



International Financial Services Apprenticeships

**Higher Certificate (Level 6)
in International Financial Services**

**Higher Diploma (Level 8)
in Financial Services Analytics**

www.ifsapprenticeships.ie

The IFS Apprenticeships have been developed by Financial Services Ireland which is the business association within Ibec, in conjunction with the National College of Ireland (NCI), using industry input to create current and relevant industry apprenticeships.

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Apprenticeship
Real-life Learning



HEA | HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY
AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS



QQI
Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Introduction to Apprenticeships

International Financial Services (IFS) Apprenticeships are a pathway to gaining a head-start in a career in Financial Services or to re-train in a career that you have always wanted. In conjunction with our education partners, the National College of Ireland (NCI), IFS Apprenticeships allow candidates to earn while they learn. IFS Apprenticeships can bring employers new and valuable resources and skills to their organisations. IFS Apprenticeships provide nationally recognised qualifications and on-the-job experience.

We have two levels to the apprenticeship:

(a) IFS Associate Apprenticeship (Level 6)

(b) IFS Specialist Apprenticeship (Level 8)

Who should get involved?

- School leavers (who have attained their Leaving Certificate results)
- Career changers
- Graduates of all disciplines

Benefits to Industry

Talent: A new initiative to attract and recruit highly qualified and talented individuals with fresh ideas that can be tailored to specific job roles, making them flexible to the needs of your business.

Recruitment: Candidates are pre-screened and selected from a national panel which reduces recruitment costs. Training costs are covered by Government funding, making the IFS Apprenticeships an efficient and financially effective process.

Staff retention: Apprenticeships can help reduce staff turnover by increasing employee satisfaction and loyalty. This results in reduced employee absenteeism, reduced turnover rate and increased productivity.

Opportunities: A cost-effective opportunity to tackle skills shortages, improve the abilities of new and existing staff and retain a professional workforce. Companies can also place existing employees on the IFS Apprenticeship programme which will provide industry relevant training at no extra cost to the employer.

Benefits to Apprentice

Employment: You will have a two year fixed term contract with a leading Financial Services company.

Earn while you learn: You will be paid €23K at Associate Level, €32K at Specialist Level while you gain a Level 6 or Level 8 qualification.

A professional qualification: You will earn a professional qualification - Higher Certificate in International Financial Services at Associate Level, Higher Diploma in Financial Services Analytics at Specialist Level.

A future: Upon successful completion of your contract you will have the skills, knowledge and experience to progress your career in Financial Services.

Start dates

- First Apprentices will start in September 2017

IFS Associate Apprenticeship (Level 6)

A NFQ Level 6 qualification (Higher Certificate in International Financial Services) whilst gaining on the job experience. The first year of the apprenticeship will focus on Financial Institutions & Markets; Customer Service and Management & Behaviour in Organisations; ICT for International Financial Services. The next year will primarily focus on Financial Accounting & Reporting; Introduction to Statistics for Finance and Fund Administration; Economics for Financial Practitioners.

Course Structure

This programme is structured over two academic calendar years. Off-the-job modules run over two 14 week semesters per academic year, while on-the-job modules are structured to run over the length of each academic year. Assessment of off-the-job modules comprises a combination of continuous assessment and exams. On-the-job assessment is via an ongoing electronic portfolio of work-based evidence that is submitted in year 1 and in year 2.

Entry Requirements

Candidates must be at least 18 years of age to work in financial services. Minimum entry requirements are a grade H7/O6 or above in five leaving certificate (or equivalent) subjects. A minimum of grade O6 must be obtained in English. A minimum of grade O6 or a B2 or above in Foundation level must be obtained in Mathematics.

Holders of a QQI Level 5 Certificate in Business (or equivalent) or QQI Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Business (or equivalent) can apply for entry onto the programme. Non-standard applications will be also considered on an individual basis.

Course Content

Year 1		
Semester	Off the Job	On the Job
One	Financial Institutions & Markets; Customer Service.	Continuing Professional Development 1; Regulation & Compliance; Product & Service Proficiency; Client Communication & Relationships.
Two	Management & Behaviour in Organisations; ICT for International Financial Services.	

Year 2		
Semester	Off the Job	On the Job
One	Financial Accounting & Reporting; Introduction to Statistics for Finance.	Continuing Professional Development 2; Systems & Processes in International Financial Services; Apprentice Reflection; Work Based Project.
Two	Fund Administration; Economics for Financial Practitioners.	

IFS Specialist Apprenticeship (Level 8)

A NFQ Level 8 qualification (Higher Diploma in Financial Services Analytics) whilst gaining on the job experience. The concept of this apprenticeship is for it to be dynamic and responsive to industry need, this year Data Analytics and Fintech are the required specialisms and next year the area of Regtech will have a corresponding specialist education programme embedded as an option into this apprenticeship programme.

Course Structure

This programme is structured over two calendar years (September to August inclusive). Off-the-job modules run over six 12 week semesters while On-the-job modules are structured to run over three semesters each with final deliverable submissions to coincide with the end of Semester 3 and Semester 6. Assessment of off-the-job modules comprises a combination of continuous assessment and terminal exams. On-the-job assessment is via an ongoing electronic portfolio of evidence in year 1 and a final project in year 2.

Entry Requirements

Learners graduating with a 2.2 honours degree at level 8 in any discipline are eligible to apply for this programme. Non-standard applications will be also considered on an individual basis.

Course Content

Year 1		
Semester	Off the Job	On the Job
One	Data Programming	Work Based Learning
Two	Financial Markets I	
Three	Business Data Analysis	
Year 2		
Semester	Off the Job	On the Job
One	Financial Markets II	Work Based Learning
Two	Data Management	
Three	Data Mining & Machine Learning	



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