

ACOI Education

Programmes

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The demand for competent Compliance Professionals in the Irish financial services industry continues to grow. The Central Bank of Ireland requires financial institutions to ensure that their staff have the requisite skills and competence to perform their roles in a professional and effective manner.

The ACOI, in conjunction with our education partners, iob (a recognised school of UCD), DCU, Chartered Accountants Ireland, Professional Accountancy Training (PAT) and Griffith College provide accredited graduate and post graduate education in the various field of compliance and business ethics, to equip Compliance Professionals and those who deal with compliance and regulation with the necessary competence and skills to undertake their roles in a professional manner.

Professional Certificate & Diploma in Compliance

Programme Overview

The Professional Certificate and Diploma in Compliance programme, a level 7 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications, is designed for those who work or aspire to work in a professional capacity within a compliance function in financial services. Both the professional certificate and diploma are designed to enhance skills, judgement and ability to deal with practical issues in the management and practice of compliance in the financial services industry.

The Professional Certificate (PDC 1 - Compliance and the Regulatory Structure and PDC 2 - Conduct of Business Rules) introduces you to the theory of regulation and to its application to the financial services.

The Professional Diploma in Compliance (PDC 1- PDC 2 and PDC 3 - Legal and Regulatory Aspects of Compliance and PDC 4 - Compliance Management) is the benchmark qualification for compliance professionals in all sectors of the financial services industry.

These programmes are delivered online through webinars. All modules are

available 3 times a year with exams in January, May and September.

How will you benefit

On successful completion of the Professional Certificate and Diploma in Compliance graduates will be able to:

- Understand the role of compliance and where the compliance function fits within a financial services organisation;
- Explain the theory and describe the practice of regulation from both an Irish and International perspective;
- Describe the impact of relevant regulation and the role of the various regulatory bodies on the operation of the compliance function;



- Describe the legal environment that applies to the Financial Services industry;
- Assess the systems of controls, assurance and governance in an organisation;
- Critically evaluate the importance of ethics and their role in the compliance function;
- Understand the impact of regulatory rules relating to how consumers of financial services are protected;
- Assess the authorisation, supervision and prudential requirements for different financial entities and after;
- Devise a regulatory relations policy in relation to inspections, themed visits and routine relations.

Award

On successful completion of PDC 1- PDC 4, you will be awarded the Professional Diploma in Compliance from UCD.

In addition, you will be invited to apply for the designation 'Licentiate of the Association of Compliance Officers in Ireland' (LCOI) and use the designatory letters LCOI. Continued use of this designation is subject to meeting ACOI's CPD requirements.

The LCOI designation satisfies

the Central Bank of Ireland's Minimum Competency Code for those who 'adjudicate on any complaint communicated to a regulated firm by a consumer which relates to advice about a retail financial product provided to that consumer or the arranging of a retail financial product for that consumer'.

Certificate in Financial Crime Prevention

Programme Overview

There has been a significant increase in the complexity and volume of regulation underpinning compliance in the area of financial crime prevention. Consequently, practitioners operating in this complex environment have to fulfil their fiduciary responsibilities of ensuring ethical and legal compliance within this regulatory environment while contributing to wider organisational objectives.

The Professional Certificate in Financial Crime Prevention, a 10 ECTS award at level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications was designed in consultation with the Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation and the Suspicious Transactions Unit in the Office of the

Revenue Commissioners. It was designed to equip Money Laundering Reporting Officers (MLROs) and others who specialise in this area with the specialist skills and competence to address these reputational and compliance risks and is the only accredited qualification at this level. Participants will learn through an applied approach, utilising both case studies and experience guest speakers.

The programme is delivered on a part-time basis across one semester. It comprises of one module, Financial/White Collar Crime Prevention and forms part of the MSc in Compliance. Students who successfully complete the certificate are exempt from this module if they subsequently decide to apply for the MSc in Compliance.

How you will benefit

On successful completion of the Professional Certificate in Financial Crime Prevention, graduates will be able to:

- Interpret contemporary legislation in the specific areas of financial crime prevention;
- Design, complete and report on major financial crime prevention projects, which may be required to enhance your firm's positioning within the sector;
- Determine on an ongoing basis, the



performance of a financial crime prevention framework within your firm's framework;

- Apply professional knowledge and skills to investigate a suspected financial crime and after;
- Maintain, develop and apply contemporary professional best practice.

Award

On successful completion of the programme, you will be awarded the Professional Certificate in Financial Crime Prevention from UCD.

Graduates who complete the Professional Certificate in Financial Crime Prevention will be invited to apply for the designation 'Certified Financial Crime Prevention Practitioner' and use the designatory letters CFCPP. Continued use of this designation is subject to meeting ACOI's CPD requirements.

Professional Certificate in Data Protection

Programme Overview

Data protection law underwent a fundamental reform in May 2018, the date on which the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force. This new law has significantly changed what data protection law is and how it applies. GDPR imposes new penalties and liabilities on data controllers and processors who fail to comply with its provisions.

The Professional Certificate in Data Protection, a 10 ECTS award at level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications was designed in consultation with the office of the Data Protection Commissioner. It provides Data Protection Officers and Compliance Officers with the expert knowledge of data protection and is the only accredited qualification at this level. Participants will learn through an applied approach and develop specialist skills and

competence to support and advise their organisation in managing and mitigating data protection related reputational, compliance and financial risks.

The programme is delivered on a part-time basis across one semester. It comprises of one module, Data Protection Policy and Procedures and forms part of the MSc in Compliance. Students who successfully complete the certificate are exempt from this module if they subsequently decide to apply for the MSc in Compliance.

How you will benefit

On successful completion of the Professional Certificate in Data Protection, graduates will be able to:

- Understand the obligations imposed by GDPR in law and practice and justify the rationale behind recommendations in relation to data protection;
- Use contemporary theories and practical evidence to design a data protection framework within your organisation;
- Design, complete and report on major data protection projects which may be required to enhance your firm's positioning within the sector and after;
- Maintain, develop and apply contemporary professional best practice and contribute to a personal ethos of life-long learning and self-improvement.

Award

On successful completion of the programme, you will be awarded the Professional Certificate in Data Protection from UCD.

Graduates who complete the Professional Certificate in Data Protection, will be invited to apply for the designation 'Certified Data Protection Officer' and use the designatory letters CDPO. Continued use of this designation is subject to meeting ACOI's CPD requirements.

Certificate in Leading Cultural Change & Ethical Behaviours in Financial Services

Programme Overview

The Professional Diploma in Leading Cultural Change and Ethical Behaviour in Financial Services, a level 9 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications is aimed at senior managers working across a range of sectors, roles and functions. The programme provides senior managers with the knowledge and tools to lead and embed effective cultures within their organisations.

The programme was designed in consultation with leading academics, industry experts, regulators and professionals in the areas of Compliance, Consumer Protection, Risk, Culture and Behaviours working to international best practice. It aims to develop participants' critical awareness in the areas of culture, behaviours and ethics. It will equip participants with decision making, reflective and analytic skills to enable them to implement an effective culture.

The programme is delivered on a part-time basis over three semesters. It comprises of three modules each 10 ECTS: Ethical Practice in Financial Services, Decision Making, Group Dynamics and Behaviour and Leading and Implementing Cultural Change. Each 10 ECTS module consist of up to 30 delivery hours per semester.

How you will benefit

On successful completion of the Professional Diploma in Leading Cultural Change and Ethical Behaviour in Financial Services graduates will be able to:

- Explain the theory and practice underpinning culture, ethics, leadership, behavioural change, supervision in the context of financial services sector and institutions;
- Outline the implications of ethical theories



- and behaviour and evaluate the intended and unintended consequences of proposed resolutions to ethical dilemmas and decisions affecting customers, shareholders and the public good;
- Ascertain an institution's cultural behaviour, and assess the impact of group dynamics and behaviours on board or team decision-making;
 - Evaluate existing policies and practices taking account of the commercial, consumer protection and societal imperatives in the context of delivering cultural change;
 - Appraise moral rules, codes, standards or principals in leading and delivering cultural change;
 - Communicate to internal and external stakeholders how cultural and ethical behavioural change can be addressed and facilitated to deliver outcomes in the best interest of the company, customers and society and after;
 - Engage in self-reflection on ethical and cultural decision-making, in their role as leaders of cultural change.

Award

On successful completion of the programme, you will be awarded with the Professional Diploma in Leading Cultural Change and Ethical Behaviour in Financial Services from UCD.

Graduates who complete the Professional Diploma in Leading Cultural Change and Ethical Behaviour in Financial Services will be invited to apply for the designation Certified Ethical Practitioner (CEP). Continued use of this designation is subject to meeting ACOI's CPD requirements

MSc in Compliance

Programme Overview

The MSc in Compliance, a level 9 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications is aimed at those who work in a control function, within a financial services organisation and will be of particular interest to compliance managers and senior managers together with those aspiring to these roles.

The programme is designed to give compliance and other control professionals the knowledge and skills they need to implement effective compliance structures and enhance the overall internal governance structures of organisations. It will provide participants with the multi-disciplinary skills to participate more effectively in compliance management and to understand a practical application of compliance best practice.

The programme is delivered on a part-time basis over 24 months, students can register for a maximum of two modules per semester. It comprises of seven modules and an Applied Project. Each 10 ECTS module consist of up to 30 delivery hours per semester.

How you will benefit

On successful completion of the MSc in Compliance, graduates will be able to:

- Develop comprehensive knowledge and expertise across a broad curriculum in Compliance and regulatory risk;
- Understand the requirements and responsibilities of ensuring robust compliance within financial services firms, while maintaining the trust of

- customers and wider stakeholders;
- Expand their thinking on key business challenges and ethical dilemmas faced by management when striving to improve business performance in regulated environment and after;
- Blend theory and practice in complex and specific situations to improve business performance.

Award

On successful completion of the programme, you will be awarded with an MSc in Compliance from UCD.

Graduates who complete the MSc in Compliance will be invited to apply for the designation 'Fellow of the Association of Compliance Officers in Ireland' and use the designatory letters FCOI. Continued use of this designation is subject to meeting ACOI's CPD requirements. FCOI is the highest-level designation the ACOI offers its members.

MA in Ethics (Corporate Responsibility)

Programme Overview

The MA in Ethics (Corporate Responsibility), a level 9 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications is offered jointly by Dublin City University and Mater Dei Institute of Education in partnership with the Association of Compliance Officers in Ireland. The programme is part of a professional development framework for ACOI members and for individuals within the wider business community who wish to develop their leadership



skills for Business Ethics & Corporate Responsibility roles within organisations.

The programme is designed to emphasise ethical awareness, critical reasoning skills, and core principles of ethical behaviour in order to provide participants with the tools to address and resolve complex, critical and at times, conflicting interests and opportunities. It specifically expands on the theoretical perspective of business ethics as well as its practical management tools. It provides participants with the knowledge and skills to assess the role of ethics in relation to corporate social responsibility, managerial decision-making, executive leadership, and corporate governance through diverse perspectives.

The programme is offered on a part-time basis over two years, comprising of six taught modules (Introduction to Ethics, Readings in Ethics, Human Rights & Social Justice, Business Ethics, Finance and Corporate Governance, Implementing an Effective Ethics Culture) and a minor thesis from within the perspective of the discipline of ethics. No philosophy or ethics background is required to apply for this course.

After graduation, graduates can join the MA in Ethics Alumni and be part of a network of expertise and support in the field of ethics.

How you will benefit

On successful completion of the MA in Ethics (Corporate Responsibility), graduates will be able to:

- Design and manage the ethical, social and governance aspects of business decision-making and operation;
- Apply business ethics concepts and frameworks to the responsible management of organisations;
- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of a broad range of business ethics concepts and

theories including corporate responsibility, corporate governance and stakeholder accountability;

- Utilise a range of business ethics theories and practical tools to address ethics issues in business organisations and after;
- Demonstrate an understanding of a broad range of ethical theories and principles that are at the forefront of general and applied ethics.

Award

The MA in Ethics (Corporate Responsibility) is accredited and awarded by DCU. Students who leave the programme on successful completion of the first six modules are eligible for the exit award Graduate Diploma in Ethics (Corporate Responsibility) from DCU. A Graduate Certificate in Ethics can also be achieved after successfully completing 30 credits of taught modules.

Graduates who complete the MA in Ethics (Corporate Responsibility) will be invited to apply for the designation of Fellows of the Compliance Association in Ireland (FCOI). Continued use of the FCOI designation is subject to meeting ACOI's CPD requirements. FCOI is the highest-level designation the ACOI offers its members.

Diploma in Risk Management, Internal Audit & Compliance

Programme Overview

The Diploma in Risk Management, Internal Audit and Compliance was developed for those who work or aspire to work in a professional capacity in risk, internal audit and/or compliance roles. Since the recent financial crisis there has been an emphasis on the areas of risk management, regulation and compliance. Risk overarches everything in a business and once the core ideas are understood

at all levels of responsibility, good risk management can be applied to any type of risk in any sector, from health to pharma to financial services. Risk management theory does not change, it's about knowing the risk you are taking and making good decisions. It has implications for strategic and business planning, audit and assurance arrangements and the management and control of activities.

The programme equips participants with an understanding of how to build, effectively communicate and influence on risk management, internal audit, governance and regulatory compliance operations. The programme is open to Members of Chartered Accountants Ireland (CAI), ACOI and other recognised professional bodies including ICAS, ACCA, CIMA, CPA, ICAEW.

The programme is available by classroom and distance learning and the 6 modules can be completed over 6 months.

How you will benefit

On successful completion of the Diploma in Risk Management, Internal Audit and Compliance, graduates will be able to:

- Design a robust risk management function;
- Understand Risk Management within the Three Lines of Defence (3LOD);
- Build an effective Internal Audit function;
- Understand the Internal Audit function role of adding value;
- Manage the regulatory function and relationships;
- Appraise governance and culture governance framework of your organisation.

Award

Members of CAI and ACOI will be awarded their Diploma by Chartered Accountants Ireland. CAI is one of a small number of professional bodies with statutory awarding powers under Irish and UK law conferring the

power to make awards including Diplomas and Certificates. Their programmes are designed to meet a special purpose and continue at roughly a Masters level, expanding knowledge in a specific field.

Professional Certificate in Fintech Risk & Compliance

Programme Overview

Compliance is core to the provision of regulated Financial Services and the risk management of those services. The evolution of technologically driven innovation in Financial Services (Fintech) presents new challenges for the contemporary compliance function. Fintech's focus on the application of innovative technological solutions and enhanced data analytics to deliver an optimal (customised) user experience needs to be balanced by appropriate governance, control, and oversight.

For Fintech companies – whether they are 'new' Fintech companies and/or an 'incumbent/traditional' Financial Institution that is providing technologically enabled Financial Services/products - the strategic priority is to balance the foundations of compliance and control with the flexibility to capitalise on technological innovation.

The ACOI and its education partner, Professional Accountancy Training (PAT) have collaborated to develop a contemporary practitioner focused course that translates the traditional compliance function in the evolving Fintech environment. This course has been designed to address industry-wide challenges by providing professional training in Fintech Risk and Compliance. The programme provides participants with the knowledge and skills required to conduct and manage

evolving compliance functions within the Financial Services industry.

How you will benefit

On successful completion of the Professional Certificate in Fintech Risk and Compliance, graduates will be able to:

- Understand the structure of the International, European, and Irish regulatory environment from a Fintech perspective and identify areas of EU & Irish legislative and regulatory focus ;
- Analyse from an operational perspective the AML/CFT compliance and regulatory reporting risks in a Fintech operating environment;
- Assess the compliance risks associated with data protection and the ethical use of personal data in a Fintech data driven operating model;
- Identify the contemporary compliance risks in the safeguarding arrangements of payment and electronic money institutions;
- Evaluate the regulatory focus upon compliance risks related to outsourcing of critical services by financial service providers;
- Demonstrate an awareness of fitness, probity, conduct, and authorisation risks in an evolving Fintech environment;
- Identify the compliance risks related to regulated and non-regulated cryptocurrencies and crypto-assets services;
- Examine the compliance, and ethical, risks of an increasingly data - driven Fintech product development cycle; and
- Contextualise the importance of a compliance culture in the provision of financial services in the Fintech ecosystem.

Award

The course is approved by ACOI and participants will receive a Professional Certificate in Fintech Risk and Compliance on successfully passing the continuous assessments and final exam.

Professional Certificate in Anti-Money Laundering in a Fintech Environment

Programme Overview

As technological innovation continues to drive the evolution of Financial Services (Fintech), ACOI and Professional Accountancy Training (PAT) have collaborated to design a contemporary practitioner focused course that specifically addresses operational and strategic Anti-Money Laundering (AML) requirements – in an increasingly data-driven Fintech environment. This programme will ensure ACOI members have the necessary skills and competencies to address AML compliance frameworks and supports a culture of AML compliance in this new environment that in turn establishes Ireland as a centre of both European and global AML/CTF excellence and innovation.

The programme identifies the core requirements and contemporary (technologically enhanced) best practice in the risk assessment, client onboarding, and life cycle management of client accounts from the perspective of a variety of sectors – for example: Credit and Financial Institutions ('Firms') and Designated Non-Financial Business and Professions (DNFBP's).

How you will benefit

On successful completion of the Professional Certificate in Anti-Money Laundering in a Fintech Environment, graduates will be able to:

- Assess the evolution of EU AML Directives and their transposition into Irish (national) legislation;
- Evaluate the role of FATF and the national FIU's in investigating and implementing effective AML/CTF enforcement;
- Identify the critical elements of a contemporary AML programme in an evolving Fintech (digital) environment;
- Contextualise the importance of



culture and collaboration in the Irish AML Compliance Framework;

- Evaluate the critical inter-related stages of the AML Compliance Cycle and the perspective of the key stakeholders in the Irish AML Framework;
- Assess the AML/CTF regulatory requirements, Central Bank of Ireland's guidance, and contemporary best practice for the risk assessment of new counterparties and customers;
- Demonstrate contemporary best practice in the onboarding, and lifecycle management of new counterparties/clients in an evolving regulatory and technological (Fintech) environment;
- Analyse the effectiveness of transaction monitoring processes, the quality of STR information, and the potential of technologically enabled solutions in the AML Compliance Framework;
- Identify the challenges (regulatory, information sharing, and optimising resources) in investigating STRs and enforcing AML sanctions; and
- Contextualise the importance of stakeholder co-operation and analyse the potential for technologically enhanced solutions to enhance the effectiveness of the AML prevention and enforcement.

Award

The course is approved by ACOI and participants will receive a Professional Certificate in Anti-Money Laundering in a Fintech Environment on successfully passing the continuous assessments and final exam

Professional Certificate in Leadership Skills

Programme Overview

The ACOI and its education partner, Griffith College have collaborated to develop the Professional Certificate in Leadership. It is aimed at new or experienced managers, supervisors and team leaders or aspiring leaders in the workplace who want to learn how to improve their leadership and influencing skills.

The programme aims to provide participants with an in-depth exploration of the leadership role in organisations. It will enable participants to appreciate what employees expect and want from their leader and, in turn, helps them to build more successful relationships with their colleagues. The programme highlights the important skills that a leader needs to successfully juggle the demands of team, task and the individual.

Participants are taught self-awareness in terms of their own behavioural style and the impact it has on peers, employees, clients and their own managers. They are encouraged to build on their strengths and produce action plans for addressing their areas of development. Participants are taught to network, build a profile and be persuasive in their presentations to others. They explore nature, nurture and how it relates to leadership as they develop their own path to becoming a skilled and effective leader.

The programme is delivered over 8 weeks, with a 3-hour session each week. Learners will be provided with current empirical evidence, critical analysis and further research

requirements for each concept introduced during the class. These strategies include discussions, brainstorming, case studies, exercises and workshop-type activities allowing participants to learn through discovery.

On completion of this programme participants will be required to complete a reflection essay (1,300-1,500 words) outlining their journey through the programme using appropriate theories and practical application to explain and interpret their reflections.

How you will benefit

On successful completion of the Certificate in Leadership, graduates will be able to:

- Develop leaders who communicate and influence effectively;
- Promote stress resilience through the effective use of emotional intelligence;
- Implement effective change management to drive organisations forward;
- Use leadership skills to optimise performance through difficult times.

Award

The course is approved by Griffith College in association with ACOI and participants will receive a professional Certificate in Leadership Skills on successful passing of the assessment .

You must be a current member of the Association of Compliance Officers in Ireland, or become a member, to register for all programmes listed. Membership is currently €150 per year. For further information on all programmes please email info@acoi.ie