

The CISI and international regulatory recognition

The CISI has worked closely with Britain's regulators – notably the Bank of England and the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) - since it grew out of the London Stock Exchange 30 years ago.

Significantly, though, its international presence has grown dramatically in recent years, for both membership and qualifications, and in the past year more than 14,000 exams were sat outside of the UK across more than 80 countries. CISI qualifications are now recognised by regulators in some 50 jurisdictions worldwide. This is in addition to the internal, global recognition of CISI qualifications by most of the world's major financial institutions and wealth management firms, many of whom are committed [corporate supporters](#) of the CISI.

Flexible exam structures

A key advantage of the CISI's exam structure is the wide spread of coverage, from capital markets through compliance, corporate finance, operations, risk and wealth management. These range from entry-level qualifications – of which the two most popular exams globally, the "Fundamentals" and "International Introduction" – are available in dual-language English and Russian versions, to postgraduate, masters-level professional qualifications including Diplomas in capital markets, corporate finance, investment compliance and operations, and wealth management - the coveted Chartered Wealth Manager Qualification, **the equivalent level in England to a Master's Degree**.

Our [qualifications navigator](#) provides a quick guide to this unique range of professional and career development tools.

The growing importance of continuing professional development (CPD)

In recent years, we have seen a shift in some markets from a focus on initial competence (requiring professional qualifications) to continuing competence (requiring membership and CPD opportunities). As a result, we have welcomed many new members to CISI from outside of the UK – in particular in the Middle East and Africa – with 28% of our new members over the past year coming from overseas. *These members gain access to a wealth of membership and CPD opportunities with the CISI, including our range of more than 100 Professional Refresher digital learning modules in four languages, as well as numerous CISI TV videos, and attendance at events held worldwide.*

Europe

Brexit negotiations between the UK and its European counterparts are coming to a head, and we continue to provide support to our members and exam candidates across Europe who may be impacted by developments. Part of this has involved renewing and strengthening our links with pan-European financial sector groups, and in June 2018 we were delighted to be granted membership of the European Banking and Financial Services Training Network (EBTN). The EBTN have now awarded Triple E status to our International Introduction to Securities & Investments and International Certificate in Wealth and Investment Management qualifications. Triple E is a quality standard for qualifications in the European banking and financial services sector, which recognises that our qualifications have met stringent requirements around quality and substance.

Our membership across Europe has continued to grow, and we now have more than 800 members in the region. This year we held a number of events for members in Gibraltar, Cyprus and Spain, including a very successful Cyprus Gala dinner held in April in partnership with the Cyprus Securities & Exchange Commission and with the support of our Cyprus National Advisory Council.

In Spain we gained recognition from the Spanish regulator Comisión Nacional del Mercado de Valores, confirming that three of our Spanish qualifications are MiFID II compliant when taken in combination with an online test.

We continue to focus on ensuring our wealth management exams are globally relevant, and have recently launched our pinnacle post-graduate level Chartered Wealth Manager qualification in Cyprus. This will be taught in partnership with the European Institute of Management and Finance.

Middle East

Driven by the implementation of continuing professional development mandates introduced by the regulator, we have seen significant growth in membership in the United Arab Emirates and now have nearly 500 CISI members based in the region. We continue to offer our members a wealth of CPD opportunities, including Professional Refresher modules in Arabic and numerous events on a variety of topics, all with the support and guidance of our UAE National Advisory Board.

We gained regulatory recognition in Jordan through a partnership with the Jordan Securities Commission (JSC), the entity responsible for developing, regulating and monitoring Jordan's capital market activities. This will see our International Introduction to Securities & Investment introduced as the core qualification in the JSC programme, as well as collaboration around the design of the JSC certification pathway.

We have continued to work closely with the Kuwait Capital Markets Authority in support of its programme to serve securities practitioners in the Kuwaiti capital markets sector through a certification programme, and this will be launched to the market in April 2019.

India and Sri Lanka

In India we have continued to see excellent growth in qualifications in both the corporate and university sectors, with more than 2,300 exams sat over the past year. In Sri Lanka we have moved our office to new and larger premises and have focused on providing support and continuing professional development opportunities to our more than 150 Sri Lankan members.

We have concentrated on delivering and developing our Integrity offering, running several of our flagship Integrity at Work seminars to firms and members over the year.

Asia Pacific

In the Philippines, our focus remains on the business process outsourcing and higher education sectors. We have continued to develop links with the university sector in the

Philippines. In Qingdao, China, our partnership with the Shanghai University of Financial Education has progressed and we are currently designing the syllabus for a new level four Certificate in International Advanced Wealth Management suitable for the Chinese market. Initial responses have been excellent and work on this continues, with the aim of launching in 2020.

Africa

Our presence across Africa continues to grow, and we now have regulatory recognition in 14 African countries, including South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria. In June 2018, we opened an office in Nairobi, Kenya to provide a base from which to service Kenya and the rest of East Africa, where we have been active since the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kenyan Capital Markets Authority (CMA) in 2014.

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