

# International Introduction to Securities and Investment



The **International Introduction to Securities and Investment** provides a comprehensive introduction to the financial services industry with a specific focus on investments from a global perspective. It is the first step in the CISI's qualification pathway, and it is taken by many practitioners as it is the foundation exam for higher level CISI qualifications.

The qualification covers key financial principles and products including assets and markets, equities, bonds, derivatives, investment funds, retirement planning, loans, mortgages and life assurance.

It explores the broader economic environment in which the financial services industry operates and looks at how economic activity is determined and managed in different economic and political systems. This qualification offers a first introduction to financial services regulation focusing on financial crime, insider trading and market abuse, and provides candidates with an understanding of ethical behaviour and acting with integrity.

***This certificate qualification is locally accredited by the Malta Qualifications Council (MQC) at EQF Level 4.***

It is intended for new entrants and staff who are beginning their career in the financial services industry. The broad topics covered make the qualification suitable for all staff, not just those responsible for making investment decisions, including administration, finance and accounting, IT, customer service, sales and marketing, HR and training.

## How is it delivered?

The course is assessed through a one-hour exam of 50 MCQs delivered by computer based testing. The pass mark is 70%

## Recommended Study Time & Membership

It is expected that students will spend 80 hours studying. Candidates receive free student membership for 12 months upon registration .

## Syllabus

### UNIT 1: Introduction to Securities & Investment

**Element 1: Introduction** — the Financial Services Industry

**Element 2: Economic Development** — Economic Environment

**Element 3: Financial Assets and Markets** — Cash Deposits, Money Market Instruments, Property, Foreign Exchange Market, Derivatives/Commodity Markets, World Stock Markets

**Element 4: Equities** — Equities

**Element 5: Bonds** — Government Bonds, Corporate Bonds

**Element 6: Derivatives** — Introduction, Futures, Options, SWAPS, Derivatives Uses

**Element 7: Investment Funds**— Introduction, Unit Trusts, Open Ended Investment Companies, Pricing, Dealing & Settlement, Investment Trusts, Real Estate Investment Trusts, Exchange-Traded Funds, Hedge Funds

**Element 8: Financial Services Regulation** — Financial Services and Markets Act, Financial Crime, Insider Dealing and Market Abuse, Data Protection Act 1998, Breaches, Complaints and Compensation.

**Element 9: Other Financial Products**