Financial Planning & Advice

Level 4 Investment Advice Diploma – Financial Planning & Advice

What is the Financial Planning & Advice exam?

The new Financial Planning & Advice exam covers the key areas of financial protection, retirement planning and financial planning.

It is the first unit within several CISI qualifications. It will form the first unit in the CISI Certificate in Paraplanning and the Level 6 Diploma in Financial Planning and the final, technical unit of the Level 4 Investment Advice Diploma (IAD).

It is also the first step in the study pathway to the globally recognised CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification, which provides individuals with the opportunity to join more than 160,000 professionals worldwide who hold the CFP™ mark.

Who should study for Financial Planning & Advice?

The exam is being developed for prospective financial planners and paraplanners as well as wealth managers who wish to develop their knowledge and understanding of financial planning and advice.

Key features

- Designed to be RDR compliant and meet the needs of employees advising on retail investment products and friendly society tax-exempt policies (FCA activities 4 and 6) when taken as part of the IAD, pending FCA recognition
- Available on demand via computer-based testing
- Pathway to higher level qualifications and CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification
- Free CISI student membership – become associated with a chartered professional body and take advantage of an extensive range of benefits

CISI
CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR SECURITIES & INVESTMENT

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IAD - Financial Planning & Advice

The IAD - Financial Planning & Advice pathway is achieved by passing three units:

- UK Regulation & Professional Integrity
- Investment, Risk & Taxation
- **Financial Planning & Advice**

For more info visit **cisi.org/fpa**

Syllabus Summary - Financial Planning & Advice

Financial protection

- Consumer and retail market factors and trends relevant to financial protection
- Protection planning
- Selecting appropriate protection solutions

Retirement planning

- Pension provision in context of political, economic, legal and social environment factors
- Pension scheme taxation
- Pensions law and regulation
- Defined benefit and defined contribution schemes
- State retirement benefits
- Taking a retirement income
- Financial planning and advice for retirement

Financial planning

- Financial planning fundamentals
- Financial planning assumptions
- Establishing the client-planner relationship
- Collecting the client's information
- Analysing the client's financial status
- Developing and communicating
- Implementing financial planning recommendations
- Reviewing the client's situation

Studying for Financial Planning & Advice

The workbook will be available to order in June 2016.

Assessment

2-3 hour exam delivered via computer-based testing, with a mix of multiple choice and multiple response questions with some based on case studies.

The exam will be available to take from 31 August 2016.

Register your interest

Register your interest at **cisi.org/fpa** and we will notify you upon release of the workbook and exam.

Next steps

Certificate in Paraplanning

If you combine the Financial Planning & Advice unit with the Taxation in the UK for Individuals & Trusts unit you will achieve the Level 4 Certificate in Paraplanning. Visit **cisi.org/cpp**

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification, the global standard for financial planning

The Level 6 Diploma in Financial Planning is the final step in the CISI's financial planning study pathway. The qualification assesses how well you can apply the knowledge gained from the Financial Planning & Advice unit against a case study in order to produce an effective financial plan.

Following successful completion of the Diploma in Financial Planning, you can apply to become a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and use the CFP™ mark, and be recognised as achieving the premier financial planning qualification. Visit **cisi.org/cfp**

CISI membership

If you achieve either the Certificate in Paraplaning or the IAD – Financial Planning & Advice you will be eligible to apply for Associate membership of the CISI, which entitles you to use the designatory letters ACSI. Achievers of the Diploma in Financial Planning can apply to become a full Member of the CISI, which entitles you to use the designatory letters MCSI.

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**