

# Press release

News from the International Capital Market Association (ICMA)

Talacker 29, P.O. Box, CH-8022, Zurich  
[www.icmagroup.org](http://www.icmagroup.org)

Please see foot of release for contact details

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## **FSSC recognises ICMA's Executive Education Programmes**

(London, UK) The International Capital Market Association (ICMA) today announced that the Operations Certificate Programme (OCP) is the first "Recommended Exam" on the Wholesale Banking / Operations list, compiled by the UK's Financial Services Skills Council (FSSC). The programme has also met the FSSC's Key 6 "Appropriate Exam" standards for Activity 16 - Overseeing on a day-to-day basis safeguarding and administering investment or holding of client money) and Activity 17 - Overseeing on a day-to-day basis administrative functions for managing investments including, arranging settlement; monitoring and processing corporate actions; client account administration, liaison and reporting, including valuation and performance measurement; ISA, PEP or CTF administration; Investment trust savings scheme administration.

This is the second of ICMA's Executive Education programmes, which are all administered and overseen by the ICMA Centre, University of Reading, to meet FSSC exam standards. ICMA's International Fixed Income and Derivatives (IFID) Certificate programme met the FSSC's Key 2 standards and is an "Appropriate Exam" list and a "Recommended Exam" in the Wholesale Banking list for people Advising on Securities and Advising on Derivatives.

FSSC Director of Education Sam Rees-Adams says, "The FSSC's Appropriate Exam Standards are designed as quality benchmarks for best practice. We regularly review and update them to meet the needs of employers, professional bodies and trade associations in the industry. We are delighted that ICMA has met these benchmarks for best practice including front office and operations qualifications."

More follows/...

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“We are pleased that after a very comprehensive review process the FSSC has determined that our OCP Certificate Programme is now an Appropriate and Recommended Exam,” said Professor John Board, Director of the ICMA Centre. “We realise both the importance of financial markets education in general and ensuring that market participants are properly qualified in their activities. Thus, we fully support the review and approval process of the FSSC and the ICMA Centre will have further financial markets courses being submitted to the FSSC in the future.”

The FSSC’s Appropriate and Recommended Exam Lists are available at:

[www.fssc.org.uk](http://www.fssc.org.uk)

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#### **Notes for editors:**

The Financial Services Skills Council (FSSC) is an independent, employer-led organisation, established in 2004 to provide strategic leadership for education, training and skills development for the financial services industry across the UK. It aims to improve productivity and business performance by ensuring that the industry is equipped with the range and level of skills that it needs. The financial services sector is central to the UK economy. It employs more than 1.2million people in more than 35,000 companies, and affects every single person in the UK. In 2005, the financial services sector accounted for 7.8% of total GVA and 4% of direct employment or 3.7% of total employment. The FSSC sets performance standards for the entire sector, including banking, building societies, insurance companies and brokers, independent financial advisers, investment administration and pensions. See: [www.fssc.org.uk](http://www.fssc.org.uk)

The ICMA Centre (‘The Business School for Financial Markets’) is part of the University of Reading and was founded in 1991 by a grant from the International Capital Market Association (ICMA). It is largely a graduate school that offers MSc programmes in finance in securities and markets, investment management, risk management and regulation and compliance. It also provides the teaching and examination for ICMA’s executive education programmes. See: [www.icmacentre.ac.uk](http://www.icmacentre.ac.uk)

The International Capital Market Association (ICMA) is the self-regulatory organisation representing the financial institutions active in the international capital market worldwide. ICMA’s members are located in some 50 countries across the globe, including all the world’s main financial centres, and currently number around 400 firms. See: [www.icmagroup.org](http://www.icmagroup.org)

#### **Contact details for further information**

##### **ICMA Communications**

Allan Malvar  
+44 20 7510 2691  
+44 7738 696 451  
[allan.malvar@icmagroup.org](mailto:allan.malvar@icmagroup.org)

Margaret Wilkinson  
+44 20 7510 2687  
+44 7931 100 499  
[margaret.wilkinson@icmagroup.org](mailto:margaret.wilkinson@icmagroup.org)