

International Certificate in Financial Services Risk Management Syllabus



Overview of Module 1: Principles of Risk and Risk Management in Financial Services

Module aims

This module introduces the principles and concepts of risk and risk management in a Financial Services context. The history of risk management is explored as a means of understanding the current drivers of enterprise risk management, and the development and impact of international and regulatory standards. This leads to an examination of the ways in which risks are classified in a Financial Services environment and the approaches that are utilised to identify, assess) including a range of quantification tools) and treat them. The module seeks to provide an enterprise risk management context for many of the practices within a Financial Services environment so it considers the major risk categories on both a standalone and aggregated basis.

In the second module of this course we investigate more detail around detailed aspects of the risk management framework and its implementation.

Module learning outcomes

By the end of the module you should be able to:

- Recognise the origins and key concepts relating to risk management in banks and insurers
- Understand the regulatory environment within which risk management in financial services has developed
- Understand the main sources of risk within banks and insurers, the links to their business practices and be able to classify those risks
- Compare and contrast the main risk management standards including those required by regulation.
- Apply the concepts of enterprise risk management and understand what a risk management framework is.

- Examine the main approaches to risk identification.
- Describe and compare the main approaches to the analysis and evaluation of risk within banks and insurers, across different risk categories as well as in aggregate, including use of VaR, stress tests, risk assessments and regulatory prescribed standardised models
- Distinguish the main features of risk control techniques across the major risk categories in banks and insurers.

Unit 1 Concepts and definitions of risk and risk management



Unit learning outcome

After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- Recognise the origins and key concepts relating to risk management
- Understand the key risks within banks and insurers and how they arise from the main business processes

Unit contents	Section learning outcomes
1.1 Approaches to defining risk	Provide a range of definitions of risk and risk management
1.2 Impact of risk on organisations	Analyse how risks impact on organisations, for example by way of the attachment of risks theory Understand how risks arise within the key business processes in banks and insurers
1.3 Types of risk	Describe options for classifying risks in a financial services environment (liquidity, market, operational, credit etc.)
1.4 Development of risk management	Outline the history of risk management in Financial Services, including the development of regulation, various specialist areas and approaches (including functional requirements, risk standards, use of models and other tools, etc.)
1.5 Principles and aims of risk management	Consider the principles and aims of risk management and risk management's importance to strategy and operation

Unit 2 Risk management standards



Unit learning outcome

After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- Compare and contrast the main risk management standards
- Understand the key regulations driving risk management approaches that are applicable to banks and insurers

Unit contents	Section learning outcomes
2.1 General risk management standards and risk management frameworks	<p>Describe the key stages in the risk management process</p> <p>Provide an introduction to the risk management framework that shall be studied in more detail in Module 2 and the key features of the best known risk management standards and frameworks currently in use</p> <p>Provide links to the regulatory drivers of risk management in the next unit</p>
2.2 Alternative risk management approaches	<p>Understand that there are a number of additional expectations around risk management including Basel II, Basel III, Dodd-Frank, Solvency II, IAIS, Finma, US Federal Reserve, NAIC, FASB and FRC etc.</p>

Unit 3 Enterprise risk management



Unit learning outcome

After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- Apply the concepts of enterprise risk management (ERM)

Unit contents	Section learning outcomes
3.1 Defining Enterprise risk management overview	Outline the key characteristics of the risk management framework as set out in financial services regulation and practice Show similarity to COSO and also link to rating agencies) ERM requirements
3.2 Enterprise risk management overview	Explain the key features of an enterprise-wide approach to managing risk, acknowledging the different emphasis for different risk types within an organisation
3.3 Implementing ERM	Identify the four stages of the ERM implementation process
3.4 Establishing the context for risk management	Discuss the various approaches to establishing the internal and external context for ERM
3.5 Objective setting	Discuss approaches to setting objectives

Unit 4 Risk assessment part 1: introduction and identification



Unit learning outcome

After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- Examine the main approaches to risk identification and assessment

Unit contents	Section learning outcomes
4.1 Risk assessment considerations	Describe the critical importance of risk assessment, and the importance of risk identification, outlining the range of techniques that are available and the advantages and disadvantages of each one
4.2 Value at risk, stress tests and scenarios	<p>Describe the main components of some of the key risk quantification approaches used in the financial services environment for risk measurement, appetite, reporting, regulatory capital and other uses</p> <p>Explain VaR, its uses, limitations and key approaches</p> <p>Introduce Expected Shortfall</p> <p>Explain key approaches to stress testing, their requirements and their limitations</p> <p>Understand how VaR and stress tests link to the risk management framework and its use</p>
4.3 Risk causes (sources) and consequences	Explain the life cycle of risk, including causes, the risk event itself and the consequences, along with some of the tools for identifying and managing causes and consequences
4.4 Risk classification systems	Describe the key features of the best established risk classification systems

Unit 5 Risk assessment part 2: risk analysis and evaluation



Unit learning outcome

After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- Understand and compare the main approaches to the analysis and evaluation of risk including prescribed approaches and own approaches
- Understand common quantification approaches and how they link to some key requirements within the risk management framework and risk appetite

Unit contents	Section learning outcomes
5.1 Introduction to risk analysis	Describe the concept and purpose of risk analysis within the risk management process within the ERM framework
5.2 Risk likelihood and impact	Consider the range of quantification approaches available, considering the two dimensions of likelihood and impact, using a quantitative and qualitative approach to analysing risks
5.3 Regulatory models and Internal models as risk analysis tools	<p>Describe the regulatory tools of risk quantification (standard approaches)</p> <p>Outline the key elements of an internal model</p> <p>Explain the importance of internal models and their uses within the Financial Services environment (as well as the criteria for regulatory approval)</p> <p>Discuss use of models where not approved (and not required to be approved)</p>
5.4 Defining the upside of risk	Outline the alternative approaches to defining the upside of risk and the application of these approaches to strategy, projects and operations
5.5 Risk evaluation and risk appetite	<p>Explain the importance of risk appetite and consider how it links to the risk quantification and assessments discussed</p> <p>Examine links to risk control (discussed in Unit 6.)</p>

Unit 6 Risk response and risk treatment



Unit learning outcome

After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- Distinguish the main features of risk control techniques

Unit contents	Section learning outcomes
6.1 Introduction to risk treatment and risk response	Explain the meanings and purposes of risk response
6.2 The 4Ts	Describe the risk response options in terms of tolerate, treat, transfer and terminate
6.3 Risk control techniques (PCDD)	Describe the types of controls that are available, in terms of preventive, corrective, directive and detective (PCDD) controls
6.4 Control of financial risks	Explain the type and nature of controls and management tools around key financial risks (insurance, market, credit and liquidity)
6.5 Introduction to control of operational risk	Introduce the nature of management tools and controls around operational risks within a financial institution Set up sections 6.7 to 6.9 in terms of framing regulatory expectation that shall be discussed in the relevant units
6.6 Insurance and risk transfer	Describe the importance of insurance and the circumstances in which insurance is purchased and the impact it might have on operational risk capital requirements
6.7 Business continuity planning	Describe the importance of business continuity planning in a financial services environment and explain how it is implemented
6.8 Outsourcing	Describe the importance of outsourcing in a financial services environment and explain how risks are managed Understand regulatory expectations around this risk
6.9 Cyber	Describe the importance of cyber risk in a financial services environment and explain how it is minimised Understand regulatory expectations around this risk

6.10 Learning from experience	<p>Understand link to Section 6.6 and the fact that it is insurable and that presents an aggregation challenge for insurance companies who provide cover and who also face it as an operational risk themselves</p> <p>Apply the activity of monitoring and reviewing the risk management processes, learning from controls and loss events</p> <p>Understand regulatory expectations around “learning from experience” and look at operational risk loss data in detail. Understand role of ORIC and ORX</p>
-------------------------------	---

Overview of Module 2: Practice of Risk Management in Financial Services

Module aims

The aim of this module is to explore the impact of the business environment on risk management in the banking and insurance sectors. The module examines issues relevant to banks and insurers, as well as the needs and demands of various stakeholder groups, including regulatory authorities. This leads to the study of corporate governance and risk assurance; how this might influence the architecture of a risk management programme and the significance of risk culture, appetite and tolerance of risk in relation to current practices in risk management. It examines the lessons learnt through a number of case studies including the 2008 Financial Crisis.

Module learning outcomes

By the end of the module you should be able to:

- Discuss the impact of the wider business environment on organisations and the issues this raises for risk management in the Financial Services Sector
- Discuss the key features of a risk management framework and their application across risk categories
- Explain the links between risk management approaches and regulation.
- Explain the significance of issues of culture, appetite and tolerance in relation to the management of risk.
- Explain the key features of corporate governance models and explain the link to regulatory expectations.
- Explain the Three Lines of Defence governance model
- Discuss the nature and purpose of internal control, audit and risk assurance techniques.
- Analyse real life case studies and identify key risk management lessons including the Financial Crisis 2008.

Unit 1 The global business environment



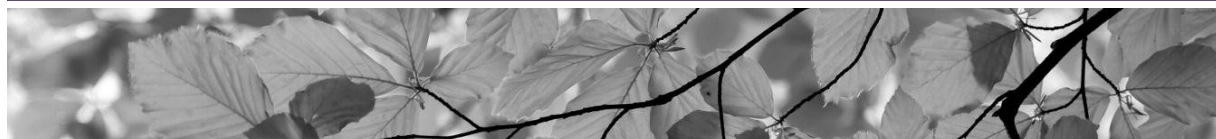
Unit learning outcome

After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- Discuss the impact of the wider business environment on organisations and the issues this raises for risk management in the Financial Services sector and in geographical regions
- Understand the emerging regulatory trends that impact on banks and insurers

Unit contents	Section learning outcomes
1.1 The business environment and risk environment	<p>Discuss the impact of the wider business environment on organisations and the issues this raises for risk management in the Financial Services sector</p> <p>Explain the business models of banks and insurers and the risks that arise out of them</p> <p>Understand how the risk environment is changing</p>
1.2 Organisational vision and values	<p>Explain how organisational vision and values contribute to the risk management approach selected (i.e. links of risk strategy and business strategy)</p>
1.3 Risk management, business success and value added	<p>Appraise risk management's contribution to business success and value added</p> <p>Understand how within Financial Services context, risk management can play a key part in satisfying external stakeholders key to business success (e.g. rating agencies and regulators)</p>
1.4 Sector-specific and geographical issues	<p>Analyse how sector-specific (banking, non-life insurance and life insurance) issues influence risk issues, including emerging regulations, investment and economic performance trends, emerging economies, climate change, etc.</p>

Unit 2 Risk strategy and framework



Unit learning outcome

After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- Illustrate the key features of a risk management framework
- Explain the Three Lines of Defence governance model

Unit contents	Section learning outcomes
2.1 Risk management framework	<p>Explain the component parts of the risk management framework and understand how they fit together including risk strategy (linking to Unit 1.2), appetite, governance, reporting, assessment, etc.</p> <p>Understand centralised v decentralised risk management</p> <p>Understand the link to related regulatory expectations and how these can drive standards</p> <p>Understand the links between the detailed framework components and the concepts of ERM described in Module 1 as well as understanding how the identification, analysis and control approaches described in module 1 fit into the wider ERM framework</p> <p>Explain the content and purpose of risk management policies and protocols</p>
2.2 Risk management responsibilities and documentation	<p>Explain the value of comprehensive and effective risk documentation and the assignment of risk management responsibilities</p> <p>Explain the Three Lines of Defence governance model and explain how this links to regulation</p> <p>Understand Risk Management Information Systems and explain their use</p>
2.3 Risk maturity	<p>Understand ways of assessing the maturity of risk management in an organisation and understand external perspectives (e.g. rating agencies, NAIC, etc.)</p>

Unit 3 Risk culture, conduct, appetite and tolerance



Unit learning outcome

After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- Explain the significance of issues of culture, appetite and tolerance in relation to the management of risk
- Understand and describe Conduct Risk

Unit contents	Section learning outcomes
3.1 Organisational behaviour and risk culture	Understand the meaning and importance of risk culture Analyse organisational behaviour and risk culture
3.2 Risk appetite and tolerance	Analyse risk appetite and tolerance Describe different approaches to risk appetite and link to risk quantification approaches described elsewhere in Module 1 Describe the link between risk strategy and risk appetite and explain the link between risk appetite and the ICAAP and ORSA reports
3.3 Risk training and communication	Assess the role of risk training and communication, including risk language
3.4 Risk practitioner competencies	Discuss required risk practitioner competencies including regulatory prescribed competencies for key functions and Fit and Proper requirements Understand the role of the Chief Risk Officer
3.5 Conduct	Understand the importance of conduct risk and its links to organisational behaviour and the related regulations Understand the Senior Manager Conduct Regime and its requirements

Unit 4 Risk and organisations



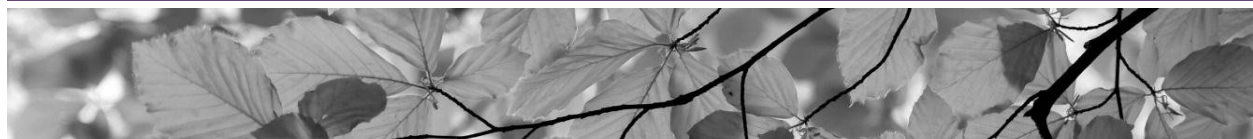
Unit learning outcome

After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- Explain the key features of corporate governance models and the role of the risk management function
- Discuss the various stakeholder influencing the design of corporate governance arrangements

Unit contents	Section learning outcomes
4.1 Introduction to corporate governance and risk governance	<p>Assess the key features of corporate governance models</p> <p>Understand corporate governance codes of practice and the principles underpinning them</p>
4.2 Identifying stakeholders, including regulatory bodies	<p>Explain the relevance of stakeholders' roles in risk management and their expectations for risk governance</p> <p>Understand the concept of regulatory capital</p> <p>Understand why a firm might have its own view of the capital it requires</p>

Unit 5 Risk assurance and reporting



Unit learning outcome

After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- Discuss the nature and purpose of internal control, audit and risk assurance techniques
- Discuss the nature and purpose of an organisation's own view of risk
- Explain the nature and purpose of external risk disclosures

Unit contents	Section learning outcomes
5.1 The control environment	<p>Explain the importance of the control environment in regard to risk management</p> <p>Understand the internal control system and its links to COSO or equivalent regulations</p>
5.2 Risk assurance and internal audit	<p>Explain the key elements of risk assurance techniques</p> <p>Analyse the role and value of the internal audit function, the audit committee and risk assurance</p>
5.3 Own assessment of risk	<p>Explain the nature, content and purpose of the ORSA (referencing global and local standards) and ICAAP</p>
5.4 Risk reporting	<p>Understand internal and external risk reporting</p> <p>Analyse the benefits of effective risk reporting</p> <p>Explain the nature of public disclosure and risk reporting and how it sits within the regulatory framework</p>
5.5 Corporate reputation	<p>Explain how risk influences corporate reputation</p> <p>Explain links to Pillar 3 public disclosure addressed in 5.4</p> <p>Explain links to rating agency views and potential for rating impact from reputational events and/or idiosyncratic events. Also link to reverse stress tests (see Module 1 Unit 5.3) where driven by reputational impact</p>

Unit 6 Case studies in organisational risk management



Unit learning outcome

After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- Analyse real-life case studies and identify key risk management lessons
- Understand and discuss emerging risk themes

Unit contents	Section learning outcomes
6.1 Case studies in organisational risk management	<p>Discuss the lessons that can be learned from examining case studies in risk management including the 2007/2008 Financial Crisis and other case studies (Barings etc.)</p> <p>Understand the importance of lessons learnt and learning from loss experience in the context of risk management</p>
6.2 Emerging risks and future developments	<p>Analyse trends to predict future risks and give examples of risks that have emerged in recent years including cyber, terrorism, pandemic, etc.</p> <p>Link to wider industry trends around consolidation, technology and distribution.</p>



irm

www.theirm.org

T: +44 (0)20 7709 9808

F: +44 (0)20 7709 0716