

UK EXTENDS GLOBAL REACH IN FINANCIAL SERVICES EDUCATION AND TRAINING



UK providers of education, training and accreditation are well placed to equip professionals with skills and qualifications that are internationally mobile. IFSL's report on *Financial Services Education and Training* draws attention to the UK's growing global reach. Professional institutions with combined membership exceeding 950,000 cover a range of disciplines in financial and professional services including banking, insurance, capital markets, accountancy, legal services and dispute resolution.

Duncan McKenzie, Director of Economics at IFSL, said "The international status of UK professional institutions is reflected in their overseas membership rising by 8% to 177,000 over the past two years making up nearly one fifth of their total membership."

In tertiary education, international students in the UK have risen by 52% since 2000 to reach a record 351,000 in 2006/07, out of a total 2.29 million students engaged in UK degree courses. Universities around the UK attract 12% of the 2.7 million students worldwide studying for a degree in a foreign

country, with only the US a more popular destination. Other key providers of training include specialist training firms, the London Stock Exchange, derivatives exchanges in London, and trade associations.

IFSL looks forward to working closely with the Lord Mayor Alderman Ian Luder's initiative in promoting financial literacy over the coming year. As he acknowledges in the IFSL report, this initiative will give further impetus towards the promotion of the City of London as a centre of excellence for professional education, training and qualifications.

Andrew Cahn, Chief Executive for UK Trade & Investment, said: "UKTI is delighted to see this IFSL report supporting what we've believed for a long time – the UK is top of the class when it comes to providing professional and financial education.

"To promote our internationally recognised financial and professional services training programs around the world UKTI regularly works with the British Council, UK training organisations and through our network of trade & investment

officers based overseas. This research can only help.

International Financial Services, London (IFSL) is an independent, not-for-profit membership organisation promoting the UK-based financial services industry throughout the world.

IFSL are the designated private sector partner of UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) and the Corporation of the City of London for international promotion of UK financial services.

We also have over 130 member companies drawn from across the whole financial services sector, including banking, insurance, trading exchanges, regulatory bodies and professional services, reflecting the UK's position as a leading marketplace for global financial business, irrespective of nationality.

We facilitate contacts and business opportunities for our members with overseas leaders and policy makers. We understand the global environment for financial services and promote the UK-based industry's unique advantages.

Our research team produce papers on a range of topics from Islamic Finance to Carbon Markets. these are available to download free from our website www.ifsl.org.uk

My team 'the International Group' organise the visits,