

# IFP Certificate in Paraplanning

## Bringing Paraplanning to the fore

2010 sees the IFP launch the first ever Paraplanner qualification in the UK. The development of the IFP's Paraplanner programme has been supported by Scottish Widows and has already attracted significant attention from Paraplanners who are keen to obtain the professional recognition and career development opportunities that such a qualification brings.

If you're keen to find out more about the qualification, here's a snapshot of the main things you need to know. :

- **At what level is the qualification set?**

The Certificate in Paraplanning is expected to be set at QCF level 4 (equivalent to first year degree level).

- **Who is the qualification aimed at?**

It's ideal for Paraplanners who wish to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and competence by obtaining a recognised Paraplanning qualification. The qualification is also an ideal step towards obtaining CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER<sup>CM</sup> certification – the global standard of excellence in Financial Planning – for those who wish to follow this path.

- **What qualifications and/or experience do I need to be eligible to sit the exam?**

You will need to hold an appropriate examination for giving advice and a pass in a taxation exam such as J01, AF1 or G10. It will be useful to have experience of working within a Financial Planning firm but this is not compulsory.

- **What format will the examination take?**

It's an online exam with some multiple choice questions to test knowledge and understanding. Candidates will also be required to supply written responses to questions based on case studies as part of the examination.

- **Where can I sit the exam?**

Candidates can sit the online exam at venues all around the UK at designated testing centres making it convenient to the needs of most Paraplanners.

- **What should I do to prepare for the exam?**

First, study the syllabus and then consider attending the IFP's two day Paraplanner skills workshop which provides ideal preparation. Also the Scottish Widows academy will provide learning support including workshops, a learning library and study planner. There will also be an e-learning package available.



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- **When will the exam be available?**

IFP are piloting the examination in early 2010, following which the examination will be available to all from July 2010 and twice each year thereafter, companies may be able to arrange sessions on their own premises and at dates to suit their Paraplanners.

- **How popular does the IFP expect the qualification to be?**

Because it is unique, it is likely to become the benchmark and set the standard for a large number of Paraplanners. In 2010, IFP expects that up to one hundred individuals will attempt the examination. Many larger Financial Planning firms are in talks with the IFP about using the qualification as a core part of their Paraplanner development programmes.

- **What happens if I fail the exam? Can I resit?**

Candidates may resit the exam as many times as needed.

- **When will exam results be issued?**

IFP will notify candidates whether or not they have been successful within six weeks of the examination date

- **Will there be a specific designation I can use if I pass?**

Successful candidates may become members of the IFP Paraplanning Faculty and can use the designation Member of the Faculty of Paraplanning

- **What will be the main benefits of being a member of the IFP's Paraplanning Faculty**

Improved professional recognition, networking and sharing ideas with other qualified Paraplanners, improved career development opportunities.

- **I'm keen to attempt the qualification, what should I do now?**

Register your interest with the IFP. Download the syllabus from the IFP website [www.financialplanning.org.uk/planners/foundation\\_workshop.cfm](http://www.financialplanning.org.uk/planners/foundation_workshop.cfm). IFP will notify you when workshops are running and you can sign up for the e-learning.

