

PRESS RELEASE

CFA Societies Australia launches 'Certificate in ESG Investing' in Australia***New certificate addresses ESG skills shortage***

[SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA] 4 October 2021: CFA Societies Australia has announced the availability of the CFA Institute Certificate in ESG Investing in Australia. The certificate is the first of its kind globally and will offer investment professionals the benchmark knowledge and skills they require to integrate environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors into their investment processes.

The certificate will enable the industry to evolve by placing sustainable practices at the forefront of investment considerations and will also help to address the lack of ESG skilled investment professionals, said Lisa Carroll, CEO of CFA Societies Australia.

“Demand for professionals with ESG qualifications is outstripping supply, and this certificate will help to address this imbalance. According to the [CFA Institute Future of Sustainability in Investment Management](#) research report, over 6% of job posts in the investment industry required ESG skills, while only 1% of professionals claimed to have these skills. That finding comes at a time when 90% of investment management professionals expect their firms’ commitment to ESG research to increase.

“The CFA Institute is responding to this skills gap by launching this certificate in Australia and across the globe,” said Carroll.

With 76% of institutional investors and 69% of retail investors declaring an interest in ESG, according to a recent CFA Institute survey, the certificate is suitable for practitioners across all investment functions, including portfolio management, product development, sales, financial advice, consulting and risk analysis.

“We are experiencing demand for the certificate from firms wishing to upskill employees in a wide range of internal and client-facing roles. The CFA Institute Certificate in ESG Investing is a globally recognised credential that will ensure professionals have the requisite knowledge to meet best practice in ESG investment. It sends a strong signal to both employers and clients about a practitioner's expertise, and will potentially enable practitioners to command a salary premium given that expertise,” said Carroll.

Margaret Franklin, CFA, president and CEO of CFA Institute, said: “We are seeing a real acceleration of interest in ESG investing – a major development that will shape the

future of finance – while increased demand from clients and investment managers has fuelled the need for education. This certificate is the first of its kind to be made available globally, and will equip practitioners with foundational knowledge and competencies, enabling them to better serve the needs of their clients and contribute to building trust within the industry,” she said.

The certificate is a self-study online course requiring approximately 130 hours of study, culminating in a two-hour, 20-minute computer-based exam comprising 100 questions. Registration details and information available [here](#). There are no formal entry requirements. On successful completion of the exam, candidates will be awarded a certificate. The cost, which covers the exam and online learning, is US\$675 (approximately \$940) and candidates can claim 20 continuing education credits upon passing the exam.

The CFA Institute Certificate in ESG Investing was developed by [CFA Society of the United Kingdom](#) in consultation with leading firms and is recognised by the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI).

Media Contact

Nicki Bourlioufas

Telephone: +61 411 786 933

nicki@spotoncpr.com

About CFA Societies Australia

CFA Societies Australia is part of the worldwide network of CFA Institute member societies that lead the investment profession globally by promoting the highest standards of ethics, education and professional excellence for the ultimate benefit of society. CFA Societies Australia represents the interests of over 3000 investment professionals through advocacy, education, events, and professional development. For more information visit www.cfas.org.au, or follow us on Twitter at [@CFASocietiesAus](#), Facebook at facebook.com/CFASocietiesAus or on LinkedIn.

About CFA Institute

CFA Institute is the global association of investment professionals that sets the standard for professional excellence and credentials. The organization is a champion of ethical behaviour in investment markets and a respected source of knowledge in the global financial community. Our aim is to create an environment where investors’ interests come first, markets function at their best, and economies grow. There are more than 170,000 CFA charterholders worldwide in 162 markets. CFA Institute has nine offices worldwide and there are 158 local member societies. For more information, visit www.cfainstitute.org or follow us on Twitter at [@CFAINstitute](#) and on Facebook.com/CFAINstitute.