

Professional Diploma in Sustainable Finance for Compliance Professionals

NFQ level 8

2022-2023

Who we are

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.

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. Courses available include, Digital Financial Services, Regulatory Reporting, International Funds, Business Analysis, Project Management and a wide range of management and leadership skills.

Sustainable Finance Skillnet (SFS)

The Sustainable Finance Skillnet is a national network that works to develop skills and leadership capacity to advance ESG best practice across Ireland's financial services ecosystem.

Network companies work collaboratively to share best practice and to respond effectively to the specific skills needs of the sector.

The objective of this national network is to support sustainable business growth and practices in Ireland by embedding sustainable approaches within firms through the delivery of specialised training aimed at business leaders and employees.

Compliance Institute

Compliance Institute was established in 2002 to provide opportunities for compliance professionals to develop their network, qualifications, and their professional skills.

Twenty years later, with over 3,250 plus members, the Compliance Institute is the premier provider of education and professional development in compliance, providing a balanced and authoritative voice on matters relating to regulatory compliance and business ethics in industry in Ireland. It is the largest global association of compliance professionals and offers the largest suite of compliance programmes anywhere in the world.

The Compliance Institute's focus is on bringing the compliance community together and facilitating an effective network which helps our members build a contact base that can support them in their role and career. Our evolving professional development training and accredited graduate and post graduate education in the various fields of compliance and business ethics delivered by our educational partners have set the standard for compliance in Ireland.

Being part of the Compliance Institute also means that our members are part of a diverse global network of compliance professionals. Compliance Institute is connected with international associations, providing members with the opportunity to connect with professionals from all around the world.

IOB

IOB is a professional community of over 32,900 members who work in banking, investment funds and international financial services on the island of Ireland. 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 8,500 individuals studied with us last year and over 23,800 members are registered for CPD schemes administered by IOB.

As a recognised college of UCD and the standout banking industry educator, we offer qualifications of the highest standard. We currently offer more than 40 programmes ranging from Professional Certificates (level 7) on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) to Masters Degrees (level 9). We design our programmes to be practical and relevant, but grounded in academic rigour.

Welcome

The Professional Diploma in Sustainable Finance for Compliance Professionals programme is offered to Compliance Institute members by IOB, the Institute's academic education partner. IOB is a recognised college of University College Dublin and those who successfully complete the programme will be awarded their qualification by the university. They will also be invited to become designate members of Compliance Institute.

The Professional Diploma in Sustainable Finance for Compliance Professionals is the first programme of its kind globally and is the result of an enterprise-driven collaboration between Compliance Institute, Sustainable Finance Skillnet (SFS) and IFS Skillnet. The Diploma forms part of the continuing effort to address the talent gap in sustainable finance and build Ireland's capacity as a global leader in sustainable finance.

The Professional Diploma in Sustainable Finance for Compliance Professionals will:

- Assist participants to implement good corporate governance regarding current and pending ESG regulations;
- Amplify existing knowledge and expertise among compliance professionals in financial services companies to prepare and equip them for a challenging future;

- Provide compliance professionals with awareness, knowledge, and practical skills to deliver governance and influence on sustainable finance in their firms and boards; and
- Position Ireland as the leading centre globally so that Ireland becomes recognised as a centre of excellence in sustainable finance and ESG.

Participating in this programme will provide opportunities to work alongside like-minded professionals and to broaden your network of industry peers plus, will equip you with the knowledge and skills to lead your organisation in implementing current and future regulatory requirements in relation to sustainability practices. Your qualification and knowledge will be sustained and future-proofed through Continued Professional Development ensuring it stays relevant and valuable.

Once you have completed this programme you will have the skills to excel in a leadership role, lead your organisation through regulatory changes and you will have a valuable network to call upon as you progress in your compliance career.

We wish you every success with your studies and for the future.



Diarmuid Whyte
President,
Compliance Institute

Compliance professionals will be at the forefront of change as the financial services sector enters a crucial phase of its sustainability journey. IOB is proud to launch this new programme to support compliance professionals to gain the knowledge, skills and expertise required to meet the evolving sustainable finance regulatory requirements.

Developed with the support of Sustainable Finance Skillnet, Compliance Institute and IFS Skillnet, this programme is a world-first and offers an invaluable opportunity for compliance professionals to connect with leading industry experts in this field.

IOB is passionate about supporting the financial services sector in this critical area. The rise in sustainable finance practices is driving progress towards a low carbon, more resource-efficient economy. With the launch of this programme, Ireland has taken one step closer to being a global leader in sustainable finance.

Programme participants will benefit from the latest guidance and will be fully prepared to advise on and advance the sustainability agenda within their financial services organisation.

We wish you every success with your studies and look forward to supporting you on your learning journey.



Mary O'Dea
CEO, IOB

Who is this programme for?

The aim of the programme is to equip compliance professionals or those entering compliance roles with the critical knowledge and compliance skills to advise on and advance the sustainability agenda within the financial services industry.

The curriculum will support those in compliance roles in control and assurance functions, enabling them to lead authoritatively on the legal, regulatory, policy, monitoring and risk management activities, which will not only provide Board and Regulator assurance but also be a key input into organisation strategy with respect to sustainability.

How you will benefit

At the end of the programme graduates will be able to:

1. Explain to peers, customers, and other key stakeholders the relevance of sustainability to the economy, business and the financial sector, and the role of financial services within the sustainability agenda;
2. Identify the key current and emerging issues and drivers from a sustainable finance and regulatory perspective in particular the EU Taxonomy, SFDR, mandatory and voluntary sustainable finance and standards;
3. Explain to peers and the Board, corporate sustainability reporting and sustainable finance disclosure requirements;
4. Analyse the role of culture and ethics in a sustainable finance compliance framework and advocate for the sustainability agenda within their organisation;
5. Recognise the regulatory requirements on sustainability factors and risks relevant to the FS sector and organisation in which they work and assess the impact on how the organisation manages sustainable finance compliance risk;
6. Establish compliance frameworks to translate the mandatory rules, regulations and policy into operational requirements and the tools to assess sustainable compliance risks and monitor and report on them;
7. Communicate effectively key sustainable finance messages to all stakeholders, internal and external;
8. Equip themselves with resources and market information to be alert for and stay up to date with sustainable finance developments.

Curriculum

The Professional Diploma in Sustainable Finance for Compliance Professionals comprises of three modules. Each module carries 10 ECTS academic credits:

1. Compliance for sustainable finance: building the foundation
2. Sustainable finance rules, regulations and policy
3. Compliance toolkit for sustainable finance

Module content

Module 1: Compliance for sustainable finance: building the foundation (NFQ level 8, 10 ECTS)

At the end of this module, you will understand:

- What is sustainability and what does it mean for the economy, business and the financial sector;
- ESG origins and evolution - you will gain knowledge of macro level sustainability issues for the economy, business and the financial sector. Examine the relevance of corporate purpose and how compliance, culture and ethics can align to support the sustainability strategy within a financial services organisation;
- Sustainable Finance - what and why? The evolution of sustainable finance and ESG. Review the key stakeholder groups driving the sustainable finance agenda globally, why they are doing so and what specifically they are doing;
- Climate change and climate-related financial risk and opportunity;
- Promoting a culture of compliance; are individual accountability regimes and controlled functions aligned with supporting the sustainability strategy in financial services?;
- Ethics, compliance and corporate culture in financial services;
- Corporate purpose (in the context of financial services firms) and corporate sustainability strategy;
- Primer on financial services regulatory and supervisory landscape (Ireland, EU, UK & US also international influences e.g. IOSCO, FSB, NGFS);
- Sustainable Finance in action across financial sectors (i.e. what does ESG mean at the level of a bank, an asset manager, insurance firm, an investment fund, pension etc).

Module 2: Sustainable finance rules, regulations and policy (NFQ level 8, 10 ECTS)

At the end of this module, you will understand:

- The EU sustainable finance legislative process explained from primary legislation (level 1) to delegated acts, such as RTS (level 2) to regulatory Q&A (level 3). Includes an overview of the 2018 Sustainable Finance Action Plan and the 2021 update;
- The EU Taxonomy as a classification tool, the definition 'settled and in legislation', and we will review social objectives and put taxonomy into practice;
- The EU Green Bond Standard and labels for green financial products; Incorporating sustainability in financial advice (MIFID II & IDD amendments); sustainability benchmarks (EU Climate Benchmarks Regulation). Transition finance concepts;
- The Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR), as we review disclosure obligations and articles 6, 8 and 9 in Funds and their alignment to the taxonomy;
- Integrating sustainability in ratings and market research – disclosure requirements for credit ratings and ESG ratings; introducing a green supporting factor in prudential rules for banks and insurance companies;
- Fostering sustainable corporate governance and attenuating short-termism in capital markets: the proposed Sustainable Corporate Due Diligence Directive;
- How to leverage the opportunities that digital technologies offer for sustainable finance;
- The EU regulatory process and a high-level overview of the plans published by each of ESMA, EIOPA and the EBA (their sustainable finance roadmaps).

Curriculum continued

Module 3: Compliance toolkit for sustainable finance (NFQ level 8, 10 ECTS)

At the end of this module, you will understand:

- How ESG factors may translate into financial risks that may impact financial institutions individually and the financial system as a whole; How sustainability objectives may be integrated as part of financial products and services;
- The portfolio alignment method; risk framework method; exposure method; impact measurement; comparison of methods and their application;
- Structured frameworks and approaches to integrate ESG and climate risks and opportunities across a financial services organisation's governance arrangements, strategy and business model, risk management framework and ESG reporting/disclosure processes;
- ESG investment approaches, from ESG integration into investment funds to sustainability-themed/impact investment. The voluntary Principles of Responsible Investment, including reporting obligations;
- SFDR case studies - Evolving practice around the integration of sustainability preferences into investment advice (implications of MIFID II amendments);
- ESG governance, risk management, monitoring and reporting in an investment environment. Overview of evolving compliance toolkits and supervisory expectations for asset managers and investment advisers;
- Why and how sustainable finance and banking is relevant to all teams across leadership, risk and legal, client facing across retail and corporate, communications & HR, and general services;
- ESG integration requirements into credit decisions and monitoring (EBA Guidelines on Loan Origination and Monitoring). Overview of new green finance products, including green loans, sustainability-linked loans, green bonds, sustainability-linked bonds etc;
- ESG governance, risk management and reporting in a banking environment. Overview of evolving compliance toolkits and supervisory expectations for banks, including from the EBA and the ECB. Update on the introduction of a green supporting factor in prudential rules;
- ESG governance, risk management and reporting in an insurance environment. Overview of evolving compliance toolkits and supervisory expectations for insurance companies;
- How to become an effective change agent, overcome barriers to change and obtain support and buy-in upstream and downstream in the organisation to secure compliance deliverables.



Award

When you successfully complete this programme, you will be awarded a Professional Diploma in Sustainable Finance for Compliance Professionals from UCD.

This is a level 8 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Professional designation

Graduates who complete the Professional Diploma in Sustainable Finance for Compliance Professionals will be invited by Compliance Institute to take up a professional designation.

Delivery

Modules will be delivered using a blended model which combines online lectures and in person delivery.

Assessment

Modules are assessed using a combination of group and individual assessment. Group assessments seek to use case studies as not only a form of assessment, but to develop a community of practice. The individual assessments will focus on the application of the knowledge within the individual's organisation.

Entry requirements

Students seeking admission to the Professional Diploma in Sustainable Finance for Compliance Professionals should:

- Possess an Honours degree (Second class Honours Grade 2 award or higher) and have experience in financial services or professional advisory;

OR

- Have at least 3 years' experience in financial services or professional advisory and completed a 30 ECTS Special Purpose Award (SPA) or awards (at level 7);

OR

Exceptionally, students without a third level qualification but with extensive and demonstrable relevant financial services experience may also be admitted to the programme on a case-by-case basis.

Fees

This programme qualifies for 50% funding through IFS Skillnet and Sustainable Finance Skillnet. For further information please contact info@ifsskillnet.ie or skills@sustainablefinance.ie

Module	Module fee	IFS Skillnet and Sustainable Finance Skillnet fee
Compliance for sustainable finance: building the foundation	€680	€340
Sustainable finance rules, regulations and policy	€680	€340
Compliance toolkit for sustainable finance	€680	€340

Professional body membership

You must be a current member of Compliance Institute or IOB to apply for this programme.

Note: You must be a member of Compliance Institute to attain and hold the designation.

How to apply

For further information on this programme and to apply please contact skills@sustainablefinance.ie or visit iob.ie/programme/sustainable-compliance-professionals to express an interest.

IFS Skillnet

84-86 Lower Baggot Street
Dublin 2
Ireland

Phone: +353 (0)1 605 1546
Email: info@ifsskillnet.ie

ifsskillnet.ie

Sustainable Finance Skillnet

C/O Sustainable Finance Ireland
Talent Garden
Claremont Avenue, Glasnevin
Dublin 9, Ireland

Email: skills@sustainablefinance.ie

sfskillnet.sustainablefinance.ie

IOB

1 North Wall Quay
Dublin 1
D01 T8Y1, Ireland

Phone: +353 (0)1 611 6500
Email: info@iob.ie

iob.ie

Compliance Institute

Lower Ground Floor
5 Fitzwilliam Square
Dublin 2, Ireland

Phone: +353 (0)1 779 0200
Email: info@compliance.ie

compliance.ie