EMPOWER

ENABLE

EDUCATE

COMPLIANCE

LEVEL 9

MSc in

Compliance

A programme of IOB for members of Compliance Institute

2026-2027

iob

A recognised college of UCD

IFS Skillnet

Compliance Institute
BETTER BUSINESS ETHICS

Who we are

IOB

IOB is a professional community of over 31,100 members who work in banking and the international financial services sector. Professional development of our members through education is at the heart of what we do. IOB provides university programmes to enable our members achieve and sustain their professional qualifications and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) - essential in meeting customer and regulatory expectations.

Excellence in education – a recognised college of UCD

As a recognised college of UCD and the standout banking industry educator, we offer qualifications of the highest standard. We currently offer more than 50 programmes ranging from Professional Certificates and Diplomas (level 7) on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) to Masters Degrees (level 9). We design our programmes to be practical and relevant, but grounded in academic rigour.

Compliance Institute

Compliance Institute was established to provide opportunities for compliance professionals to develop their network, qualifications, and their skills.

With just over 3,800 members, the Compliance Institute is the premier provider of education and professional development in compliance, providing a balanced and authoritative voice on matters relating to regulatory compliance and business ethics in industry in Ireland. It is one of the largest global associations of compliance professionals and offers the largest suite of compliance programmes anywhere in the world.

The Compliance Institute's focus is on bringing the compliance community together and facilitating an effective network which helps our members build a contact base that can support them in their role and career. Our evolving professional development training and accredited graduate and post graduate education in the various fields of compliance and business ethics delivered by us and our educational partners have set the standard for compliance in Ireland.

Being part of the Compliance Institute means that our members are part of a diverse global network of compliance professionals. Compliance Institute is connected with international associations, providing members with the opportunity to connect with professionals from all around the world.

IFS Skillnet

The IFS Skillnet is co-funded by Skillnet Ireland and member companies. The IFS Skillnet programme is dedicated to providing training and networking opportunities for the international financial services sector.

The Network aims to support the sector in maintaining Ireland's position as a top international financial services centre through investment in the specialist skills and expertise of its workforce. The Network is led by a steering group which includes member companies and the leading financial services industry associations.

The IFS Skillnet was established in mid-2009. Since then we have delivered over 2,000 courses to 15,000 plus participants from 430 companies operating in the international financial services sector in Ireland. We support our members to upskill in areas such as digitalisation, ESG, leadership, people skills, project management and regulatory compliance.

Why get involved

- Avail of a comprehensive range of specialist courses designed for the international financial services sector
- Opportunity to significantly reduce training costs through the availability of grant funding
- Provides the opportunity to work with education and training providers to update and amend course content in line with market developments
- Ensure your employees acquire the latest skills to maintain your organisation's competitiveness
- Opportunity to network and collaborate with other member companies.

How to get involved

- Sign up for free at: www.ifsskillnet.ie
- Email: info@ifsskillnet.ie
- Tweet us: @ifsskillnet
- LinkedIn: @ifsskillnet

Welcome

The MSc in Compliance programme is offered to Compliance Institute members by IOB, the Compliance Institute's academic education partner. IOB is a recognised college of University College Dublin and those who successfully complete the programme will be awarded their Masters degree by the university. They will also be invited to become fellows of Compliance Institute and be entitled to use its highest designation, FCI.

The MSc has been in place for a number of years and equips graduates with the skills and expertise to take senior leadership roles in the Compliance profession in Ireland. The programme is presently delivered fully online, providing a great opportunity for our wider regional Compliance community and those beyond our shores to participate.

Programme participants can choose from a wide range of electives , designed to further increase the value and relevance of the MSc. These electives allow students to tailor elements of the programme to align with their professional interests, career ambitions, and specialist areas within compliance and regulatory risk management – creating a more personalised and impactful learning journey.

This programme provides opportunities to work alongside like-minded professionals and to broaden your network of industry peers and will equip you with the body of knowledge required for decision making in a modern compliance function. Your qualification and knowledge will be sustained and future-proofed through Continued Professional Development ensuring it stays relevant and valuable.

On completion of this programme, we are sure you will have gained differing views and perspectives leaving you with an extensive toolkit for leadership roles in compliance and regulatory risk management. Just as importantly, you will leave with a valuable professional network to support and enhance your future career progression.

We wish you every success with your studies and look forward to your involvement in shaping the direction of Compliance now and into the future.

Áine Hickey
President, Compliance Institute

Who is this programme for?

The MSc in Compliance is designed to give Compliance professionals and those working as part of the three lines of defence, the knowledge and skills needed to implement effective compliance and enhance your company's overall internal governance structures.

This programme will provide you with the multi-disciplinary skills to participate more effectively in leading compliance functions and to understand the practical application of compliance best practices. It has been developed for those who work in assurance and control functions and will be of particular interest to Compliance managers and senior leaders and those aspiring to these roles as part of their career development.

How you will benefit

This programme will support your personal and professional development. It will:

- Provide you with the opportunity to develop comprehensive knowledge and expertise across a broad curriculum in compliance and regulatory risk
- Develop an in-depth understanding of the requirements and responsibilities of ensuring robust compliance within financial services firms, while maintaining the trust of customers and wider stakeholders
- Develop your thinking on key business challenges and ethical dilemmas faced by management when striving to improve business performance in regulated environments
- Advance your ability to blend theory and practice in complex and specific situations to improve business performance
- Enhance your business judgement, critical analysis and problem solving skills.

Professional designation

Those who complete the MSc in Compliance will be invited to apply for the Compliance Institute's designation 'Fellow of Compliance Institute' and use the designatory letters FCI. FCI is the highest-level designation Compliance Institute awards its members.

On successful completion of the module Financial/WhiteCollar Crime Prevention, you will be awarded the Professional Certificate in Financial Crime Prevention and will be invited to apply for the designation 'Certified Financial Crime Prevention and use the designatory letters CFCP.

On successful completion of the module Data Protection Policies and Procedures you will be invited to apply for the designation 'Certified Data Protection Officer' and use the designatory letters CDPO.

Continued use of all Compliance Institute designation is subject to meeting the Institute's CPD requirements.

Curriculum

NFQ: Level 9
Academic credits: 90 ECTS
Delivery: Online
Awarding body: UCD
Designation: FCI

To attain the 90 ECTS, you must complete the first seven core modules which carry 10 ECTS credits each:

Core modules:

1. Financial/White Collar Crime Prevention
2. Data Protection Policies and Procedures
3. Managing for Compliance
4. Ethics, Risk and Corporate Governance
5. Designing an Internal Governance Framework
6. The Regulatory Landscape
7. Compliance Leadership and Culture

Then you must attain 20 ECTS from the following optional modules:

Optional modules:

- Research Methods and Applied Project (20 ECTS)

Or

Complete two modules from the following:

- Managing Responsibly with AI (10 ECTS)
- Operational Risk, Capital Markets and AI (10 ECTS)
- Strategic Operational Conduct and Reputational Risk Management (10 ECTS)

Core modules:

1. Financial / White-Collar Crime Prevention

(NFQ level 9, 10 ECTS)

Organisations are required to implement effective systems of control to prevent, detect and disrupt financial crime. This includes complying with law and regulation relating to: Anti Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT), international sanctions regimes and fraud. The regulation underpinning financial crime prevention is complex, voluminous and constantly evolving. This module will consider the threats faced by financial services firms from organised criminal activity which are also dynamic and ever changing. Individuals managing financial crime risks in regulated firms who hold Pre-approval Controlled Function ("PCF") roles under the Central Bank of Ireland Fitness & Probity Regime, such as the Head of Compliance (PCF-12), Head of AML/CTF Legislation Compliance (PCF-52 - which is typically combined with the "MLRO" role) carry serious legal responsibilities. The module will help practitioners operating in this environment to understand and fulfil their fiduciary responsibilities of ensuring ethical and legal compliance within this regulatory environment while contributing to wider organisational objectives.

2. Data Protection Policies and Procedures

(NFQ level 9, 10 ECTS)

Data protection and data privacy is still very much in the minds of all organisations. This module will provide you with the tools to understand and navigate an increasingly complex and challenging environment for the controllers and processors of personal data. It considers Irish and EU data protection law and the compliance burdens on data controllers, with the enhanced subjects rights, supervision and enforcement enacted in GDPR 2018. Data Controllers are accountable and have to keep records and conduct impact assessments. This module will provide you with the tools to understand and navigate an increasingly complex and challenging environment for the controllers and processors of personal data. The module is important for all working in data protection and, in particular for, those working in organisations who must appoint a Data Protection Officer.

3. Managing for Compliance

(NFQ level 9, 10 ECTS)

Compliance is a core function in financial services firms and is recognised by regulators as an essential part of the control infrastructure. Indeed the role of compliance and indeed the compliance manager/officer as a trusted adviser to the business has become a key differentiator for many firms. This module examines the development of compliance as an assurance function and evaluates its strategic role in an organisation in aligning with the business and delivering value. It also focuses on specific issues relevant to managing a compliance function to ensure it fulfils its assurance role within an organisation.

4. Ethics, Risk and Corporate Governance

(NFQ level 9, 10 ECTS)

This module looks at the corporate governance best practice principles and their application in both a financial services and a general organisational setting. It also aims to provide you with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the ethical dimension of corporate governance and, in doing so, stresses the importance of corporate culture to the longevity of organisations. In considering the behaviours and decision-making processes of individuals, groups, and specifically those charged with governing organisations, the module offers approaches for dealing with common ethical dilemmas and ethical crises.

5. Designing an Internal Governance Framework

(NFQ level 9, 10 ECTS)

The module seeks to establish a best practice approach in the design of internal governance frameworks for financial service providers. This applied module considers all aspects of the three lines of defence model and the board director's interaction with this framework. This module will build on the Ethics and Corporate Governance module in exploring how good governance should be embedded in the organisation. These considerations are placed in the context of the organisation implementing strategy devised by the board of directors within the risk culture and risk appetite.

6. The Regulatory Landscape

(NFQ level 9, 10 ECTS)

This module discusses the rationale for financial services regulation. It also provides a framework of the regulatory landscape from a local, European and global perspective. You will be able to critically analyse and evaluate the regulatory response in the wake of the global financial crisis. The module will consider emerging trends impacting the compliance professional.

7. Compliance Leadership and Culture

(NFQ level 9, 10 ECTS)

This module aims to enhance and further develop the soft skills of the compliance professional. It will look at Leadership skills, Conflict Negotiation techniques and Communication skills to support the compliance professional in managing their responsibilities across the organisation.

Curriculum
(continued)

Optional module/s:

- **Research Methods and Applied Project**

  (NFQ level 9, 20 ECTS)

  The purpose of this module is to prepare you to be able to plan and execute an action based research project. It begins by developing students' ability to synthesise a literature review. It develops your ability to understand, critique and select an appropriate research methodology, and generate data with the aim of evaluating findings from an academic and professional perspective.

Or complete two modules from the following:

- **Managing Responsibly with AI**

  (NFQ level 9, 10 ECTS)

  This module will equip students with the skills to cultivate and implement AI knowledge integration, practices, strategies, responsibilities and policies.

- **Operational Risk, Capital Markets and AI**

  (NFQ level 9, 10 ECTS)

  At the end of this module, you will be able to:

  - Demonstrate what an AI informed alert model is and how one can deploy it to better mitigate fraud and misconduct
  - Critically evaluate AI algorithms, whether proprietorial or not, to elicit information from data to counter financial regulatory risk
  - Discuss critically the interaction between the capital markets and instances of misconduct in financial services
  - Critically appraise the role of organisational culture in determining misconduct in financial services
  - Critically evaluate ethical consequences of the use of AI in financial services.

- **Strategic Operational Conduct and Reputational Risk Management**

  (NFQ level 9, 10 ECTS)

  At the end of this module, you will be able to:

  - Explain the best practice principles of non-financial risk management, covering Operational, Strategic, Reputational and Conduct Risks
  - Outline to senior management and staff colleagues the bespoke frameworks for the management of key risks within the operational risk family, (to include Business Continuity, IT and Cyber Risk, Fraud, Data Aggregation, Outsourcing, AML) advising them of the rationale for the key differences between each risk framework
  - Adapt the principles from current best practice in non-financial risk management and develop appropriate strategies for the management of emerging risks (such as those arising from Climate and Fintech)
  - Apply an operational risk methodology to identify, appraise, and mitigate operational risks in a financial services provider's business model
  - Advise senior management on the relationship between operational risks, regulatory capital and risk-based pricing in banking and the wider financial services sector and the rational for, and application of, operational risk capital calculation methodologies
  - Demonstrate the learning skills to support continuous self-directed personal and professional development.

"Throughout the programme, I found the content to be exceptionally relevant to my role and helped me to develop my understanding of the wide reaching regulatory requirements and how they impact my daily responsibilities.

The support infrastructure provided by IOB was exceptional and the backup of UCD providing access to resources were incredibly important. Having the lessons and exams online made the course so much more accessible.

Sinéad Clinton Caldas
Head of Compliance Metis Ireland

Further Information

Award
The MSc in Compliance is accredited and awarded by UCD (at postgraduate level 9).

Entry requirements
The minimum entry requirements to the MSc in Compliance are as follows:

- An honours degree (min. 2.2 L8 NFQ) in a relevant area in a business, legal or cognate discipline and at least 3 years' relevant work experience.

or

- Applicants who do not hold a primary degree but have relevant work experience at a middle or senior management level are eligible to apply and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Professional body membership
You must be a current member of the Compliance Institute, or become a member, to register for this programme.

Delivery
This programme is delivered online.

Duration
24 months (part-time).

Assessment
Assessment is a combination of project work, continuous assessment and written exams.

IOB programmes are largely delivered and assessed online. Students should ensure they have appropriate equipment (laptop), and that appropriate software (including MSOffice: Office and Word) is available to them to participate in the programme and related assessments (continuous assessments and exams).

Fees
The programme fee will differ depending on the optional modules chosen, however it will be in the range of €14,805 - €14,970.

We encourage candidates to register for the full academic year, but if you choose to register on a per module basis, fees are broken down as follows:

Module	IOB Fee	IFS Skillnet Fee
Autumn Trimester | September 2026 - January 2027		
Financial / White Collar Crime Prevention	€1,645	€1,234**
Data Protection Policies and Procedures	€1,645	€1,234**
Spring Trimester | February 2027 - May 2027		
Ethics, Risk and Corporate Governance	€1,645	€1,234*
Managing for Compliance	€1,645	€1,234*
Autumn Trimester | September 2027 - January 2028		
The Regulatory Landscape	€1,645	€1,234*
Designing an Internal Governance Framework	€1,645	€1,234*
Spring Trimester | February 2028 - May 2028		
Compliance Leadership and Culture	€1,645	€1,234**
Optional Modules:		
Research Methods and Applied Project	€3,290	€2,468
Or complete two from the following:		
Managing Responsibly with AI	€1,810	€1,358
Operational Risk, Capital Markets and AI	€1,645	€1,234
Summer Trimester | June 2028 - September 2028		
Strategic Operational Conduct and Reputational Risk Management	€1,645	€1,234

Fees will be reviewed annually.

* 2026 modules are eligible for IFS Skillnet funding for a limited number of places on a first come first served basis.

** The availability of funding for modules in future trimesters will be confirmed in advance of their commencement.

Tax relief may be available to candidates who are paying fees in a personal capacity. Further information is available from www.revenue.ie

How to apply
For further information, including exams dates, closing dates and to apply online visit iob.ie/programme/compliance-msc

If demand from applicants exceeds the number of available places, a waiting list will apply.

Programme commencement
The programme commences in September 2026.

Mikeala White
Programme Manager
IOB
E: education@iob.ie

Membership Services
Compliance Institute
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IOB Learn

Your personalised learning platform and mobile app

Access exclusive content

Review the latest industry insights and thought leadership on financial services. Follow content channels in topics such as risk, compliance, digital innovation and ESG to stay up to date with sector trends and best practices.

Learn at your own pace

Learn at a time and pace that suits you with the full library of archived IOB events and webinars. IOB Learn is your ticket to the conversations that matter.

Explore your module and CPD resources

Find your module materials, resources and CPD content for professional designations on one dedicated platform.

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An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
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