

# Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance

## The world's first benchmark qualification for green and sustainable finance

Updated for 2020, the Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance now encompasses broader aspects of sustainability, aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, although the focus remains on “green”.

### Key Facts

- Guided self-study supported by a wide range of interactive e-learning units and knowledge checks;
- 12 unit programme that can be completed in as little as 12 weeks. Registration lasts for 1 year, so you can also work through at your own pace;
- Assessed via 1 hour examination, conducted via remote invigilation;
- The Certificate costs £565 per candidate, including all learning materials and the first sitting of your exam;
- In order to study the Certificate you must become a member of the Institute. An annual subscription fee of £30.00 will be payable upon registration as part of the enrolment fees;
- Upon completion, learners will be entitled to use the designation *Green and Sustainable Finance Professional<sup>TM</sup>*.

### Who is the Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance for?

The Certificate is aimed at financial services professionals globally who wish to develop and demonstrate their knowledge and expertise of green and sustainable finance. Broad financial services sector coverage, including bankers, insurers, investment managers, central bankers and regulators, risk managers, analysts and consultants.

### Final Assessment

The Certificate is assessed via a 1-hour, 50-question objective test, delivered online with instant results. Online examinations are available with remote invigilation, enabling learners to schedule exams anytime, anywhere in the world – and significantly reducing the carbon footprint from travel to examination centres.

### Inquiry

For further inquiry and registration, please contact Mr Edmond Fung at 2202 9319 or [edmond.fung@hkqaa.org](mailto:edmond.fung@hkqaa.org)



香港品質保證局

# Chartered Banker

## Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance

The world's first benchmark qualification for green and sustainable finance



## The Importance of Green and Sustainable Finance

Managing climate-related risks and supporting the transition to a low-carbon world are our most significant global challenges. In order to tackle this collective challenge, finance professionals globally need to develop their knowledge of green and sustainable finance.

This global, benchmark qualification will help individuals to develop their understanding of, and apply, green and sustainable finance principles and practice in their roles and within their institutions.

### Key Facts

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- 12 unit programme that can be completed in as little as 12 weeks. Registration lasts for 1 year, so you can also work through at your own pace;
- Assessed via 1 hour examination, conducted via remote invigilation;
- The Certificate costs £565 per candidate, including all learning materials and the first sitting of your exam;
- In order to study the Certificate you must become a member of the Institute. An annual subscription fee of £60.00 will be payable upon registration as part of the enrolment fees;
- Upon completion, learners will be entitled to use the designation Green and Sustainable Finance Professional™.

### Module Information

The Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance syllabus has been developed to encompass broader aspects of sustainable finance, alongside green finance;

- Introduces green and sustainable finance in the context of retail, commercial and wholesale banking, central and development banks, insurance and investment sectors;
- Covers the science of climate change and the role of the financial system in the natural world;
- Global, international and national policy, regulatory and industry responses to support flows of finance for sustainable growth;

- Identifying, disclosing and reporting climate-related financial risks, and other environmental and sustainability risks;
- Introduces key sustainable finance frameworks/principles (e.g. UN SDGs, PRI/PRB, TCFD, Green Bond and Green Loan Principles);
- Supporting customers in their transition to sustainability;
- Overview of green and sustainable FinTech;
- Ethical dimensions of green and sustainable finance, and the role of Green and Sustainable Finance Professionals™.

### Qualification Level

The Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance is designed as an RCF Level 4 (EQF Level 5 / SCQF Level 7) qualification.

### Why Chartered Banker

- Globally recognised, the Institute is the only professional body in the world able to confer Chartered Banker status upon individuals;
- Developers of the world's first benchmark qualification for Green Finance;
- One of the first non-bank organisations to endorse the UN Principles for Responsible Banking;
- Our Code of Professional Conduct is adhered to by 200,000 bankers globally;
- Our professional standards provide a global benchmark for firms and professional bodies internationally;
- A not-for-profit charity with a core purpose of raising the standards of professionalism of bankers globally

## Who is the Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance for?

The Certificate is aimed at financial services professionals globally who wish to develop and demonstrate their knowledge and expertise of green and sustainable finance. Broad financial services sector coverage, including bankers, insurers, investment managers, central bankers and regulators, risk managers, analysts and consultants.

## Entry Requirements

There are no entry requirements for the Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance, and no prior knowledge of the green and sustainable finance sector is assumed.

## Resources

Supported by an updated Green and Sustainable Finance Principles and Practice, the world's first Practitioner Guide, the Certificate is delivered via an online study guide that breaks up learning into bite size units. This is supported by interactive e-learning modules including audio, video and short learning actives and each unit is followed by a short knowledge check test or quiz to ensure understanding of the material.

## Mobile Support

The learning materials are delivered via the Institute's LMS, which enables learners to access them anywhere, anytime, using most computer, tablet and mobile devices.

## Employer Support

Employers can track progress of individuals and cohorts through regular progress reports and learner analytics, enabling timely intervention when necessary.

## Additional Support Options

A range of blended support options for employers (e.g. tuition, revision workshops) are available on request.

## Final Assessment

The Certificate is assessed via a 1-hour, 50-question objective test, delivered online with instant results. Online examinations are available with remote invigilation, enabling learners to schedule exams anytime, anywhere in the world – and significantly reducing the carbon footprint from travel to examination centres.

## More Information

For further guidance, please visit [www.charteredbanker.com/green](http://www.charteredbanker.com/green) or contact the Institute's Member Engagement Team via: [info@charteredbanker.com](mailto:info@charteredbanker.com)

*"The change we seek in mainstreaming green and sustainable finance needs to be led by increasing numbers of finance professionals with an understanding of the critical role of financial services in supporting the transition to a low-carbon world. Not just a small number of specialists, but a finance profession equipped with the knowledge and skills to be able to develop and deploy products, services and tools that will mobilise capital to support the transition, address climate-related risks, and direct customers and communities towards investments that generate sustainable economic, social and environmental returns."*

Simon Thompson, CEO

## Key Facts



The Certificate provides a comprehensive overview and understanding of the **evolving green and sustainable finance sector**



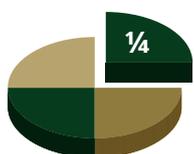
The 2020 Global Risks Report ranked **climate change as the key risk** faced by business, finance and society **over the next decade**

The global green bond **market** has grown to over **\$200** billion of annual issuance (2019)

The Chartered Banker code of **Professional Conduct** is adhered to by **200,000 bankers globally**



The transition to a sustainable, low carbon world is estimated to require **\$6 trillion per year of investment** – 80% of which will come from **the private sector**



**Sustainable, responsible and ethical investing** now account for more than **1/4** of global assets under management



UN Principles for Responsible Banking launched in September 2019, supported by **130 banks from 49 countries** with more than \$47 trillion assets under management

# Chartered Banker

*Module specification  
Version 1*



## PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

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**LEVEL:** Designed as SCQF Level 8/EQF Level 5

**CREDITS:** Designed as 13

**QUALIFICATIONS TO WHICH MODULE CONTRIBUTES:**

- Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance
- Diploma in Green and Sustainable Finance
- Professional Banker Diploma

**AUDIENCE:**

All financial services professionals globally who wish to develop and demonstrate their knowledge and expertise of Green and Sustainable Finance. Broad financial services sector coverage, including bankers, insurers, investment managers, central bankers and regulators, risk managers, analysts and consultants. No prior knowledge of the green and sustainable finance sector is required.

**AIM:**

To develop the learner's knowledge, understanding and skills relating to green and sustainable finance by providing an overview of, and introduction to, the underpinning science, principles and practice of the field. Specific aims are to increase the learner's knowledge and understanding of the range of green and sustainable products and services in the banking, investment and insurance sectors, and increase awareness of the role of the finance sector and finance professionals in supporting the transition to a low-carbon world.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

On completion of this module, the learner will be able to:

1. explain what is meant by 'green' and 'sustainable' finance, the key factors that underpin the science of climate change, and the ways in which the finance sector can support the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy
2. explain the role of a range of key players and policy and regulatory frameworks in building and supporting a sustainable financial system, and the importance of monitoring, measuring and reporting the flow of investment to support the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon world
3. examine the nature and importance of key climate-related and environmental risks, the role of financial services in the financial system, and how different types of financial services activity, products and services can improve the quality and functioning of the natural environment and natural systems
4. describe the role of retail, commercial, and wholesale banking, and the role of central and development banks, in supporting the development of green and sustainable finance and the transition to a low-carbon economy
5. explain the role of financial technology in supporting the growth of green and sustainable finance, and the steps that regulators, policymakers, institutions, organisations and Green and Sustainable Finance Professionals™ can take to support the mainstreaming of green and sustainable finance.

**DELIVERY METHODOLOGY:**

*Green and Sustainable Finance* has 12 units. The learning approach includes:

- reading and self-study
- learning activities
- case studies
- e-learning
- knowledge checks
- personal reflection and application of principles.

**LEARNING RESOURCES:**

Learning resources include:

- an online workbook – *Principles and Practice of Green and Sustainable Finance* - for core reading and learning activities
- interactive e-learning modules, including audio and visual resources, and online quizzes and knowledge checks to enhance understanding of key concepts.

**ASSESSMENT**

*Green and Sustainable Finance* is assessed by one online examination, lasting 1 hour, and consisting of 50 multiple choice questions.

## Units 1 and 2: An Introduction to Green and Sustainable Finance, and Finance in Our Changing World

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria	Indicative content
<p><b>The learner will be able to:</b></p>	<p><b>The learner can:</b></p>	
<p><b>LO1:</b> Explain what is meant by ‘green’ and ‘sustainable’ finance, the key factors that underpin the science of climate change, and the ways in which the finance sector can support the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy.</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> Define the terms ‘green’ and ‘sustainable’ finance, and distinguish between these and related terms.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Describe a range of approaches to green and sustainable finance.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Describe the opportunities and challenges for green and sustainable finance.</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Describe the UN Sustainable Goals (SDGs).</p> <p><b>1.5</b> Outline the development of the green and sustainable finance sector globally.</p> <p><b>1.6</b> Explain the key factors that underpin the science of climate change and global warming.</p> <p><b>1.7</b> Outline current IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) assessments of future climate change scenarios.</p> <p><b>1.8</b> Describe the risks and opportunities for the finance sector arising from our changing environment.</p> <p><b>1.9</b> Explain the nature of, and challenges arising from, ‘stranded assets’ and the ‘carbon bubble’.</p> <p><b>1.10</b> Outline the ways in which the finance sector can support the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definitions of green and sustainable finance</li> <li>• Design of a sustainable financial system</li> <li>• Green and sustainable industry sectors, products, and services</li> <li>• Challenges and opportunities for green and sustainable finance</li> <li>• The UN Sustainable Development Goals</li> <li>• Indicators of the global development of the green and sustainable finance sector</li> <li>• Characteristics of approaches to green and sustainable finance</li> <li>• The climate system and anthropogenic climate change</li> <li>• Impacts of climate change on society</li> <li>• Climate science underpinning the need for green finance</li> <li>• The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)</li> <li>• Climate change and the finance sector</li> <li>• The nature of ‘stranded assets’ and the ‘carbon bubble’, and the challenges these present</li> <li>• Green, sustainable, and circular economies</li> <li>• The role of the finance sector and finance professional in supporting the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy</li> </ul>

## Units 3 and 4: Building a Sustainable Financial System, and Monitoring Flows of Finance and Environmental Performance

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria	Indicative content
<p><b>The learner will be able to:</b></p>	<p><b>The learner can:</b></p>	
<p><b>LO2:</b> Explain the role of a range of key players and policy and regulatory frameworks in building and supporting a sustainable financial system, and the importance of monitoring, measuring and reporting the flow of investment to support the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon world.</p>	<p><b>2.1</b> Identify a range of key players involved in building a sustainable financial system.</p> <p><b>2.2</b> Identify key green and sustainable finance principles and how these can be implemented in the finance sector.</p> <p><b>2.3</b> Identify key policy and regulatory frameworks that support green and sustainable finance.</p> <p><b>2.4</b> Explain how intergovernmental bodies, governments and other organisations support the development of green and sustainable finance.</p> <p><b>2.5</b> Describe a range of key industry initiatives on green and sustainable finance.</p> <p><b>2.6</b> Explain the ways in which sustainability may be embedded in organisational strategies.</p> <p><b>2.7</b> Explain the importance and challenges of monitoring, measuring and reporting the flow of investment to support the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon world.</p> <p><b>2.8</b> Outline a range of ways in which green and sustainable investment impacts and outcomes may be monitored and verified.</p> <p><b>2.9</b> Explain the importance of independent, external review in green and sustainable finance.</p> <p><b>2.10</b> Describe how advances in data availability and analysis can support the development of green and sustainable finance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Light green’ and ‘deep green’ strategies</li> <li>• Identifying and avoiding ‘greenwashing’</li> <li>• The primary actors involved in building a sustainable financial system</li> <li>• Key policy and regulatory frameworks supporting green and sustainable finance</li> <li>• The role of intergovernmental bodies, governments, and other organisations in supporting green and sustainable finance</li> <li>• Key industry initiatives on green and sustainable finance</li> <li>• Embedding sustainability in organisational strategies and the importance of organisational culture in driving sustainability</li> <li>• The importance and challenges of monitoring, measuring, and reporting the flow of investment to support the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon world</li> <li>• Different methods in which green and sustainable investment impacts and outcomes may be monitored and verified</li> <li>• The importance of independent, external review in green and sustainable finance</li> <li>• The use of advanced data analysis in the development of green and sustainable finance</li> </ul>

## Units 5 and 6: Risk Management, and Retail, Commercial and Corporate Banking

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria	Indicative content
<p><b>The learner will be able to:</b></p>	<p><b>The learner can:</b></p>	
<p><b>LO3:</b> Examine the nature and importance of key climate-related and environmental risks, the role of financial services in the financial system, and how different types of financial services activity, products and services can improve the quality and functioning of the natural environment and natural systems.</p>	<p><b>3.1</b> Describe the nature and importance of key climate-related and environmental risks.</p> <p><b>3.2</b> Explain the different types of climate-related risk (physical, transition, liability) and their impact on the finance sector.</p> <p><b>3.3</b> Describe the nature and importance of stranded asset risk, and its potential impact on the finance sector.</p> <p><b>3.4</b> Examine approaches to identifying, disclosing, managing and pricing climate-related risks, the use of scenario analysis, and the developing regulatory agenda in this area.</p> <p><b>3.5</b> Describe the role of banking within the wider financial system.</p> <p><b>3.6</b> Describe how different banking activities can affect the quality and functioning of the natural environment and natural systems.</p> <p><b>3.7</b> Describe how different types of banking products and services can improve the quality and functioning of the natural environment and natural systems.</p> <p><b>3.8</b> Cite examples and case studies of innovative green and sustainable banking products and services.</p> <p><b>3.9</b> Describe the UN Principles for Responsible Banking.</p> <p><b>3.10</b> Explain what is meant by the 'Green Loan Principles'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nature and importance of key climate-related and environmental risks</li> <li>• Different types of climate-related risk (physical, transition and liability) and their impact on the finance sector</li> <li>• Stranded asset risk, and its potential impact on financial institutions and financial stability</li> <li>• Approaches to identifying, disclosing, managing, and pricing climate-related risks, and the use of scenario analysis</li> <li>• The role of banking in the financial system</li> <li>• UN Principles for Responsible Banking</li> <li>• Retail banking products and services</li> <li>• Wholesale and investment banking products and services</li> <li>• Case studies of innovative green and sustainable banking products</li> <li>• Green Loan Principles</li> <li>• Examples and case studies of innovative green and sustainable banking products and services</li> </ul>

## Units 7, 8, 9 and 10: Green Bonds and Asset-Backed Securities, Central and Development Banks, Equity Markets and Investment Funds, and Insurance

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria	Indicative content
<p><b>The learner will be able to:</b></p>	<p><b>The learner can:</b></p>	
<p><b>LO4:</b> Describe the role of retail, commercial, and wholesale banking, and the role of central and development banks, in supporting the development of green and sustainable finance and the transition to a low-carbon economy.</p>	<p><b>4.1</b> Describe the range of debt products available to green and sustainable finance investors, and the main types and features of green bonds, including green sukuk.</p> <p><b>4.2</b> Explain what is meant by the 'Green Bond Principles', and how these and other frameworks, standards and guidelines support the development of the green bond market.</p> <p><b>4.3</b> Describe how asset-backed securities may be used to securitise loans supporting smaller green finance projects and help attract capital from investors.</p> <p><b>4.4</b> Explain the role of central and development banks (national and multilateral) in relation to green and sustainable finance, and how central banks assess and seek to manage the risks to financial stability posed by climate change and support the transition to a low-carbon economy.</p> <p><b>4.5</b> Describe how development banks play a key role in promoting sustainable economic development, and the key products and services they provide in order to do so.</p> <p><b>4.6</b> Explain the differences and similarities between ESG, SRI impact investing, and other related terms, and the growth of the values-based investment sector.</p> <p><b>4.7</b> Describe the role of equity markets within the wider financial system, a range of equity products, their suitability for different types of investors, and how they may support green and sustainable finance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debt capital markets</li> <li>• Green bonds, Green Bond Principles, Green Bond Indices</li> <li>• Green sukuk and asset-backed securities</li> <li>• The role of central and development banks</li> <li>• Funding the transition to a low-carbon world – a social purpose for banking and finance</li> <li>• The role of equity markets in the financial system</li> <li>• Equity products, including private equity, venture capital, angel investing and Yieldcos.</li> <li>• Funds and collective investment schemes</li> <li>• UN Principles for Responsible Investment</li> <li>• Portfolio decarbonisation as a holistic approach to green and sustainable finance</li> <li>• Personal insurance, including green home insurance and green motor insurance</li> <li>• Commercial and corporate insurance, including commercial property, renewable energy, energy efficiency and carbon credit insurance</li> <li>• Climate risk insurance, including sovereign catastrophe risk pooling and index insurance</li> <li>• UN Principles for Sustainable Insurance</li> </ul>

## Units 7, 8, 9 and 10: Green Bonds and Asset-Backed Securities, Central and Development Banks, Equity Markets and Investment Funds, and Insurance

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria (Continued)	Indicative content
The learner will be able to:	The learner can:	
	<p><b>4.8</b> Explain how different types of investment funds can support investment in green and sustainable finance, and why portfolio decarbonisation is seen as a holistic approach to green and sustainable finance.</p> <p><b>4.9</b> Describe the role of insurance within the wider financial system, and how climate-related financial risks are impacting the insurance sector.</p> <p><b>4.10</b> Describe how different insurance activities, products and services can affect the quality and functioning of the natural environment and natural systems.</p>	

## Units 11 and 12: Green and Sustainable FinTech, and Mainstreaming Green and Sustainable Finance

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria	Indicative content
<p><b>The learner will be able to:</b></p>	<p><b>The learner can:</b></p>	
<p><b>LO5:</b> Explain the role of financial technology in supporting the growth of green and sustainable finance, and the steps that regulators, policymakers, institutions, organisations and Green and Sustainable Finance Professionals™ can take to support the mainstreaming of green and sustainable finance.</p>	<p><b>5.1</b> Explain what is meant by the term FinTech and its associated terms.</p> <p><b>5.2</b> Describe a range of FinTech tools and techniques.</p> <p><b>5.3</b> Examine the ways in which FinTech tools and techniques can support the growth of green and sustainable finance and the transition to a low-carbon world.</p> <p><b>5.4</b> Explain the benefits of applying FinTech tools and techniques to support green and sustainable finance.</p> <p><b>5.5</b> Explain key challenges that may arise from using FinTech tools and techniques to support green and sustainable finance.</p> <p><b>5.6</b> Explain why it is vital to the finance sector and society as a whole for green and sustainable finance to become part of mainstream finance.</p> <p><b>5.7</b> Articulate the significant opportunities associated with the mainstreaming of green and sustainable finance.</p> <p><b>5.8</b> Outline the positive steps that regulators, policymakers, institutions and organisations can take to support the mainstreaming of green and sustainable finance.</p> <p><b>5.9</b> Describe key challenges that are associated with mainstreaming green and sustainable finance.</p> <p><b>5.10</b> Explain what they can do as a Green and Sustainable Finance Professional™ to promote and embed green and sustainable finance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is FinTech?</li> <li>• Opportunities FinTech might offer for green and sustainable finance</li> <li>• Applying FinTech tools and techniques</li> <li>• Corporate banking and capital markets</li> <li>• Policy initiatives to support FinTech in green and sustainable finance</li> <li>• Costs and challenges of FinTech</li> <li>• Funding the transition to a low-carbon world – a social purpose for banking and finance</li> <li>• Embedding green finance principles and practice in organizations and supply chains</li> <li>• Mainstreaming green finance and assessing progress towards the mainstream</li> <li>• Examples of mainstreaming from around the world</li> <li>• Role of the Green and Sustainable Finance Professional™</li> <li>• Reflecting on professional practice and personal development planning</li> </ul>

### **Edinburgh**

Drumsheugh House  
38b Drumsheugh Gardens  
Edinburgh  
EH3 7SW

**Telephone:** 0131 473 7777

**Email:** [info@charteredbanker.com](mailto:info@charteredbanker.com)

**Web:** [www.charteredbanker.com](http://www.charteredbanker.com)

### **London**

2nd Floor, Bengal Wing  
9A Devonshire Square  
London  
EC2M 4YN

