PROFESSIONAL ASSESSMENT

Short online course with test and certificate

The Practice of Financial Planning

A new route to CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification specifically designed for holders of the CII Advanced Diploma in Financial Planning and CII Chartered Financial Planners

Why study this course?

Our new pathway has been designed to offer CII Chartered Financial Planners a streamlined route to becoming a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional, without the constraints of a formal examination.

The Professional Assessments recognise that experienced planners are often at client and/or business capacity and require a flexible, remote route to extend their learning.

The two units which form the online Professional Assessment will cement your understanding of the essentials of financial planning, such as establishing client relationships, financial management, financial plan analysis, tax planning and client portfolios. In combination with the CII Advanced Diploma in Financial Planning, the Professional Assessment provides an exemption from the CISI's Level 6 Advanced Financial Planning examination and enables direct access to the goals-based learning journey of the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification – the financial plan.

Complement your Chartered Financial Planner status with the globally recognised CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification to deliver a holistic financial planning service to your clients.

This short course is designed for holders of the CII Advanced Diploma in Financial Planning and CII Chartered Financial Planners wanting a route to becoming a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional.

Who are the CISI?

The CISI is the largest and most widely respected professional body for the securities and investment profession in the UK and in a growing number of financial centres globally. Formed in 1992, the CISI has a global community of 45,000 members in over 100 countries. Last year more than 40,000 CISI exams were sat in 81 countries, including 15,000 taken outside the UK.

Key features

- Two short courses of online self-learning with a certificate when you pass.
- In combination with the CII Advanced Diploma in Financial Planning, gain an exemption from the CISI Level 6 Certificate in Advanced Financial Planning examination.
- Gain awareness and understanding of some of the essentials of financial planning, such as establishing client relationships, financial management, financial plan analysis, tax planning and client portfolios.
- Written by experts for financial services practitioners.
- Global perspective and overview of an essential subject.
- Relevant and cutting edge case studies to deepen your understanding.
- Can be taken anytime and anywhere on any device.
- 18 hours of CPD.

"I achieved the title of FPFS with the CII back in the mid-2000s and felt that this was the pinnacle of demonstrating technical knowledge in financial planning – a generally recognised gold standard. Since this time, I had read and thought about the other gold standard of achieving the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ status with the CISI which is a rigorous test of applying the knowledge in a pure financial planning sense.

I felt that the two achievements sit side by side for those who want to operate at the top level of this profession. Approaching age 50 and with a lockdown thrust upon us, I felt that the time was now or never, so I sat the exam in September 2020 and completed the case study in 2021. I found both a real challenge and felt that I had improved as an adviser through the process and have applied a number of aspects to how I advise clients today. I would recommend all advisers take the CFP™ certification."

Andrew Day LLB (hons) FPFS CFP™, Principal Financial Planning Director, Depledge SWM

Who should study this Professional Assessment?

These Professional Assessment units are designed specifically for candidates who have achieved the Chartered Insurance Institute's Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Financial Planning (which leads to the Chartered Financial Planner™ designation).

Candidates who hold the CII Advanced Diploma (with an RDR-compliant qualification for FCA activities 4 & 6 (with gap fill if required)) and who pass both The Practice of Financial Planning Professional Assessment units will be exempt from the CISI's Level 6 Advanced Financial Planning exam. Completion of the professional assessment will allow candidates to go straight onto the CISI's Level 7 Financial Plan Case Study.

The course content includes:

Unit 1

- Methodology
- Establishing Client Relationships
- Financial Management
- Financial Plan Analysis
- Dynamic Financial Planning

Unit 2

- The Taxable Nature of Assets and Liabilities
- The Tax Structure of Client Accounts
- Tax Planning Strategies and Recommendations
- Client Portfolios
- Potential Vehicles for Use in Client Portfolios
- Assessing the Suitability of Proposed Vehicles
- The Composition of Investment Policy Statements and Periodic Reports

Gain a certificate to demonstrate your competence in this subject and receive an exemption from the CISI Level 6 Certificate in Advanced Financial Planning.

Learning materials

These Professional Assessment units are an online course that you can study anytime, anywhere and on any device. A mix of interactive content, it comprises videos, interviews and extra references and materials that may enhance your learning. The course seeks to give you a comprehensive understanding of a key subject. You will have one year's access to undertake the learning at your own pace and then take the test at the end when you are ready.

Totally flexible materials - study at your own pace and on any device.

The test

As this course consists of higher-level Professional Assessments, designed to test a candidate's ability to apply their knowledge and analyse scenarios, they contain different styles of assessment questions.

Unit 1 is a 90-minute test with a pass mark of 60% and will consist of 20 questions in total:

- 10 standalone questions
- 2 case studies, each with 5 associated questions

Unit 2 is a 45-minute test with a pass mark of 60% and will consist of 10 questions in total:

- 5 standalone questions
- 1 case study with 5 associated questions

Purchase these Professional Assessment units today

Before purchasing these Professional Assessment units, you must confirm your eligibility. Visit **cisi.org/fp-pa** to confirm your eligibility and purchase.

Cost: £300 for both units.

Duration: **Unit 1** – Recommended 9 hours study time, followed by a 90-minute test comprising 10 standalone questions and 2 case studies with 5 associated questions.

Unit 2 – Recommended 6 hours and 45minutes study time, followed by a 45-minute test comprising 5 standalone questions and 1 case study with 5 associated questions.

Pass marks: **Unit 1** – 60% and **Unit 2** – 60%.

Location: Online – accessible anytime and anywhere (as long as you have internet access).

Visit: **cisi.org/fp-pa** to register and confirm eligibility.

Other learning resources

The CISI also offers a range of other CPD content in the area of financial planning – with elearning modules on other topics such as Business Protection, Investment Planning and Estate Planning, plus CISI TV videos on demand and a cast library of articles, interviews and features in our members' magazine *The Review* which can all be accessed in our members portal: **cisi.org/mycisi**