

LIBF Level 4 Certificate for Documentary Credit Specialists (CDCS®)

Qualification Specification



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Purpose of the qualification

Why study the LIBF Level 4 Certificate for Documentary Credit Specialists (CDCS)?

The Certificate for Documentary Credit Specialists (CDCS[®]) is a professional qualification recognised worldwide as the benchmark of competence for international practitioners; it was primarily designed for students with at least three years experience working with documentary credits. Its purpose is to enable documentary credit practitioners to demonstrate practical knowledge and understanding of the complex issues associated with documentary credit practice.

CDCS[®] develops the knowledge and skills required to accurately check documents and manage documentary credit transactions. Within this, it provides a core understanding of documentary credits and the products, parties, processes and rules that underpin transactions. As well as developing the ability to identify irregularities and risks.

Objective

The CDCS[®] will enable you as a documentary credit practitioner to gain a practical knowledge and understanding of the complex issues associated with documentary credit practice.

Key content areas

- Types, characteristics and uses of documentary credit and standby letters of credit.
- Rules and trade terms.
- Parties to documentary credit transactions and their roles and obligations.
- Types and methods of payment / credit used in documentary credit transactions.
- Types of transport, commercial and financial documents used in documentary credit transactions.
- Related products including letters of indemnity.
- Implications of breaching rules including money laundering and terrorist financing.

Learning outcomes

- LO1 Be able to utilise the rules relating to documentary credits and understand the features, documents, life cycle, and the roles of the various parties to a credit.
- LO2 Be able to manage documentary credit transactions and associated risks.

Key skills developed

The qualification will encourage you to:

- analyse documentary credit products and reflect upon their desirability and effectiveness in a variety of scenarios;
- apply appropriate rules and guidelines to a variety of documentary credit transaction scenarios;
- develop an understanding of current technical language, methods and practices of documentary credit transactions;
- select and analyse appropriate data and information from a range of sources; and,
- increase your ability to work and learn independently.

Entry requirements

There are no specified entry requirements. However, you need to be satisfied of your ability to study in English at Level 4.

Recognition of prior learning

In line with the London Institute of Banking & Finance regulations, as CDCS is a single unit qualification, recognition of prior learning does not apply.

Progression and preparation for further study

Professional recertification

When you have successfully completed the CDCS[®] qualification, the CDCS[®] designation remains valid for three years. To retain the designation after this period, you are required to either continuing professional development (CPD) in order to recertify, or re-take and pass the examination.

1. **For those recertifying up to and including the 31 October 2019** - 24 CPD Learning hours / PDUs are required to recertify.
2. **Those recertifying at 30 April 2020 and beyond** will be required to submit **36** CPD Learning hours / PDUs to recertify successfully.

The recertification programme allows you to demonstrate how you have carried out learning activities which have enhanced your prior knowledge and skills in the area of International Trade Finance. Such activities are known as CPD - Continuing Professional Development - and include participation in events such as: workshops; courses; seminars; webinars as well as e-learning and self directed research. CPD is vital in ensuring your knowledge of International Trade Finance is always up to date. More information about the recertification programme can be found on the course website.

Further / additional study

If you wish to develop a wider understanding of international trade and finance the Certificate in International Trade and Finance (CITF[®]) is designed to enable trade, export and commodity executives to gain a thorough (introductory) understanding of key procedures, practices and legislation in trade finance on an international level.

If you wish to develop your professional / specialist knowledge further the Certificate for Specialists in Demand Guarantees (CSDG[®]) has been designed for professionals that use demand guarantees in everyday work. The certificate provides the key knowledge and skills needed to operate effectively in a highly technical area of international trade.

Apprenticeships

CDCS[®] is not currently available through an apprenticeship framework or standard.

Preparation for employment

If you are already working with documentary credits then this qualification is designed for you; you would be expected to have already gained three years industry experience prior to commencing your studies. CDCS[®] is a professional qualification recognised worldwide as the benchmark of competence for international practitioners. As such it does not prepare you for employment. While it is intended for experienced practitioners, the qualification could also be used to gain wider experience / knowledge in this sector, to transfer into the sector and for continuing professional development (CPD) purposes which could therefore qualify you to work in another field.

Structure

CDCS[®] is made up of **one mandatory unit** which must be successfully completed in order for you to achieve the certificate:



Total Qualification Time (TQT)

Total Qualification Time (TQT) is a prediction of the total time a student with no prior knowledge might need to complete the course.

TQT consists of two elements, Guided Learning (GL) and all other hours:

- GL is time spent studying under the immediate guidance of supervision of a teacher.
- All other hours include hours spent unsupervised in research, learning, e-learning, e-assessment, completing coursework, completing homework, exam preparation, and formal assessments.

CDCS[®] is primarily considered as a self directed study qualification with planned examination sessions.

Guided Learning Hours	0 hours
Other hours	292 hours
Total Qualification Time	292 hours

Learning resources

You will be provided with the following learning resources:

- online access via MyLIBF- www.myLIBF.com to learning materials and to *KnowledgeBank* (virtual library);
- unit syllabus;
- study text;
- e-quiz;
- specimen paper; and,
- student-led forum.

What to do before the assessment

Upon registration, you are automatically registered for a specific examination session.

To prepare for the assessment, you should make use of all learning resources as part of your revision for the course exam.

Assessment

The unit is assessed through a single three hour examination consisting of a combination of Multiple Choice Questions (Part A) and document checking exercises (Part B). A total of 100 marks are available. The pass mark for the examination is 70% of the available marks; you must also achieve 60% of the marks available in section B to pass the qualification. The structure of the assessment ensures that all aspects of the course content are subject to external examination under strict examination conditions.

Qualification grading

The overall qualification will be graded Pass / Distinction. You must achieve a mark of 70% overall (and 60% for Section B).

The qualification grade boundaries are as follows:

Grade	Raw mark
Pass	70–94
Distinction	95–100

Re-sit attempts

You are allowed to resit the unit in accordance with the published London Institute of Banking & Finance policies. Full terms and conditions are available on our website.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Regulation detail

This document describes the regulation detail that is applicable to the qualification.

Qualification title	LIBF Level 4 Certificate for Documentary Credit Specialists (CDCS [®])
Ofqual qualification number	601/1159/8
Qualification level	4
European Qualifications Framework (EQF) level	5
Qualification Type	Occupational Qualification
Regulation start date	29 August 2014
Operational start date	01 October 2014
Regulated in	England and Northern Ireland
Offered	Internationally
Assessment available in English	Yes
Assessment available in Welsh	No
Assessment available in Irish	No
Sector subject area	15.1 Accounting and Finance
Purpose	D. Confirm occupational competence and / or 'licence to practice'
Sub-purpose	D1. Confirm competence in an occupational role to the standards required
Total credits	29
Minimum credits at / above level	29
Guided learning hours	0
Total qualification time	292
Overall grading type	Pass / Distinction
Assessment methods	Multiple-choice examination
Qualification description	The Certificate for Documentary Credit Specialists consists of one mandatory unit.
Age ranges	16–18; 19+

