

At a glance: Existing CII Diploma in Financial Planning

The Diploma in Financial Planning is a tried-and-tested qualification. Over 30,000 advisers have passed it or are working towards completion.

It is what the FSA has termed a “transitional qualification” in that holders will satisfy the RDR qualification requirements, with any short-fall between the coverage of this qualification and the new exam standards to be met through qualification gap fill activity.

The Diploma will continue to be offered until at least the end of 2012. Advance notice will be given of any intent to withdrawal.

In summary the Diploma:

- Is suitable for existing advisers holding the FPC or Certificate in Financial Planning or equivalent
- Recognises, in the form of credits, relevant prior learning, both CII and non-CII e.g. Certified Financial Planner; accounting, economics, finance, law and management degrees obtained in the last 10 years
- Requires candidates to obtain a minimum of 140 credits (minimum 80 at Diploma level or above). Existing Certificate qualification attracts credits
- Provides access to more than 20 different exam units including the new 'R0' Diploma in Regulated Financial Planning units
- Has no compulsory units
- Holders will typically need to undertake qualification gap fill activity to fully meet the new exam standards. This can be minimized by studying RDR compliant R0 units. CII/PFS support will be available
- Makes holders eligible for DipPFS status

Visit www.cii.co.uk/dip-financialplanning to view full details on this qualification.

Benefits include:

Avoids duplication of learning – recognises relevant prior learning

Year-round entry – plan study around business commitments

Flexible – build a learning programme from a choice of more than 20 subjects

Modular learning – learn at your own pace

Pay-as-you-learn – fees are payable as you take each unit

Unrivalled study support – widest range of learning & revision materials

Ability to minimise qualification gap fill requirement – new Diploma units meet new exam standards in full

Support career development – can lead to Chartered status

Units available under the existing Diploma include:

Diploma in Financial Planning		
R01 Financial services, regulation and ethics 20 Diploma credits	R02 Investment principles and risk 20 Diploma credits	R03 Personal taxation 10 Diploma credits
R04 Pensions and retirement planning 10 Diploma credits	R05 Financial protection 10 Certificate credits	R06 Financial planning practice 30 Diploma credits
J01–J07 20 credits		
AF1–AF5 Advanced Diploma units – maximum of one unit can be sat 30 Advanced Diploma credits		
CF2, CF6, CF8, ER1, FA1, FA2, GR1 Certificate level units – subject to completion requirements 10/15/20 Certificate credits each		

Certain rules of combination exist between the new R0 units and existing Diploma and Certificate units due to the extent of the syllabus overlap:

Units treated as equivalent:

- (CF3) Financial protection **and** (R05) Financial protection
- (J01) Personal tax **and** (R03) Personal taxation
- (J04) Pension funding options **and** (R04) Pensions and retirement planning
- (J06) Investment principles, markets and environments **and** (R02) Investment principles and risk
- (J08) Financial planning practice **and** (R06) Financial planning practice

In the case of the above, only one award of credits will be made where two comparable units are held, this being the higher figure where a difference exists. The CII judges units to be equivalent where there is a minimum 80% syllabus match and 70% assessment match exists. In these instances, we only allow one award of credits as to do otherwise would result in candidates effectively getting double recognition for the same learning.