

Diploma in Corporate Finance

Assess and Advise on
Investment Decisions

Programme Overview

For over 15 years, this Diploma has developed hundreds of finance professionals working in Irish and multinational organisations. It is widely regarded as strengthening commercial judgement and as a recognised mark of capability in corporate finance.



Format
Blended



Duration
6 Months



CPD Hours
60+



Cost
From €3,500/£3,085



Start Date
2 November

During this diploma you will build a powerful set of skills which will enable you to:

- Assess and advise on investment decisions
- Evaluate project financing options
- Conduct corporate valuations and support acquisition and divestment decisions

Who is this programme for?

This Diploma is undertaken by business and finance professionals from practice, industry and the public sector who are working in – or aspiring to work in – corporate finance roles.

Participants are typically involved in:

- Investment and capital allocation decisions
- Business financing and treasury management
- Corporate valuation and transaction support
- Acquisition, disposal and restructuring activity

The programme also enables experienced corporate finance professionals to gain formal recognition for existing expertise, while updating and deepening their technical toolkit.



Programme Overview

In corporate finance, the difference between value creation and value erosion often comes down to judgement, the ability to assess opportunity, quantify risk, and make timely, well informed decisions in uncertain conditions.

The Diploma in Corporate Finance is designed for professionals who advise on, support or lead investment, financing, valuation and transaction decisions.

The programme develops advanced technical capability across financial analysis, investment appraisal, capital structure, valuation and corporate transactions, while grounding learning firmly in real world application.

The Diploma in Corporate Finance will give you:

- A well-grounded foundation in the theory of corporate finance
- Tools, checklists and spreadsheet models that can be used in practice
- Irish and international case studies

“Learning from industry professionals, alongside peers with strong professional backgrounds, made the experience particularly valuable and enriching.” - Alessandro Pozzo

Why choose this Diploma?



For your career

- Develop a strong, structured framework for assessing and advising on investment, valuation, financing and transaction decisions.
- Build advanced technical capability across core corporate finance disciplines, supported by practical models and real case studies.
- Earn an industry recognised Diploma in Corporate Finance from Chartered Accountants Ireland, signalling advanced professional competence.



For your organisation

- More robust, commercially grounded financial decision making informed by best practice corporate finance techniques.
- Stronger evaluation of investment opportunities, funding options and transaction risks.
- Access to professionals who can assess value creation objectively and support strategic growth decisions.

Programme Structure

The Diploma is delivered through six core technical and one skills-focused modules, supported by applied assignments. Learning is cumulative and closely aligned with real workplace practice.

Module 1: Financial Analysis, Financial Mathematics and Risk

Establishes the foundations of corporate finance, linking financial analysis, risk and shareholder value.

Module 2: Investment Decisions

Develops the tools and judgement required to evaluate capital investment decisions rigorously.

Module 3: Financing and Treasury Decisions

Focuses on how organisations fund operations and growth, and manage financial risk..

Module 4: Valuation and Capital Markets

Explores valuation methodologies and how capital markets assess value.

Module 5: Corporate Transactions

Examines the end to end corporate transaction lifecycle.

Module 6: Business Restructuring

Addresses financial and strategic decision making under stress and change.

Module 7: Negotiation Skills (Additional Module)

Develops the practical skills and frameworks required to plan, manage and execute negotiations effectively in corporate finance contexts, from transactions to stakeholder discussions.

Module 8: Financial Modelling (Additional module)

Develop the practical Excel skills needed to build robust, decision-ready financial models. This optional module focuses on best-practice modelling techniques used by finance professionals.

Programme Details

Tutors



Brian Feighan

Brian is a lecturer and examiner on the Diploma in Corporate Finance and Founder & CEO of LearnAltus. He specialises in financial and commercial training and works with Chartered Accountants Ireland on specialist programmes. Brian has over 20 years' experience in senior financial services leadership roles. He is a Fellow Chartered Accountant and a graduate of University College Dublin.



Orla Fisher

Orla is a Director in PwC's Deals practice, specialising in transaction services, due diligence and corporate finance. She has over 20 years' experience advising on acquisitions, disposals, financings and IPOs across a range of industries. A Fellow Chartered Accountant, She has lectured on the Diploma in Corporate Finance since 2017. Orla is a former Chair of Chartered Accountants Ireland Leinster Society and a longstanding contributor to the profession.



Fiona Buckley

Fiona Buckley is a Work Behaviourist, Leadership Facilitator, Executive coach and keynote speaker. She has been on the faculty with Chartered Accountants Ireland for 16+ years.



Programme Timetable

Module 1	Financial Analysis, Financial Mathematics and Risk	Part 1: Mon 2 November, 3pm-6pm Part 2: Thurs 5 November, 3pm-6pm
Module 2	Investment Decisions	Part 1: Mon 16 November, 3pm-6pm Part 2: Thurs 19 November, 3pm-6pm
Assignment 1		Assignment Release: Fri 20 November Support Webinar: Wed 25 November, 1pm - 1.45pm Assignment Due: Mon 21 December
Module 3	Financing and Treasury Decisions	Part 1: Mon 11 January, 3pm-6pm Part 2: Thurs 14 January, 3pm-6pm
Module 4	Valuation and Capital Markets	Part 1: Mon 18 January, 3pm-6pm Part 2: Thurs 21 January, 3pm-6pm
Additional Module	Financial Modelling	Wed 20 January, 3pm-4.30pm
Assignment 2		Assignment Release: Fri 15 January Support Webinar: Wed 20 January, 4.30pm - 5.15pm Assignment Due: Mon 15 February
Module 5	Corporate Transactions Part 1	Part 1: Mon 1 March, 3pm-6pm Part 2: Thurs 4 March, 3pm-6pm
Additional Module	Negotiation Skills	Wed 3 March, 2pm-3pm
Module 6	Business Restructuring - Corporate Transactions Part 2	Part 1: Mon 15 March, 3pm-6pm Part 2: Thurs 18 March, 3pm-6pm
Assignment 3		Assignment Release: Fri 26 March Support Webinar: Wed 31 March, 1pm - 1.45pm Assignment Due: Mon 26 April

Time Commitment

Participants report on average 10 hours study per module and approximately a further 15 hours per assignment. It should be noted that this is an average and a guideline.

Programme Details

How you study

The Diploma in Corporate Finance is delivered through a blend of self-study and live online webinars. Online sessions and programme assessments are all conducted through a virtual learning environment.

Our learning management platform Moodle will host all your course materials and activities, such as course notes and slides, links to your live webinar sessions, and information on your lecturers and timetable. This platform also allows you to network and share your questions and experiences with your fellow participants.

Your course material consists of a mix of PowerPoint slides, study guides and other support material for each module. Material is released on scheduled dates. Participants will have one week to review and absorb material before the live sessions with the course lecturer.

Each module will be supported by two live webinars, which will be streamed live and recorded using Zoom. The live sessions will provide you with guidance needed to successfully approach each module followed by some time for questions and answers.

How you are assessed

The programme is assessed through three practical home assignments. The first assignment will be released after Module 2, the second assignment will be released after Module 4, and the third will be released after Module 6.

- 25% for assignment 1
- 25% for assignment 2
- 50% for assignment 3

Please note participants must achieve 50% or above in the assignments to be eligible for the award of Diploma. Pass mark is set at 50% with distinction achieved at 70%.

Assignment Support Sessions

One week after each assignment is released, we host a one-hour assignment support session. During these interactive live webinars, you will have direct access to your examiner to:

- Clarify the assignment's objectives and expectations
- Ask your questions and receive real-time answers
- Gain tailored guidance to refine your approach

These sessions are designed to boost your confidence and ensure you are fully prepared to complete the assignment, which is due approximately four weeks after its release.

Accreditations and designations

Chartered Accountants Ireland/ICAS members will be awarded a Diploma in Corporate Finance from Chartered Accountants Ireland under the '1966 ICAI Charter Amendment Act'. Others will be awarded the Diploma in Corporate Finance by Chartered Accountants Ireland Executive Education DAC.



Can I use the course towards my CPD hours?

This programme offers structured and unstructured CPD hours contact time. Participants can claim a minimum of 60 structured CPD hours for this programme. Additionally, further hours can be claimed for completing additional course activities, such as reading, preparing for course assessments, and additional study.

Entry criteria and eligibility

This programme has been designed to meet the needs of business and finance professionals, including accountants.

Applications are welcomed from:

- Members of Chartered Accountants Ireland or another recognised professional body e. g. ICAS, ACCA, CIMA and ICAEW
- Holders of a degree at Level 8 (on the Irish NQF) or equivalent qualification
- Those with relevant experience in finance, business or another field

Applications and fees

Member of Chartered Accountants Ireland or ICAS

€3,500 | £3,085

Other professionals

€3,850 | £3,395

Participants who have completed any diploma or certificate programme with the Institute are eligible for a 10% discount. Multiple bookings by a single employer will qualify for a discount of 10% for the second and subsequent booking.

IFS Skillnet Funding Eligibility

We are delighted to inform you that this course is eligible for IFS Skillnet funding. Eligible participants can receive funding for up to 25% of the course fee. Application Process.

To submit your expression of interest for funding, please email madigan@ibec.ie; donna.noonan@ibec.ie. This funding is available to members and non members.



Application Form

Personal Details

Name:

Company/Firm Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Membership Body: ☐ Chartered Accountants Ireland
☐ Other (*proof of membership will be required*)

Chartered Accountants Ireland membership number:

If you wish for your firm to be invoiced, please provide details (*contact name/address/PO number*):

Fee Payment

☐ Member of Chartered Accountants Ireland/ICAS: €3,500| £3,085

☐ Non-member: €3,850 | £3,395

I would like to pay by:

☐ Instalments*

☐ Credit Card

* The instalment payment option will allow participants to spread the cost of a diploma over four equal payments, with the first payment charged at registration, and the remaining payments being charged to a debit/credit card on agreed dates.

A member of the team will be in contact to process your payment

All data is collected in accordance with the GDPR, and all relevant Data Protection Acts and regulations. We will only use your details for the purposes to which it was collected, and we will always respect your rights and privacy in relation to your data. Special category data is processed in accordance with Article 6 & 9 of the GDPR. Further details on our approach to data protection and how to opt-out is available in our Privacy Statement at www.charteredaccountants.ie/privacy-statement

☐ Please tick the box to indicate that you have read our terms and conditions.

