



PRESS RELEASE



First-ever Designation for Retirement Advisers in Hong Kong Qualified Retirement Adviser (QRA) – Education Program Spring Intake Now Opens

(Hong Kong – 1 March, 2016) – The world is ageing rapidly. Global financial markets are getting more and more complex and are exposed to various risks and uncertainties. Statutory retirement and pension schemes, personal savings and investments are also subject to these risks and uncertainties, and may not provide enough to secure a comfortable retirement. At the same time, the number of “DINKs” (double-income-no-kid families) with a high proportion of disposable income is growing. All these factors have led to a heightened public awareness of the importance of seeking professional retirement advice.

To meet the increasing demand for suitable retirement advice, the Institute of Financial Planners of Hong Kong (IFPHK) has recently launched the Qualified Retirement Adviser (QRA) designation. The program is tailor-made for the Hong Kong retirement market, and covers key areas in retirement and the related products, including financial management, investment, insurance, annuities, estate and suitability analysis on retirement issues. The program helps students master core retirement concepts, develop effective communication skills and gain practical skills in giving basic retirement-focused advice in case scenarios.

Registration for the QRA Education Program 2016 spring intake is now open. The education program offers the Ordinary Track and the Exemption Track. Students of the Ordinary Track are required to complete class training on seven retirement-related topics, while students of the Exemption Track must complete class training for Topics 4 to 7. The registration deadline is 10 March for the Ordinary Track and 29 March for the Exemption Track.

The QRA is the first-ever retirement-centric qualification in Hong Kong. Students who complete the QRA Education Program and who obtain a pass in the QRA Examination can apply for QRA membership and use the QRA marks. Highlights of QRA Education Program and QRA Examination are below:

Highlights of the QRA Education Program and Examination

- No pre-requisite
- Flexible course mode: 24-40 classroom hours
- Can be completed in as little as 3 months

Curriculum of the QRA Education Program

Topic 1: Introduction to Retirement
Topic 2: Basic Financial Management and Health Insurance
Topic 3: Investing for Retirement and Estate
Topic 4: Annuities and Financial Management
Topic 5: Suitability Analysis and Practical Knowledge on Retirement Issues
Topic 6: Retirement in Practice
Topic 7: Retirement Case Studies

Modes of Study (please refer to Appendix)

Ordinary Track (Topics 1-7): 40 class hours
Exemption Track (Topics 4-7): 24 class hours

Applicants for the Exemption Track are required to fulfill one of the following requirements:

- Three years full-time financial services industry experience; or
- Bachelor's degree or above from accredited education institutions; or
- Qualifications listed in the [Exemption List](#).



QRA Examination and QRA Membership

Every student of the QRA Education Program is required to pass the QRA Examination before applying to be a QRA holder. It is a 1.5-hour public examination consisting of 55-65 multiple-choice questions with three answer options each. Students who complete the QRA Education Program and who pass the QRA Examination can apply for QRA membership and use the QRA marks. The QRA Examination for the 2016 Spring Intake will be held in the evening of May 5.

Class Schedule for 2016 Spring Intake

Topic 1: Introduction to Retirement Speaker: Alvin Lam 16 Mar 2016 (Wed) 7:30pm-9:30pm 18 Mar 2016 (Fri) 6:30pm-9:30pm	Topic 2: Basic Financial Management and Health Insurance Speaker: Alvin Lam 19 Mar 2016 (Sat) 10:00am-1:00pm, and 2:30pm-5:30pm
Topic 3: Investing for Retirement and Estate Speaker: Ricky Chung 21 Mar 2016 (Mon) 6:30pm-9:00pm 23 Mar 2016 (Wed) 6:30pm-9:00pm	Topic 4: Annuities and Financial Management Speaker: Ricky Chung 2 Apr 2016 (Sat) 10:00am-1:00pm, and 2:30pm-5:30pm
Topic 5: Suitability Analysis and Practical Knowledge on Retirement Issues Speaker: Kenny Mak 9 Apr 2016 (Sat) 10:00am-1:00pm, and 2:30pm-5:30pm	Topic 6: Retirement in Practice Speaker: Alvin Lam 7 Apr 2016 (Thu) 6:30pm-9:30pm 8 Apr 2016 (Fri) 6:30pm-9:30pm
Topic 7: Retirement Case Studies Speaker: Wilson Yee 12 Apr 2016 (Tue) 6:30pm-9:30pm 14 Apr 2016 (Thu) 6:30pm-9:30pm	

For more details on the Qualified Retirement Adviser (QRA), please visit www.ifphk.org.

Media Enquiries

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About IFPHK

IFPHK was established in June 2000 as a non-profit organization for the fast-growing financial services industry. It aims to be recognized in the region as the premier professional body representing financial planners dedicated to upholding the highest professional standards.

The Institute is the sole licensing body in Hong Kong authorized by Financial Planning Standards Board Limited to grant the much-coveted and internationally-recognized CFP^{CM} Certification and AFPTM Certification to qualified financial planning professionals in Hong Kong and Macau.

It represents more than 7,600 financial planning practitioners in Hong Kong from such diverse professional backgrounds as banking, insurance, independent financial advisory, stockbroking, accounting, and legal services.

Currently there are more than 161,000 CFP certifiants in 26 countries/regions; the majority of these professionals are in the U.S., Canada, China, Australia and Japan, with more than 4,700 CFP certifiants in Hong Kong.

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"QRA", "QUALIFIED RETIREMENT ADVISER", "QRA", "QUALIFIED RETIREMENT ADVISER" are marks owned by the Institute of Financial Planners of Hong Kong.

