

At a glance: New CII Diploma in Regulated Financial Planning

This new qualification has been created to meet the new FSA exam standards (QCF Level 4) in full. It fully reflects feedback and discussion with the market with regards to the format, availability and testing methodology.

The Diploma:

- Is suitable both for new entrants and experienced advisers seeking to upgrade to Level 4
- Requires 6 units to be completed, covering:
 - (R01) Financial services, regulation and ethics
 - (R02) Investment principles and risk
 - (R03) Personal taxation
 - (R04) Pensions and retirement planning
 - (R05) Financial protection
 - (R06) Financial planning practice
- Offers year-round entry and completion
- Is examined through a combination of multiple choice (units R01–R05), available all year round, and a written exam (unit R06) available six times a year
- Delivers comprehensive exam feedback
- Requires no qualification gap fill
- Makes holders eligible for DipPFS status

Note: Unit (R01) Financial services, regulation and ethics will become the new licence to give advice under supervision until such time as the full Diploma has been completed.

Benefits include:

Year-round entry – plan study around business commitments

Modular learning – learn at your own pace

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

Multiple-choice testing – providing immediate notification of results

60 exam centres with year-round testing – take exams at a convenient time & location

Unrivalled study support – widest range of learning & revision materials

Fully meet new FSA/FSSC exam standards – no additional qualification gap fill requirement

Support career development – can lead to Chartered status

Diploma units in details

Outlined below are the exam duration, format and availability. The indicative study hours are those that would typically be relevant for new entrants to the industry. Experienced advisers already qualified to Certificate level would expect to complete these in less time due to their existing knowledge levels.

Unit title	Credit value / level	Exam duration	Exam methodology	Study hours	Exam availability
(R01) Financial services, regulation & ethics	20 Diploma	2 hrs	100 MCQ	60	MCQ – year round examinations at 60 UK centres Immediate results notification Minimum 7 days notice for resits
(R02) Investment principles & risks	20 Diploma	2 hrs	100 MCQ	60	
(R03) Personal taxation	10 Diploma	1 hr	50 MCQ	50	
(R04) Pensions and retirement planning	10 Diploma	1 hr	50 MCQ	50	
(R05) Financial protection	10 Certificate	1 hr	50 MCQ	50	
(R06) Financial planning practice	30 Diploma	3 hrs	Written	100	
Totals	100 credits	10 hrs	N/A	370	Written – 6 times annually: Jan/Apr/Jun/Jul/Oct/Nov Results issued within 4 weeks N/A

Accreditation of Prior Learning

Holders of the following existing CII examination units gain automatic exemptions against the equivalent unit in the Diploma in Regulated Financial Planning, as shown in brackets, since they already meet the new FSA/FSSC exam standards in full:

- (CF3) Financial protection [(R05) Financial protection]
- (J08) Financial planning practice [(R06) Financial planning practice]

Study support

To help entrants pass first-time, the CII provides a comprehensive range of study options and revision aids, which have been proven to increase the chances of exam success.

These include:

- **Study text** – this self-study course covers the exam syllabus in a straightforward and user-friendly format and include access to FREE online learning services through the 'RevisionMate' online study support tool including: a study planner, a knowledge testing facility, discussion forums, specimen examination, and hints & tips.
- **Exam preparation course (unit R06 only)** – in addition to the core study text this includes five written exam preparation exercises, set to exam standards and marked by an expert tutor, including individual feedback on exam technique. It also provides an insight into how other candidates have performed on specific questions in previous exams, assisting effective preparation.
- **Key fact booklet** – these comprehensive pocket-sized booklets summarise the key information from the core study text.
- **Audio revision** – Lasting between 3–5 hours, this MP3 audio material covers the key elements of each unit.
- **Online tutorial** – providing highly interactive study, backed by a revision assessment tool to check understanding as you progress with your studies. Visit www.cii.co.uk/elearning to view the course demo.
- **Question packs** – Each question pack consists of 3 mock exams (comprising a total of 300 questions) providing comprehensive exam practice that tests knowledge and develops technique.
- **Face-to-Face revision courses** – these courses: outline what the examiner is looking for; highlight the common mistakes made by candidates and advise how to avoid them; teach useful revision and exam techniques; and help clarify areas of concern in the syllabus.
- **Specimen exam guide** – sample paper with answers and hints and tips on how to pass the exam.

The following pricing relates to the study options available for units R01–R06:

Study option	Member price per unit	Non-member price per unit
Study text with updates (R01, R02, R06)	£93	£130
Study text with updates (R03–R05)	£56	£73
Exam preparation course (Unit R06 only)	£164	£206

Details of pricing for other study support items typically mirrors our standard pricing across all other CII qualifications. Visit www.cii.co.uk/dip-rfp for full details.

There is a standard exam entry fee for units R01–R06 of:

Units	Member price per unit	Non-member price per unit
R01, R02	£107	£142
R03, R05	£64	£83
R05	£58	£60
R06	£127	£142

Interested in finding out more?

To find our full details on the Diploma in Regulated Financial Planning go to www.cii.co.uk/dip-rfp

And if you have any questions please see our FAQs at www.cii.co.uk/rdr