



Fellow Chartered Financial Practitioner

Program Overview

Helping Australians secure their financial future

Obtain Peer Recognition by achieving the **AFA's highest educational designation**



Education is core to business strategy and practice, creating both opportunities and sustainability.

By launching the Education Pathway that leads to the Fellow Chartered Financial Practitioner (FChFP), the Association of Financial Advisers is signalling the role of advice and adviser education is vital to the long term prosperity of Australia. Through this pathway, the AFA seeks to enhance client relationships with its members by focusing on the development of professional advisers who strive to improve and develop their specialist knowledge and expertise in line with best practice standards.

International FChFP designation

The FChFP is the AFA's highest educational designation. The term 'Chartered' being an indication of the high level of professional competency required.

Individuals who hold the FChFP designation have the ability to display the FChFP mark of excellence to affirm to clients and peers, your dedication to best practice standards. The FChFP also provides a gateway to an international career as it is recognised by all 11 members of the Asia Pacific Financial Services Association (APFinSA) including Australia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan & Thailand.

The AFA Education Pathway

The AFA's vision of lifelong learning and education is embodied in its Education Pathway developed to enable its members to deliver better advice outcomes to Australian consumers. The aim of the AFA's Education Pathway (outlined below) is to ensure that advisers are competent, compliant and confident in their careers, whilst promoting the professionalism of the insurance and finance community.



Education Partner

The AFA has partnered with RG146 Training Australia – specialist in compliance, qualifications and Professional Development – to deliver the Education Pathway. The adviser of the future needs a broad range of skills, expertise and experience and RG146 Training Australia's emphasis on practical skills in industry education and the FChFP Program will be of crucial assistance to advisers. The AFA is proud to serve the financial advice industry and we encourage all advisers to enrol in the AFA's Executive FChFP Program and join a strong international network of dedicated professionals helping to secure the financial futures of their communities.

Yours sincerely

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Fellow Chartered Financial Practitioner

Introduction

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Welcome to the AFA's internationally recognised Fellow Chartered Financial Practitioner (FChFP) Executive Program.

Introduction

The AFA has developed the FChFP program which articulates the AFA's vision for lifelong learning and education. This is embodied in its Education Pathway developed to enable members to deliver better advice outcomes to Australian consumers.

The aim of the AFA's Education Pathway is to ensure that advisers are competent, compliant and confident in their careers, whilst promoting the professionalism of the insurance and finance community.



The FChFP Program

In 2008, the AFA launched an FChFP Open Entry Program for candidates who would receive the FChFP designation once the required practitioner experience is achieved.

Based on strong market feedback, we are now introducing the FChFP Executive Program which allows the AFA to recognise the current competency of experienced advisers.

The key features of the FChFP Program are detailed below to assist advisers make arguably the most important decision towards securing their career and professional standing within the financial advice industry.

Features	FChFP
Pre-requisite Qualifications	Diploma of Financial Services (Financial Planning) Advanced Diploma of Financial Services (Financial Planning)
Assessment	Assignment each course Closed book exam each course (70 to 90 minutes each)
Mode of Delivery	Distance Education
Semesters	Start at any time
Telephone Support	Yes
Course Price	\$590 (GST exempt) Per individual course
Other Fees	No withdrawal, deferral or late enrolment fees
Experience Requirements	Candidates who fulfil the above education requirements can apply to the AFA for the FChFP designation once they can demonstrate 3 years or more continuous practitioner experience with an Australian Financial Services Licensee (AFSL).

Who should do this course?

AFA Members or advisers in the market

1. Experienced Practitioners:

- Extensive industry experience;
- Solid educational qualifications in relevant topic areas;
- May have post-nominal standing (e.g. CIP, CFP, FAFA, CA); and
- Typically a practice principals or business owner.

2. GenXt:

- Current formal qualifications (ADFS or equivalent); and
- Broad industry experience.

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Assessment Overview

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What do I need to prepare for assessment?

The purpose of the day is to assess the knowledge, skills and competency of all students. There will be three components of the assessment process.

1. Knowledge test; and
2. Assignment / Portfolio of evidence assessment.

Knowledge Test

Knowledge for each of the four AFA courses will be tested by multiple choice closed book exam. Each topic (knowledge area) will be assessed, comprising 10-15 questions of which 80% must be answered correctly within the prescribed time limit for you to be deemed competent.

The objective of the Knowledge Test is to identify what knowledge gaps you may have. In the event that you are deemed not yet competent (recording less than 80% correct answers) in any knowledge area, you will be:

- Advised on the topic areas that you have a knowledge gap in (i.e. not yet competent in);
- Provided with specific references to study in relation to the required topics; and
- Asked to nominate a date and time to resit the topics where gaps were identified.

Assignment / Portfolio of Evidence

The assignments (or portfolio of evidence) for each of the four AFA courses have been structured to both demonstrate your understanding of the topic areas in each course and demonstrate your ability to apply this knowledge in your business or practise area.

The assignments you will need to complete (or similar type of documents already in use that you will need to provide) include:

- **AFA 1 – Risk Assessment** of your advice practise and mitigating strategies covering all aspects of compliance, ethics professionalism and legislation;
- **AFA 2 – Marketing Plan** covering all aspects of client engagement relevant to your business (or practise) goals for client engagement;
- **AFA 3 – Financial Solutions** in two topic areas, each consisting of 1,500 word papers on scenarios that display depth of knowledge on the selected topic areas; and
- **AFA 4 – Business Plan** for your practice relevant to demonstrate your ability to managing an advice business.

In the event that you are deemed not yet competent in your assignment of portfolio of evidence, you will be provided with feedback on which plans, evidence or examples are outstanding and you will be asked to nominate a date to resubmit.



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Bridging Program

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What is Recognition of Prior Learning?

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Recognition of Current Competency (RCC) is the process of providing credit for previously completed qualifications, post nominal awards, work experience and life experience. Prior learning and current competency is evaluated and compared with the minimum education and experience standards of the AFA's FChFP Program to determine what exemptions may be granted.

What are the minimum education standards?

Minimum education standards required for exemption from undertaking individual courses in the FChFP education program include:

1. satisfied the educational requirements of the CFP program; or
2. satisfied the requirements for an Australian qualification that would, by itself, provide advanced standing at Graduate Diploma level for admission to a Masters program at an Australian University; or
3. been awarded an offshore qualification deemed by reference to NOOSR to be equivalent or superior to (1.) or (2) above; or,
4. been awarded another qualification deemed by the FChFP Education Committee to be equivalent or superior to (1.) or (2) above.

As a guide, the following table nominates minimum education requirements for exemption from undertaking the education program:

Code	Description	Minimum equivalent level	Area
AFA 1	Compliance and Ethics in Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AQTF 07 Graduate Certificate; or • CFP 1. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Ethics • Compliance • Financial Services Law and Regulation
AFA 2	Client Engagement and Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AQTF 07 Graduate Certificate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sales and Marketing
AFA 3	Apply Financial Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AQTF07 Graduate Certificate; or • CFP 2 & 3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector specific Financial Planning competencies
AFA 4	Managing an Advice Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AQTF07 Graduate Certificate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Administration • Accounting

What are the minimum experience standards?

Minimum education standards required for exemption from undertaking individual courses in the FChFP education program include a workforce role could not be successfully conducted without having successfully attained the skills and knowledge implied by the learning outcomes of the FChFP educational program. As a guide, the following table nominates minimum experience requirements for exemption from undertaking the education program:

Code	Description	Minimum vocational experience
AFA 1	Compliance and Ethics in Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • +3 years senior compliance management role with responsibility for more than 5 ARs
AFA 2	Client Engagement and Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • +3 years in face-to-face sales and sales management with responsibility for more than 5 ARs
AFA 3	Apply Financial Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • +3 years dealing with complex financial planning strategy (determined by assessment of client files)
AFA 4	Managing an Advice Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • +3 years as practice principle of a "successful" practice

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Knowledge Test

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What to study for the Knowledge Test?


Knowledge Test

Each topic will be assessed by multiple-choice Knowledge Test. You will need to correctly answer 80% of all questions to be deemed competent in particular topic area.

You may sit the Knowledge Test at an RG146 Training Australia office, or use an invigilator who is prepared to attest that they supervised your knowledge test under exam conditions. Where you choose to use an invigilator, you will need to nominate a suitable person for this role, such as an accountant, lawyer or teacher.




Course	Topic Areas	Questions	Time
AFA 1	Compliance and Ethics in Practice		
	Reading Time		10
	Topic 1 – Ethics in Practice	15	15
	Topic 2 – Compliance in Practice	15	15
	Topic 3 – Professionalism in Practice	15	15
	Topic 4 - Legislation	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>
		60	70 min
AFA 2	Client Engagement and Advice		
	Reading Time		10
	Topic 1 – Consumer Behaviour	10	10
	Topic 2 – Behavioural Finance	10	10
	Topic 3 – Business Relationships	10	10
	Topic 4 – Engagement Techniques	10	10
	Topic 5 - Marketing	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>
		60	70 min
AFA 3	Apply Financial Solutions		
	Reading Time		10
	Topic 1 – What is Strategy?	10	10
	Topic 2 – Salary Packaging Strategies	10	10
	Topic 3 – Insurance Strategies	10	10
	Topic 4 – Superannuation Strategies	10	10
	Topic 5 – Pension & Benefit Strategies	10	10
	Topic 6 – Estate Planning Strategies	10	10
	Topic 7 – Strategies for Expatriates	10	10
	Topic 8 – Asset Management	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
		80	90 min
AFA 4	Managing an Advice Business		
	Reading Time		10
	Topic 1 – Vision, Mission and Values	10	10
	Topic 2 – Strategic Planning	10	10
	Topic 3 – Business Structures	10	10
	Topic 4 – Business Planning	10	10
	Topic 5 – Finance for Small Business	10	10
	Topic 6 – Marketing	10	10
	Topic 7 – Risk Management	10	10
	Topic 8 – Succession Planning	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
		80	90 min

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Assignment or Portfolio of Evidence

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What documentation to submit for the assignment?

Assignment / Portfolio of Evidence

All students are required to prepare an assignment (or submit existing documentation), that demonstrates their understanding of each of the four courses in the AFA's FChFP Program.

Course	Assignment /Portfolio of Evidence Checklist	
AFA 1	<p>Risk Management Plan identifying specific risks to your business (or practise area), prioritised in terms of likelihood of occurring and impact. You should detail appropriate mitigating strategies and provide evidence that you have based business decisions on the Risk Management Plan (i.e. any risk that has a high likelihood of occurring and would severely impact the business must have a robust mitigation strategy and evidence of regular review). Documentation required includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Management Plan • Evidence of implementation, monitoring and review 	<p>✓ ✓</p>
AFA 2	<p>Marketing Plan covering all aspects of the marketing and sales process relevant to your practise (or practise area's) goals for client engagement, which might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Marketing directions • Practise's value proposition • Market needs • Sales performance targets; • Sales plans • Business development plan • Marketing Action Plan. 	<p>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</p>
AFA 3	<p>Financial Solutions in two topic areas, each consisting of 1,500 word papers on scenarios which display your depth of knowledge on the selected topic areas and showcase your ability to apply financial solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salary Packaging Strategies • Insurance Strategies • Superannuation Strategies • Pension & Benefit Strategies • Estate Planning Strategies • Strategies for Expatriates • Asset Portfolio Management 	<p>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</p>
AFA 4	<p>Business Plan for your practise (or practise area's) and evidence of its implementation to demonstrate your ability to managing an advice business, which might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision, mission and values • Strategic Plan and objectives • People (HR) Strategy • Finance & Governance Strategy • Operations Strategy • Customer Satisfaction Strategy • Innovation Strategy • Business Action Plan 	<p>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</p>

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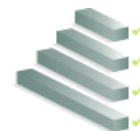
Program Description

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The AFA's Executive FChFP Program is designed to meet growing demand for aspiring leaders seeking the advanced technical discipline to confidently move to the next level of their careers.



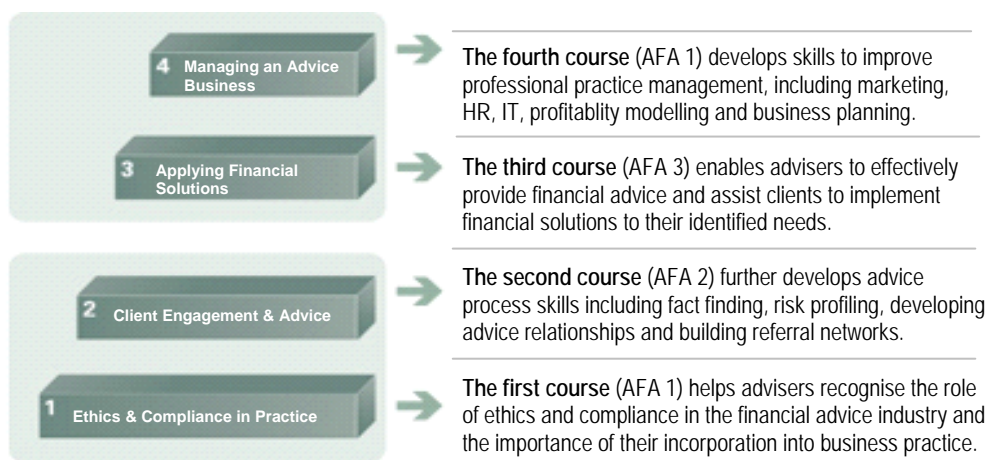
Through a process of broad industry consultation, the AFA has focused on the needs of today's increasingly competitive marketplace, providing existing and aspiring practitioners with the opportunity to develop specialist knowledge and expertise.

The program is designed to equip you with:

- An appreciation of compliance and ethical requirements in line with best practice standards
- The expertise to formulate and implement sophisticated financial solutions for retail clients
- High level client engagement skills to effectively communicate complex financial strategies
- High sought after qualifications that is recognised across multiple jurisdictions

The key features of the AFA's Executive FChFP Program is detailed below to assist advisers make arguably the most important decision towards securing their career and professional standing within the financial advice industry.

The AFA's Executive FChFP Program consists of four courses:



... to *accelerate* your career with the AFA's highest educational designation.

Upon successful completion of the above four specialist courses and fulfilment of the AFA membership and industry experience requirements, you will be awarded the industry-recognised and accredited FChFP designation, a mark of the Asia Pacific Financial Services Association (APFinSA).

The FChFP designation is recognised in 11 countries, allowing graduates the opportunity to develop their financial careers internationally.

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