



FINANCIAL MARKETS FOUNDATION QUALIFICATION



ICMA Executive Education is a joint partnership between the International Capital Market Association and the ICMA Centre, Henley Business School, University of Reading

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A great overview of the financial markets for someone from a non-banking environment. Very practical knowledge gained and highly recommend the course!

Ira Focke

Life-insurance project manager,
AXA Group

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ICMA
Executive
Education

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE **FINANCIAL MARKET**

OVERVIEW

The Financial Markets Foundation Qualification (FMFQ) is an introductory level programme intended for anyone entering into a career in the financial markets.

The programme is intended to provide 'breadth of knowledge' to make it relevant to people pursuing careers in the front office, middle office and operations areas. The syllabus content places an even emphasis on introducing and explaining the key concepts of each subject area to develop candidates' practical knowledge and skill sets.

By completing the programme you will understand:

- The key players in the financial markets including issuers, investors and intermediaries
- The structure of the FX market
- The key features of both equity and debt products
- The interaction between cash and derivative markets

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The course was extremely relevant to my career in the capital markets. It was a great experience.

Hector L. Roy

Senior Research Analyst,
Thomson Reuters

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CONTENT

The syllabus content is divided into several topic areas, which are then broken down into multiple subtopics:

1. Overview of the Financial Markets

- Introduction to financial markets
- Concept of disintermediation
- Explain how banking and financial markets co-exist
- Identifying the key players and their impact on the market
- Inside a financial institution - role of trading & sales, operations and investment management
- Case study - how the changes in regulation are impacting the market

2. FX

- Structure of the FX market
- How the market trades: introducing the OTC model, interbank and customer business and the role of trading systems
- Understanding FX prices - spot rates
- Reading prices and calculating simple values
- Calculating and understanding cross rates
- Introduction to FX forwards

3. Debt Markets

- Long-term and short-term debt
- Discount and interest-bearing products
- Interest rate and credit products
- Deposits - bank to customer and interbank markets
- LIBOR, EURIBOR and overnight indexed rates
- Introduction to credit debt - commercial paper
- Introduction to interest rate debt - treasury bills
- Role of primary dealers
- Calculating proceeds
- Features of bond markets
- Interest rate and credit products in the long-term market
- Government debt in different countries
- Corporate bonds
- Understanding credit spreads
- Valuing bonds - accrued interest
- Case study - new issues in the market

4. Equities

- Comparing equity to debt
- Key features of equity products
- Equity new issuance
- Role of equity indices
- Impact of MiFID and MiFID II
- Role of MTFs
- Impact of algorithmic trading
- Equity valuation - understanding the cashflow
- Case Study - study of an IPO

5. Derivatives

- Interaction between cash and derivative markets
- Key uses of derivatives - risk management and risk replication
- OTC and exchange-traded derivatives
- Impact of legislation such as EMIR and Dodd-Frank
- Review of currency forwards
- Developing the model for interest rates and credit
- Structure of the futures market
- The role of a futures exchange
- Process of margining
- Options - comparison with forwards and futures

FORMAT

The Financial Markets Foundation Qualification is available in two formats:

- **Classroom-based:** Three day programme held multiple times a year in destinations across Europe.
- **Online:** This option allows total flexibility as candidates work at their own pace (subject to a three month exam deadline), in their own time and location; there is no need to take time off work or spend time away from home.

Candidates who choose to study online receive ongoing support from an expert e-tutor and the ability to discuss questions with fellow candidates.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The course is relevant to a wide range of job functions and areas; anyone who would benefit from an understanding of markets, participants and products – and how they all come together.

Candidates will come from organisations involved in both the sell-side and buy-side of the industry plus insurance, accounting, IT firms supporting the industry and the financial press.

PROGRAMME RECOGNITION

Candidates who are successful in gaining the Financial Markets Foundation Qualification qualify for 16.5 credit hours under the guidelines of the CFA Institute's Continuing Education Programme.

ICMA EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

For many years ICMA Executive Education has been regarded as the benchmark in training for both the front office and operations areas of business. Our qualifications and training programmes are internationally recognised and are required training by many of our member firms. ICMA Executive Education is unique in that ICMA and the ICMA Centre, Henley Business School, University of Reading work together to deliver training courses, taught by current and former financial markets practitioners which blend practical and academic know-how, so that candidates have a thorough understanding of the topics being discussed.

Seven examined qualifications are offered:

- Financial Markets Foundation Qualification (FMFQ)
- Securities Operations Foundation Qualification (SOFQ)
- Introduction to Fixed Income Qualification (IFIQ)
- Introduction to Primary Markets Qualification (IPMQ)
- ICMA Fixed Income Certificate (FIC)
- Operations Certificate Programme (OCP)
- Primary Market Certificate (PMC)

All are recognised as certificates of competence in the capital markets and are successfully completed by large numbers of international participants each year. In addition to our examined qualifications we also offer a selection of non-examined training programmes throughout the year. These programmes look at a single topic from the syllabus of one of our intermediate qualifications, but are explored in much greater depth to a targeted audience. The training is extremely focused and provides an opportunity to network and discuss the issues affecting the financial markets with your industry peers.

ICMA Executive Education is able to provide any of its public qualifications and training programmes on an in-house basis.

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ICMA CENTRE

The ICMA Centre, University of Reading has an international reputation for providing quality teaching programmes tailored to the capital markets industry. Established in 1991 with funding provided by the International Capital Market Association (ICMA), the Centre is housed in a purpose-built modernist building with state-of-the-art facilities including two dealing rooms. In 2008, ICMA enabled an expansion to the building that now includes an additional 50 seat dealing room, 170 seat lecture theatre as well as new seminar rooms and a dedicated research area.

THE INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKET ASSOCIATION

The International Capital Market Association (ICMA) represents financial institutions and other participants in the international capital market worldwide with over 500 members in over 60 countries. ICMA's market conventions and standards have been the pillars of the international debt market for close to 50 years, providing the framework for good market practice which facilitates the orderly functioning of the market. ICMA actively promotes the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the capital markets by bringing together market participants including regulatory authorities and governments.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

For further information and to register for any of our programmes, please visit:

www.icmagroup.org/education

or contact us at: education@icmagroup.org

