



ACCELERATE YOUR CAREER IN CORPORATE FINANCE

CORPORATE FINANCE QUALIFICATION AND PROGRAMMES



Develop your corporate finance expertise

Helping businesses and investors make the most of their commercial opportunities is a highly valuable skill. As a specialist working in corporate finance you will do just that, enabling change, development and the pursuit of growth.

Every business opportunity today is challenged by the complexities of markets, demanding regulations and uncertain risk. Ambition and imagination need to be matched with recognised expertise, experience and responsibility.

Working in partnership with the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI) we have created the most progressive series of programmes that develop and recognise corporate finance expertise.

From the Certificate in Corporate Finance to the full Corporate Finance (CF) qualification and beyond, our programmes equip the most talented individuals with practical knowledge, skills and expertise. Add to your day-to-day business experience and enhance the value you can bring to the organisations you work with.

DEVELOP YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Develop your knowledge, skills and expertise in corporate finance. Progress towards recognition as a leading industry specialist. You can join the programmes at a stage that's relevant to your previous experience and qualifications.

ENHANCE YOUR CAREER PROGRESS

Enhance your career and credibility by supplementing your hands-on experience with strong theoretical knowledge and practical skills. The Diploma in Corporate Finance is recognised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and is regularly reviewed by a panel of experts to maintain its relevance.



Robust development for your teams

PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF TEAMS

Our corporate finance programmes will ensure employees are on a progressive and structured path that will enable them to build and leverage their knowledge, skills and experience to become recognised corporate finance experts.

ENHANCED EXPERTISE

The qualification equips employees with advanced, solid technical knowledge and skills in corporate finance, enabling them to handle complex financial transactions and strategies more effectively.

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

Offering your employees an opportunity to expedite their technical knowledge and specialise in corporate finance through formal education can increase their loyalty and improve retention in a competitive skills market.

BROADEN CORPORATE FINANCE KNOWLEDGE

Junior employees are frequently exposed to fragmented elements of corporate finance on the job. The corporate finance programmes enable them to broaden their perspective across the spectrum of corporate finance.



Corporate Finance Programmes

CF QUALIFICATION

Confirmation of expertise and experience

The Corporate Finance qualification can also be gained via the experience route

DIPLOMA IN CORPORATE FINANCE

Advanced corporate finance knowledge, skills and expertise

CERTIFICATE IN CORPORATE FINANCE

Essential basic knowledge in corporate finance

Complimentary membership of the ICAEW Corporate Finance Faculty – access to events and networks.

PROGRAMME TITLE	UNITS/PAPERS	STUDY TIME*	PRICE
Certificate in Corporate Finance	Unit 1: Corporate Finance Regulation Unit 2: Corporate Finance Technical Foundations	Approximately 160 hours	
Diploma in Corporate Finance	Paper 1: Financial Reporting & Financial Statements Analysis Paper 2: Sources of Finance, Capital Investments & Valuations Paper 3: Mergers & Acquisitions & Market Regulations Paper 4: Corporate Finance Strategy & Advice	Paper 1: Approximately 60 hours Paper 2: Approximately 70 hours Paper 3: Approximately 100 hours Paper 4: Approximately 300 hours	For up-to-date pricing information, please visit the latest price list
Corporate Finance qualification	Application to ICAEW	No further study is required. Evidence of work experience will be requested	No charge to Diploma in Corporate Finance holders
Corporate Finance qualification <small>experience route for senior corporate finance practitioners only</small>	No written exam – applicants are required to complete the Examination of Experience	Two to three days to compile submission. No study time required	For up-to-date pricing information, please visit: icaew.com/academy/cf

* Holders of the ACA can apply for an exemption from the Certificate and Paper 1.

CERTIFICATE IN CORPORATE FINANCE

The Certificate in Corporate Finance is an important first step which develops the essential basic knowledge required for working in corporate finance. This certificate meets the FCA's mandatory exam requirements for those advising on investments in the course of corporate finance business.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Suitable for anyone who wants to work in the field of corporate finance; there are no entry requirements. ICAEW Chartered Accountants do not need to study for this certificate before starting the Diploma in Corporate Finance.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The certificate consists of two units:

Unit 1: Corporate Finance Regulation

Unit 2: Corporate Finance Technical Foundations

The Certificate in Corporate Finance is typically achievable in six months. For full syllabus details please visit [icaew.com/cfstudyroute](https://www.icaew.com/cfstudyroute)

DIPLOMA IN CORPORATE FINANCE

The Diploma in Corporate Finance will equip you with advanced corporate finance knowledge, skills and expertise. It will enhance the value you bring to the organisations you work with and help accelerate your career. The syllabus has been developed by corporate financiers and offers a practically grounded, transaction-oriented programme that will give you a strong working knowledge of corporate finance – from the Listing Rules and the Takeover Code, through to how to structure a private equity deal, or finance a large capital project. This diploma will enable you to execute a broader range of corporate finance work more efficiently and at a lower risk to your organisation. The diploma has been recognised by the FCA as meeting the mandatory qualification requirement to equip those who require advanced corporate finance knowledge, skills and expertise.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The Diploma consists of three on-demand exams and one narrative exam. Holders of the ACA can apply for an exemption from paper 1.

1. Financial Reporting & Financial Statements

Analysis, covering:

- The Income Statement
- The Statement of Financial Position
- The Cash Flow Statement and Free Cash Flows
- Group Accounting
- Financial Analysis

2. Sources of Finance, Capital Investments & Valuations

Analysis, covering:

- Equity Capital Market (ECM)
- Debt Capital Market (DCM)
- Alternative Sources of Finance
- The Cost of Capital
- Capital Budgeting
- Company Valuation
- Derivatives and Risk Management

3. Mergers & Acquisitions & Market Regulations

Analysis, covering:

- Making Acquisitions
- Deal Structuring and Financing
- Disposals and Demergers
- Main Regulations for Listed Companies
- Other Regulatory and Ethical Considerations

4. Corporate Finance Strategy & Advice

- Corporate Strategy
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Corporate Performance and Reconstructions

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Suitable for ICAEW Chartered Accountants or holders of the Certificate in Corporate Finance. For details about alternative entry requirements if you are outside the UK, please visit [icaew.com/cfstudyroute](https://www.icaew.com/cfstudyroute)

BENEFITS OF THE DIPLOMA

- Practical, transaction-oriented diploma, awarded by two world-renowned and leading institutions: ICAEW and the CISI.
- Confers the prestigious post-nominal letters 'CF' following award of the diploma and confirmation of three years' relevant corporate finance experience.
- Progressive learning after completion of the Certificate in Corporate Finance.
- Supplement 'on-the-job' learning – the syllabus will develop your core technical, commercial and ethical skills and knowledge. You will learn fundamental techniques, theories and issues so that you can handle complex strategic corporate finance situations.
- Flexible progression for busy professionals building upon each exam in terms of required study hours and complexity.
- Receive complimentary membership of ICAEW's Corporate Finance Faculty during your studies.

CORPORATE FINANCE QUALIFICATION (CF)

The Corporate Finance qualification confirms the expertise and experience of leading specialists in corporate finance. It enhances your credibility and supports your status as a highly valued professional. Once you gain the qualification, you will be eligible to use the CF designatory letters.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Once you have successfully completed the Diploma in Corporate Finance (new syllabus) and acquired at least three years' corporate finance work experience, you will be awarded the CF designation. This ensures that your work and study are combined and that you are effectively using the practical knowledge gained from the programmes.

For further details please visit [icaew.com/cfstudyroute](https://www.icaew.com/cfstudyroute)

RECOGNITION FOR SENIOR CORPORATE FINANCIERS

We offer the opportunity for Senior Corporate Finance practitioners to obtain the Corporate Finance qualification via an experience route, in acknowledgement of the depth of their experience and their contribution to the profession. Those applying through this route will be expected to have at least five years' experience and provide evidence that they have played the lead advisory role in no fewer than six transactions over the past five years. Experience route benefits include:

- Based on experience - CF designation gained by a demonstration of your experience and expertise rather than a formal exam.
- Flexible - you can complete your application at any time through the year and in your own time.
- No time required out of the office - there are no exams to sit.
- Rigorous - applications will be reviewed by our panel of corporate finance experts, ensuring professional sector expertise.
- Career enhancing - recognition at a senior level as a specialist in the field of corporate finance.
- Prestigious - successful applicants are awarded the CF designation to show their achievement.
- Ongoing support and guidance - discounted membership of the ICAEW Corporate Finance Faculty available (please see application form for prices).
- For further information about this route, please visit [icaew.com/academy/cf](https://www.icaew.com/academy/cf)

PROFESSIONAL NETWORK FOR CORPORATE FINANCE

ICAEW's Corporate Finance Faculty is a vital resource while you complete the Corporate Finance qualification and develop your corporate finance career.

The faculty is the largest network of professionals involved in corporate finance, including 10,000 members and more than 80 member organisations. As a centre of professional expertise it contributes to policy development, practical initiatives and many consultations by international organisations, governments, regulators and other professional bodies on matters affecting corporate finance.

The network offers you the following benefits:

- Connect with an international membership drawn from major professional services groups, specialist advisory firms, companies, banks, private equity, venture capital, law firms, brokers, consultants, policy-makers and academic experts. More than 40% of the faculty's membership is from beyond ICAEW.
- Build your personal professional network and boost your continuing professional development (CPD) via the faculty's wide range of services to its members, including its magazine *'Corporate Financier'*.
- Receive 10 issues per year of the expert-led, theme-driven *Corporate Financier* magazine
- Access a range of technical and best practice guidelines
- Access to networking and knowledge events
- Gain CPD hours for engaging with faculty content and events.

Diploma in Corporate Finance students receive complimentary ICAEW Corporate Finance Faculty membership for the entire duration of their studies. Applicants for the Corporate Finance qualification experience route can take advantage of a 20% discount. For further information about the professional network, please visit [icaew.com/academy/cf](https://www.icaew.com/academy/cf)

"Motivated, ambitious and well qualified professionals are an essential asset in the private equity business and in corporate finance. I am delighted that ICAEW and the CISI have produced a comprehensive and practical Corporate Finance qualification and programmes which will provide all those who complete the course with practical and relevant skills."

Jon Moulton CBE, FCA, CF,
Chairman, Better Capital

"The ICAEW and CISI have carried out a comprehensive review and update to produce a qualification that is of real value and relevance to anyone seeking to pursue a career in corporate finance and investment."

John Rugman,
Head of Advisory, S&W

HOW TO APPLY

For further information and to apply visit:

T: +44 (0)1908 248 250
E: cfqualification@icaew.com
[icaew.com/academy/cf](https://www.icaew.com/academy/cf)



Chartered accountants are talented, ethical and committed professionals. ICAEW represents more than 210,000 members and students around the world. 98 of the top 100 global brands employ ICAEW Chartered Accountants.*

Founded in 1880, ICAEW has a long history of serving the public interest and we continue to work with governments, regulators and business leaders globally. And, as a world-leading improvement regulator, we supervise and monitor more than 11,000 firms, holding them, and all ICAEW members and students, to the highest standards of professional competency and conduct.

We promote inclusivity, diversity and fairness and we give talented professionals the skills and values they need to build resilient businesses, economies and societies, while ensuring our planet's resources are managed sustainably.

ICAEW is working towards becoming net zero, demonstrating our commitment to tackle climate change and supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goal 13.

ICAEW is a founding member of Chartered Accountants Worldwide (CAW), a global family that connects over 1.8m chartered accountants and students in more than 190 countries. Together, we support, develop and promote the role of chartered accountants as trusted business leaders, difference makers and advisers.

We believe that chartered accountancy can be a force for positive change. By sharing our insight, expertise and understanding we can help to create sustainable economies and a better future for all.

[charteredaccountantsworldwide.com](https://www.charteredaccountantsworldwide.com)
[globalaccountingalliance.com](https://www.globalaccountingalliance.com)

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* includes parent companies. Source: ICAEW member data
March 2025, Interbrand, Best Global Brands 2024