



The
Insurance
Institute

FAQ: Accreditation

Does the accreditation change affect me and my qualifications?

For the majority of students, the transition will have little or no impact. The professional designations and the qualification awards will remain on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) at Level 7. However, a requirement under Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) means the titles of the awards will change to the Certificate in Insurance Product Advice (APA) and Certificate in Insurance Practice (CIP) respectively.

What happens if I have already started my APA / CIP?

Don't worry. You can apply and register for exams like normal.

Is my existing APA / CIP designation no longer valid? Do I have to re-sit?

Your APA and CIP designations have been recognised by the Central Bank as meeting the Minimum Competency Code, so you don't have to re-sit anything.

Why does the qualification name have to change?

Under the naming conventions set out by QQI and the NFQ, any non-major award, in this instance the APA and CIP qualifications, issued by an Institute of Technology (IT Sligo) must commence with 'Certificate in'.

Do I have to sit my exam now in Sligo?

No. We will continue to offer a choice of approved, nationwide exam centres, details of which can be found in the member area and also on our website <https://www.iii.ie/exams/venues>.

Do I have to attend my conferral in Sligo?

As part of your membership, you will be assigned a local Institute. We have 5 around the country; Cork, Dublin, Galway, Limerick and Sligo. Once you accept a designation, you will receive an invite to your Institutes conferral ceremony, which they run annually.

Will this affect my CPD hours?

Not at all. CPD hours are stipulated by the Central Bank, or your professional body. Further specific details relating to CPD can be found on our website at www.iii.ie/cpd

Should I be worried about these changes?

No you should not be worried, it is business as usual. We are just moving accreditation partner from the Institute of Banking (IoB) to IT Sligo. Accreditation is simply the name of the process by which qualifications are placed on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

Will I be issued with a new textbook if I am a repeat or deferred student?

Yes, you will be issued with a new textbook ahead of your next exam sitting. It will have a new cover to reflect the move to IT Sligo and potentially, updated content as part of our regular textbook review.

Will the online learning supports still be held on Connect?

Yes. Connect is our online learning management system and is the home for all our your study supports, useful documents (such as your member handbook and your member magazine) as well as your access to CPD and member benefits.

Are there any changes to the technical content within the modules?

Our programmes are always being updated to reflect the changes in the industry, regulatory and technical updates. This happens currently and will continue to work in the same way following the transition.

Are there any changes to the APA or CIP programme (i.e. delivery, assessment, structure)?

We are always looking for ways to improve our programmes and programme delivery methods to fit the needs of our studying members. Although there are no imminent changes planned, we do view the move to IT Sligo as a way of leveraging some of their digital technologies to improve our programmes in the long term.

Can I get exemptions from APA or CIP modules based on a college or university qualification that I hold?

We have in place a simple exemption procedure which allows all current or prospective students to apply for exemptions free of charge. Information on the exemption process can be found at www.iii.ie/qualifications/exemptions

If you have any further questions, please contact our member services team on 01 645 6670 or email memberservices@iii.ie and we'd be happy to help.