

FUNDS

LEVEL

9

Professional Certificate in

# Capital Markets, Investments and Funds

2024-2025



A recognised  
college of UCD



# Who we are

## IOB

IOB is a professional community of over 33,200 members who work in banking and the financial services sector. Professional development of our members through education is at the heart of what we do. IOB 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 6,900 individuals studied with us last year and over 23,000 members are registered for CPD schemes administered by IOB.

## 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 and Diplomas (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 Irish Funds Industry Association (Irish Funds) is the representative body of the international investment fund community in Ireland. It represents fund promoters / managers, administrators, depositaries, transfer agents and professional advisory firms involved in the international funds industry in Ireland, with over 14,000 funds and net assets of more than €5.4 trillion.

The objective of Irish Funds is to support and complement the development of the international funds industry in Ireland, ensuring it continues to be the location of choice for the domiciling and servicing of investment funds. Through its work with governmental and industry committees and working groups, Irish Funds contributes to the development of Ireland’s regulatory and legislative framework. Irish Funds is also involved in defining market practice through the development of policy and guidance papers and supporting industry specific training.

Irish Funds raises the profile of Ireland as the premier location to enable and support global investing through its reputation for trust, capability, and innovation. The Association promotes 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 [irishfunds.ie](http://irishfunds.ie).

## IFS Skillnet

The IFS Skillnet is co-funded by Skillnet Ireland and member companies. The IFS 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 IFS Skillnet was established in mid-2009. Since then we have delivered over 2,000 courses to 15,000 plus participants from 430 companies operating in the international financial services sector in Ireland. We support our members to upskill in areas such as digitalisation, ESG, leadership, people skills, project management and regulatory compliance.

# Faculty



## Kevin McConnell

Kevin, a Chartered Financial Analyst, is an external specialist consultant in the banking and investment sectors with over 25 years of experience in financial markets. Working with banks, regulators and investors in Credit, Capital, Stress Testing and Strategy, Kevin has experience in over a dozen regulatory jurisdictions across Europe, US and Emerging markets.

He has worked through a range of mid-tier to top tier M&A transactions providing stress testing/due diligence consultancy, and transaction advisory. He was a member of Committee on Collective Investment Governance (CCIG) of Central Bank of Ireland (2014) which supported the development of CP86.

He is currently a member of the Advisory Committee of the Certified Investment Fund Director Institute. He developed and delivers the post graduate programs in Alternative Assets at IOB (UCD), in Wealth Management in the Masters in Finance at Trinity College Dublin, and on the Certified Bank Director program in Ireland and UK.

Kevin is also deputy chair of the Irish platform one of the largest CLO originators in Europe and is chief executive of GEM Strategic, a specialist consultancy firm.

# Introduction

## Who is this programme for?

The Professional Certificate in Capital Markets, Investments and Funds is designed for professionals in the funds, capital markets and asset management industry, drawing on and integrating key areas of essential knowledge, theory and practice required by individuals associated with the investment and risk management processes. It is designed for:

- Capital Markets and Banking specialists
- Equity and Debt Raising professionals
- Corporate Finance advisers
- Asset managers and fund service providers
- Accountants, lawyers and other professionals who provide advice in the areas of capital markets, investment and funds
- Those involved in wealth management and advice
- Internal Audit staff who assess investment and risk processes
- Compliance professionals
- Fund Managers / Fund Promoters
- Financial control staff with responsibility for budget setting, capital allocation, financial performance evaluation and financial/regulatory reporting.

## How you will benefit?

On completing the Professional Certificate in Capital Markets, Investments and Funds, you will be expected to be able to:

- Describe and explain the theory and practice underpinning capital markets activities, and the operations required to facilitate investors in those markets in achieving their investments goals.
- Identify capital markets main participants, outline their roles and also the variety of products commonly traded through capital markets and their settlement and reporting cycles. Explain how the funds industry interacts with capital markets and capital markets participants.
- Outline and discuss the key market drivers of capital markets operations and fund performance.
- Understand the key processes which underpin a robust risk management system in the funds area, and investigate cases when investments / investment strategies fail in implementation or failures in the trade life cycle.
- Have an understanding of the regulatory regime for funds and review the consequences of regulatory change across capital markets from the perspective of an investment funds manager, distributor, funds services providers, and the investor in those funds.
- Drawing on your learning, identify and pursue career enhancement / professional development opportunities within capital markets and the funds industry.



**//** This programme was very beneficial in expanding my regulatory understanding of the funds environment, along with broadening my knowledge of the key drivers of global capital markets. The programme was delivered in a collaborative manner, allowing students to contribute during lectures. Having the online study support on IOB Learn also provided flexibility to study at my own pace alongside other commitments.”

**Brian Dorgan**  
Citco

# Curriculum

NFQ: Level 9  
Academic credits: 10 ECTS  
Modules: 1  
Awarding body: UCD

The Professional Certificate in Capital Markets, Investments and Funds is a level 9 NFQ, single module programme, targeted at the fund management industry, bringing together all the major areas of requisite knowledge required for portfolio and risk management processes within the funds and investment environment. Covering financial markets drivers, through product structures, settlement cycles, risk/return, due diligence, regulation, alternatives and ESG, this programme is designed to develop and widen your knowledge and understanding of the funds industry.

The Professional Certificate in Capital Markets, Investments and Funds comprises one module as follows:

1. **Capital Markets, Investments and Funds**  
(NFQ LEVEL 9, 10 ECTS)

Topics	Descriptions
Understanding Financial Markets	Financial markets history: Equities, Bonds, Alternatives markets. Evolution and importance of capital markets. Understanding the core financial markets and history of asset prices.
Portfolio Management Part 1: Economics of Investment Management	Economics for Equity, Bonds, Property, Cash, other Alternatives. Impact of economic cycles on market returns and asset performance. Impact of Monetary Authorities and of Fiscal policy.
Key Legal Regulatory Requirements Part 1	Funds & Investments Regulations for capital markets, market participants and market structure. Markets Regulations.
Portfolio Management Part 2: a) Mathematics of Risk & Return	Measuring of performance, VAR, IRRs, Beta, Duration. Time Values, Discounting, Bond returns.
b) Asset Valuation	Key drivers of valuation - Bonds, Equities, Property, Alternatives. Valuation models and techniques.
Risk Management	Market Risk, Volatility, Liquidity Risk , Climate Risk, FX Risk, Interest Rate Risk. 3 Lines of Defence, Regulatory Reporting Requirements.
Hedging Portfolios & Derivatives	Key Uses of Derivatives - Calls, Puts, Futures, Interest Rate SWAPs, Total Return SWAPs, Credit Derivatives.
Alternative Investment Management	Real Estate, Private Equity/Private Credit/Debt, Hedge Funds , Commodities, Infrastructure, Digital Assets.
Portfolio Management Part 3: Building/Managing Portfolios	Fund development, investment selection, investment management. Case studies in investment management.
Key Legal Regulatory Requirements Part 2	Funds Regulations / Funds Law-UCITS / AIFMD / PRIIPS / CP86. Key fund structures and regulations. Protection of institutional and retail investors. Designated person for Investment Management (PCF 39D).
Sustainable Investing	ESG, Climate Risk Investing, Investing for Transition, SFDR Article 6,8,9 Investment Funds.
Portfolio Management Part 4: Investments & Funds Due Diligence	Key due diligence questions in building and managing assets and investment funds portfolios for all major fund industry participants.

# Further Information

### Award

When you successfully complete this programme, you will be awarded a Professional Certificate in Capital Markets, Investments and Funds from UCD. This is a level 9 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirements to the Professional Certificate in Capital Markets Investments and Funds

- Will normally possess an Hons. Degree (Second class Hons. Grade 2 award or higher) and have employment experience in financial services sector

Or

- Applications from aspiring candidates who do not satisfy criterion 1 above but have significant employment experience at middle to senior management level, will be considered for admission on a case-by-case basis.

### Assessment

Continuous assessment which carries 30% of the final grade and a two-hour end of trimester exam worth 70%.

### Fees

IOB programme fee – €1,595

IFS Skillnet fee – €1,195

- This programme has IFS Skillnet funding available for certain companies. You should check if your company has IFS Skillnet approval.
- Please note funding available for modules running up until end of 2024 only, a new application will be required for modules running in 2025 if funding is available.
- The availability of funding for modules in future trimesters 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](http://www.revenue.ie)

### How to apply

To apply online, visit [iob.ie/programme/capital-markets-investments-and-funds](http://iob.ie/programme/capital-markets-investments-and-funds)

### Your Study Supports

We are committed to providing you with a wide range of supports to help you with your studies. You should start using these as soon as you register to gain maximum benefit, as students who start studying earlier, perform better.

### Learning Supports

Learning supports are available from the start of the trimester from IOB Learn – your own online resource – which is accessible from [iob.ie](http://iob.ie). You should check IOB Learn regularly for module news, study and workshop material and other resources.

### IOB Learn

#### Study Guide

Your Study Guide contains key information. This online document:

- Introduces you to the module you are studying
- Outlines the learning outcomes
- Helps you plan your weekly study throughout the trimester
- Sets out the assignment submission dates.

#### Student Handbook

Your Student Handbook contains key information about the programme, exam guidelines and regulations.

### Email Support

Your Programme Manager will send you regular emails throughout the trimester to help you progress through your studies. These emails will help you prepare for workshops, prompt you on important dates and generally keep you on track.

### Professional body membership

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

### Contact Us

**William Lawless**  
Programme Manager

E: [education@iob.ie](mailto:education@iob.ie)





# IOB Learn

## Your personalised learning platform and mobile app

### Access exclusive content

Review the latest industry insights and thought leadership on financial services. Follow content channels in topics such as risk, compliance, digital innovation and ESG to stay up to date with sector trends and best practices.

### Learn at your own pace

Learn at a time and pace that suits you with the full library of archived IOB events and webinars. IOB Learn is your ticket to the conversations that matter.

### Explore your module and CPD resources

Find your module materials, resources and CPD content for professional designations on one dedicated platform.



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Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



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