Why study the Pension Transfers & Planning Advice (PTPA) exam?

The spotlight is on pensions. Future average adult working lives of 40-50 years will involve several job changes, and “cliff edge” retirement is giving way to a wide range of retirement options. The provision of accumulation and decumulation of pensions and savings over a lifetime will require regular, high quality advice ideally provided through a long term professional relationship.

Pension transfer advice is likely to be sought throughout an individual’s entire lifetime as part of the general advisory relationship, and increasingly unlikely to be deferred until 55 or 60 as a one-off exercise.

Who should study the qualification?

The new Level 6 Certificate in Pension Transfers & Planning Advice is the ideal qualification for any financial planner or wealth manager looking at working in this specialist advice area.

The qualification can be taken as a standalone exam and is recommended for candidates who have met the other FCA qualification requirements – dealing with regulations and ethics, investment and risk and retirement planning – by achieving a qualification that enables you to obtain a Statement of Professional Standing for Retail Investment Products. Via the CISI this is the level 4 Investment Advice Diploma (Financial Planning & Advice), Private Client Investment Advice and Management exam with relevant gap fill or the Chartered Wealth Manager qualification.

Key features

- Meets the needs of the FCA Pension Transfers Specialist standards (Activity 11) when combined with a qualification that enables you to obtain a Statement of Professional Standing for Retail Investment Products
- Provides progression from the specialist pathway of the Investment Advice Diploma (Financial Planning & Advice) towards further study at level 6
- Can be used as an add-on qualification for candidates who have completed the Chartered Wealth Manager Qualification
- Specialist qualification developed for practitioners aspiring to more senior roles
- Free CISI student membership – become associated with a chartered professional body and take advantage of an extensive range of benefits
- MCSI designatory letters – you will be eligible to apply for full Membership (MCSI) of the Institute upon successful completion of the qualification
How is the qualification structured?

The award is achieved by successfully passing a three-hour written exam. To meet the FCA Pension Transfer Specialist standards (Activity 11) the qualification must be combined with a qualification that enables you to obtain a Statement of Professional Standing for Retail Investment Products.

Syllabus Summary

- Pensions Planning and Advice
- Pension Transfer Advice
- Financial Protection
- Personal Taxation
- Retirement Planning and Advice

To view the full syllabus, visit cisi.org/ptpa

Studying for the Pension Transfers & Planning Advice exam

The recommended study time for the qualification is 200 hours. You can self-study for the exam using the CISI workbook and past papers or have formal training with one of our Accredited Training Partners (ATP). To find an ATP near you visit, cisi.org/atp. The workbook is now available and candidates can sit the exam from December 2017 onwards.

The CISI’s learning manual policy requires, where available, the most up-to-date CISI learning manual to be purchased when booking an exam, including by an ATP on your behalf. This applies to all candidates sitting CISI exams in the UK (includes Northern Ireland, Guernsey, Jersey and Isle of Man). Candidates sitting CISI exams outside the UK will receive the most up-to-date learning manual for that subject in PDF format and this is included in the international exam price.

Candidates who are not currently CISI members receive one year’s free CISI student membership and enjoy access to a number of benefits. Visit cisi.org/membership

MyStudy

The CISI has a variety of tools and information available to help you in the preparation for sitting your exam. You can find sample papers, study tips and exam information - all located in one place, visit cisi.org/mystudy

Assessment Structure

A three-hour paper divided into three sections:

- SECTION A: This section will carry 20% of the marks.
  - candidates answer ALL parts of the multiple choice questions in this section.

- SECTION B: This section will carry 40% of the marks.
  - candidates answer ALL parts of the short answer questions in this section.

- SECTION C: This section will carry 40% of the marks.
  - candidates answer ALL parts of the two 20 mark questions

How to register

Online – cisi.org/ptpa
By phone – +44 20 7645 0777
Via email – customersupport@cisi.org

Visit cisi.org/prices for current prices

Next steps

CISI Membership

Obtaining the PTPA qualification entitles candidates to join the Institute at Member level and utilise the designatory letters, MCSI. As a member of the Institute, you will enjoy the recognition of being a professional in a world of increasing competition.

The extensive continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities available through the CISI’s suite of membership benefits ensures financial services practitioners can maintain competence and meet the requirements of firms and the regulator. Visit cisi.org/membership

The CISI’s purpose is “to champion lifelong learning and integrity, raising individual standards of knowledge, skills and behaviour globally to enhance public trust and confidence in financial services.”