services who wish to invest in the success of others in the industry.

There are a number of other opportunities for you to get involved in supporting our students. We are particularly interested in hearing from alumni who would like to give career talks or provide internships to students studying work-based modules as part of their degree.

If you would like more information on how you can get involved, or further information on the fund, please contact Alumni Services on +44 (0) 207 444 7129 or email alumni@ifslearning.ac.uk.

Alternatively you can visit our website at www.ifslearning.ac.uk/donate



Chartered Associateship stands above the rest!

Over the past three years Chartered Associateship has emerged as the industry's benchmark professional designation. It empowers *ifs* alumni members to take control of their professional development and allows them to demonstrate, both internally and externally, their commitment to maintaining their knowledge after they have completed their studies.



ifs KnowledgeBank

Did you know that access to *ifs KnowledgeBank*, the *ifs*' own e-library, is included as part of your annual subscription? With *KnowledgeBank* you can access a rich variety of resources that are designed to help you with your professional development, exam preparation and study support.

Resources currently available include:

- EBSCO, a searchable database providing access to complete articles from a range of top business, management and economics journals
- Mint, a business intelligence tool providing information on 2.5 million UK companies and their markets
- NetLibrary, a virtual library of over 200,000 downloadable eBooks from the world's leading reference publishers

ifs KnowledgeBank can also help support professional development through a range of e-learning tools:

- 50 Lessons is a collection of short and powerful videos in which the world's most successful business leaders pass on some of their most important learning experiences.
- Harvard ManageMentor is a practical resource that delivers action-oriented information on key management topics such as improving communication and leadership skills.

If you have never used the library you can log on at www.myifslearning.com with your *ifs* username and password. To help you find your way around, it is worth taking the *KnowledgeBank* tour by clicking on 'Getting Started' (the link is at the top of the homepage). If you need any help in accessing *KnowledgeBank*, or finding your way around, please call the *KnowledgeBank* team on 020 7444 7147, or email knowledgebank@ifslearning.ac.uk

Throughout 2011 we have seen a significant increase in the number of alumni gaining and working towards Chartered status. In addition we have also seen a number of the major banks encouraging staff to achieve and maintain Chartered Associateship.

To be eligible to apply for this unique programme, you need to be currently working within the industry with at least two years' work experience. You also need to have successfully completed an *ifs* BSc (Hons) degree or Associateship qualification and commit to undertaking a programme of monitored Continuing Professional Development.

As a Chartered Associate you will be able to use the title Chartered Associate of the *ifs School of Finance*, or the designation CAifs, and your name will be added to the Chartered Associate directory. You will also receive a dated certificate and Chartered Associate card, which will be re-issued on completion of subsequent years' CPD requirements.

If you are interested in applying to become a Chartered Associate, please visit our website at www.ifslearning.ac.uk/caifs

Online Continuing Professional Development (CPD) tool available for all alumni members

It has never been more important to take responsibility for maintaining your own CPD record. By doing so you are demonstrating your commitment to professional standards, continued learning and keeping your knowledge up to date.

There are many benefits to maintaining your CPD record. Not only does it showcase your achievements by focusing on the skills and expertise that are relevant to your professional role, it also encourages you to focus on any training and development needs you may have, by helping you to identify gaps in knowledge and experience.

All alumni members of the *ifs School of Finance* are able to keep a comprehensive record of their own CPD via the *ifs*' own online Continuing Professional Development tool, **myCPD**. **myCPD** is an easy-to-use online application that eliminates the need to complete lengthy paperwork or fill in long spreadsheets. All data is stored securely at the *ifs* so it is always safe and available to you to access if you need to print off reports or update your achievements. Users can even download their own certificates once they have successfully completed the scheme, or view a complete history of their CPD log.

To start using **myCPD** today, please log in using your *ifs* number and password at www.myifslearning.com, go to **myCPD** and click on 'register for CPD this year'.

