Enhanced Competency Framework (ECF) Programmes Frequently Asked Questions

General

1. Is there any Professional Qualification Programme (PQP) Scholarship Scheme for the programme?

Each year, HKIB selects the top two candidates from each competency level (Core/ Professional) of Enhanced Competency Framework (ECF) Programme and award them with the scholarship as recognition. This is the way for HKIB to promote academic excellence and motivate future students to push themselves to achieve same high level of performance.

The two top candidates under each eligible category, provided that all other granting requirements are met, can be awarded with a cash incentive (HKD4,000 / HKD5,000 / HKD6,000), and a study coupon which can provide candidates to study one more Professional Qualification (PQ) offered by HKIB with all training and examination fees waived.

Enhanced Competency Framework Programme	Cash Incentive
ECF-AML/CFT (Professional Level)	HKD5,000
ECF-AML/CFT (Core Level)	HKD4,000
ECF-Compliance (Professional Level)	HKD5,000
ECF-Compliance (Core Level)	HKD4,000
ECF-CRM (Professional Level)	HKD6,000
ECF-CRM (Core Level)	HKD5,000
ECF-Cybersecurity (Core Level)	HKD4,000
ECF-Fintech (Professional Level)	HKD6,000
ECF-Fintech (Core Level)	HKD5,000
ECF-GSF (Professional Level)	HKD5,000
ECF-GSF (Core Level)	HKD4,000
ECF-ORM (Professional Level)	HKD5,000
ECF-ORM (Core Level)	HKD4,000
ECF-RWM (Professional Level)	HKD5,000
ECF-RWM (Core Level)	HKD4,000

2. How to define an RP if a staff member is not performing all the key duties specified in the HKMA guidelines?

The key roles specified in Annex 1 of each of the HKMA's Guide (i.e., ECF-AML/CFT; ECF-CRM; ECF-Compliance; ECF-Cybersecurity; ECF-Fintech; ECF-GSF; ECF-ORM and ECF-RWM) serves as a general guide to assess whether a staff member falls within the scope of RPs. A staff member is not required to perform all the roles specified in each of the Annex 1 in order to be classified as a RP. AIs can adopt a principles-based approach in determining whether a staff member falls within the definition of RPs for the ECF stream.

Training

3. What documents do I need to submit for enrolment?

Candidates are required to complete the following items for enrolment:

		Membership Application	Training Application	Examination Application
(i)	Complete the online application form on MyHKIB	✓	✓	✓
(ii)	Upload a copy of your identity card/passport	✓	✓	✓
(iii)	Upload relevant documents for Entry Qualification assessment (e.g. academic certificates/reference letters)	N/A	✓	N/A
(iv)	Settle payment by credit card / Alipay / WeChat Pay	✓	✓	✓

Applicants can submit the application via MyHKIB.

4. How can I know if I have been successfully enrolled?

An email will be sent to the applicant confirming the class details at least five working days prior to the training commencement date.

5. Is there any arrangement if I am absent from a training session?

There is no make-up session arranged for any absentees. However, they may send the questions to the trainers through HKIB staff for clarification during their studying if any.

6. What should I do if I need to change the training date due to some unexpected circumstances?

Generally, any change of the training date is NOT allowed. However, if a candidate is sick on the training date and cannot attend the training, he/she should inform the Institute and provide a supporting document (e.g. sick leave certificate) for our reference. The candidate may be permitted to attend the next subsequent training subject, to the availability of seats.

7. Can I apply for a refund if I withdraw the training application?

Once the training application is confirmed, all fees are non-refundable or non-transferrable.

8. Can I apply for training after the application deadline?

Late training enrolment will be accepted after the stipulated application deadline up to seven working days before course commencement to allow us to administer the application. A late entry fee of HKD200 (in addition to the training fee) will apply.

9. Can I obtain the training material before the training?

A digital version of training material (i.e. Study Guide and PPT Slides) will be provided to learners together with the training confirmation email which will be sent to learners at least five working days before the training commencement. Printed version will only be available at an additional cost of HKD600 (including delivery fee) on request by learners.

10. What is the attendance requirement?

To facilitate the learning process for candidates, learners are expected to have full attendance before taking the examination. Attendance will be taken in every training session.

11. Can I apply for the examinations without attending the training?

To facilitate candidates' learning and to meet the QF requirement, all candidates are required to enrol and complete the training of the relevant modules before attending the examination.

12. What language will be used for training and the study guide?

<table>
<tr><th>ECF Programme</th><th>Training</th><th>Study Guide</th></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-AML/CFT (Core/Professional)</td><td rowspan="4">Cantonese / English</td><td>English</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-Compliance (Core/Professional)</td><td>English</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-CRM (Core/Professional)</td><td>English</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-Cybersecurity (Core)</td><td>English</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-Fintech (Core)</td><td>Cantonese / English</td><td>English</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-Fintech (Professional)</td><td>English</td><td>English</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-GSF (Core/Professional)</td><td rowspan="3">Cantonese / English</td><td>English</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-ORM (Core/Professional)</td><td>English</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-RWM (Core/Professional)</td><td>English (supplemented with Traditional Chinese Study Guide for self-learning purpose on Module 3, 5, 6 and 7)</td></tr>
</table>

13. I do not have any background for the ECF stream that I am enrolling, can I still enrol in the Core Level of the programme?

Yes, you may enrol in the Core Level of the programme if you meet the entry requirements. For details, please refer to the Programme Handbook of each ECF stream which can be found in HKIB website.

14. Is there any completion sequence for taking the module training of each of the ECF streams?

Please refer to the table below:

ECF Programme	Completion Sequence
ECF-AML/CFT (Professional Level)	N/A
ECF-AML/CFT (Core Level)	N/A
ECF-Compliance (Professional Level)	N/A
ECF-Compliance (Core Level)	N/A
ECF-CRM (Professional Level)	N/A
ECF-CRM (Core Level)	For ECF-CRM (Core Level), Module 3: Fundamentals of Bank Lending must be the final module that the learners attempt together with: (i) the completion of the module training classes (Modules 1 – 2) and a pass in the examination for Modules 1 – 2, OR (ii) successful exemption for Modules 1 – 2.
ECF-Cybersecurity (Core Level)	N/A
ECF-Fintech (Professional Level)	N/A
ECF-Fintech (Core Level)	N/A
ECF-GSF (Professional Level)	N/A
ECF-GSF (Core Level)	N/A
ECF-ORM (Professional Level)	N/A
ECF-ORM (Core Level)	N/A
ECF-RWM (Professional Level)	For ECF-RWM (Professional Level), Module 7: Financial Planning and Wealth Management must be the final module that the learners attempt conditioned with the completion of the module training classes (Modules 1 to 6) and a pass of the examination for Modules 1 to 6.
ECF-RWM (Core Level)	N/A

Examination

15. Is there a limit on the number of attempts for the examination?

There is no limitation on the number of attempts for the examination. However, a candidate is not allowed to re-sit the examination if he/ she has already achieved a "Pass" in the examination before. Nonetheless, the completion period is eight years.

16. How will I know if my examination application has been accepted?

Once the completed application form has been submitted, applicants will receive an Acceptance Notification email within two weeks. An "Examination Attendance Notice" will also be sent two weeks before the examination.

17. Can I apply for examinations after the application deadline?

Late entries for examinations may be accepted up to 14 days after the stipulated application deadlines, subject to the availability of seats. An additional late entry fee of HKD200 will apply.

18. What should I do if I wish to change the examination date due to illness?

If you are sick on the examination date and cannot sit the examination, you should inform the Institute and provide a supporting document (e.g., sick leave certificate) for our reference within three calendar days after the examination date, or else it will be treated as absent. Upon approval, you may be permitted to sit the next subsequent examination subject to the availability of seats.

19. What is the medium of instruction for examination?

<table>
<tr><th>ECF Programme</th><th>Medium of Instruction</th></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-AML/CFT (Professional Level)</td><td rowspan="13">English</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-AML/CFT (Core Level)</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-Compliance (Professional Level)</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-Compliance (Core Level)</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-CRM (Professional Level)</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-CRM (Core Level)</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-Cybersecurity (Core Level)</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-Fintech (Professional Level)</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-Fintech (Core Level)</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-GSF (Professional Level)</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-GSF (Core Level)</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-ORM (Professional Level)</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-ORM (Core Level)</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-RWM (Professional Level)</td><td>Module 5, 6 & 7: English with Traditional Chinese as Supplement</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-RWM (Core Level)</td><td>Module 1, 2 & 4: English

Module 3: English with Traditional Chinese as Supplement</td></tr>
</table>

20. When can I obtain the examination results?

Candidates may check their examination results online through HKIB online platform. Candidates will receive an email notification once the examination results are available. Results will be released within four weeks after the examination date for ECF-AML/CFT (Core level) examination, and around eight weeks after the examination date of the last module of the exam diet for ECF-AML/CFT (Prof level) examination. The online examination results will be removed one month after they are released.

Candidates will receive their results slip by e-mail within two weeks after the examination result is released through HKIB online platform.

21. How can I appeal against my examination results?

By submitting a written request via email to exam@hkib.org, candidates may request a rechecking or remarking of their examination scripts within ONE MONTH after the issue of the examination results. Please note that there is a rechecking fee of HKD500 per module and remarking fee of HKD1,700 per module. Rechecking is only applied to the type of MCQ examination while remarking is applied to other types of examination.

22. Could a full-time student enrol in ECF Programme?

One of the objectives of the ECF Programmes is to develop a sustainable talent pool of various stream of practitioners in order to meet the workforce demand in this sector. As such, registered HKIB student members or post-secondary full-time students are also welcome to enrol in the training. Upon completion of the training and passed the relevant examination, learners will be awarded with Advanced/Professional/Postgraduate Certificate depending on the ECF Programme and also be granted with the designation of ECF Affiliate for the first year.

23. What certificate will be awarded after completion of each ECF Programme?

ECF Programme	Certificate to be awarded
ECF-AML/CFT (Professional Level)	Professional Certificate for ECF on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT)
ECF-AML/CFT (Core Level)	Advanced Certificate for ECF on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT)
ECF-Compliance (Professional Level)	Professional Certificate for ECF on Compliance (General Compliance Stream) Professional Certificate for ECF on Compliance (General Compliance Stream)
ECF-Compliance (Core Level)	Advanced Certificate for ECF on Compliance
ECF-CRM (Professional Level)	Postgraduate Certificate in Commercial Lending for ECF on Credit Risk Management Postgraduate Certificate in Credit Portfolio Management for ECF on Credit Risk Management
ECF-CRM (Core Level)	Professional Certificate for ECF on Credit Risk Management
ECF-Cybersecurity (Core Level)	Advanced Certificate for ECF on Cybersecurity
ECF-Fintech (Professional Level)	Postgraduate Certificate for ECF on Fintech (Management) Postgraduate Certificate for ECF on Fintech (Specialist - Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Stream) Postgraduate Certificate for ECF on Fintech (Specialist - Distributed Ledger Technology Stream) Postgraduate Certificate for ECF on Fintech (Specialist - Open Banking and Application Programming Interface Stream) Postgraduate Certificate for ECF on Fintech (Specialist - Regtech Stream)
ECF-Fintech (Core Level)	Professional Certificate for ECF on Fintech
ECF-GSF (Professional Level)	Professional Certificate for ECF on Green and Sustainable Finance
ECF-GSF (Core Level)	Advanced Certificate for ECF on Green and Sustainable Finance
ECF-ORM (Professional Level)	Professional Certificate for ECF on Operational Risk Management (ORM)
ECF-ORM (Core Level)	Advanced Certificate for ECF on Operational Risk Management (ORM)
ECF-RWM (Professional Level)	Professional Certificate for ECF on Retail Wealth Management (RWM)
ECF-RWM (Core Level)	N/A

Certification

24. How can I attain the Professional Qualification (PQ) for each ECF stream?

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2"></th><th>Training</th><th>Examination</th><th>Year of Experience</th><th>Other</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Professional Level</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-AML/CFT</td><td>CAMLP</td><td rowspan="18">Complete respective professional level module training(s)</td><td rowspan="18">Pass respective professional level module examination(s)</td><td>At least 3 years of relevant AML/CFT work experience[1]</td><td rowspan="18">Employed by an AI</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">ECF-Compliance</td><td>CCOP(GC)</td><td>At least 5 years of relevant work experience in the general compliance Function[2] within 10 years immediately prior to the date of application for certification</td></tr>
<tr><td>CCOP(IIC)</td><td>At least 5 years of relevant work experience in the investment and/or insurance compliance function[3] within 10 years immediately prior to the date of application for certification</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">ECF-CRM</td><td>CCRP(CL)</td><td rowspan="2">5 years of relevant work experience[4] within 10 years immediately prior to the date of application for certification</td></tr>
<tr><td>CCRP(CPM)</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="6">ECF-Fintech</td><td>CPFinT(M)</td><td rowspan="6">At least 3 years of relevant work experience in Fintech projects[5]</td></tr>
<tr><td>CPFinT(S-AIBD)</td></tr>
<tr><td>CPFinT(S-DLT)</td></tr>
<tr><td>CPFinT(S-OBAPI)</td></tr>
<tr><td>CPFinT(S-RT)</td></tr>
<tr><td>CPFinT(A)</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="5">ECF-GSF</td><td>CGFP(GSF-P)</td><td rowspan="5">At least 2 years of relevant work experience in any of the Professional Level functions[6]</td></tr>
<tr><td>CGFP(GSF-I)</td></tr>
<tr><td>CGFP(SRM)</td></tr>
<tr><td>CGFP(SDR)</td></tr>
<tr><td>CGFP(SSCC)</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-ORM</td><td>CORP</td><td>At least 5 years' relevant work experience in operational risk management, business function risk and control, and/or internal audit[7]</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-RWM</td><td>CRWP</td><td>At least 2 years of relevant work experience[8] accumulated within 4 years immediately prior to the date of application</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th></th><th></th><th>Training</th><th>Examination</th><th>Yea of Experience</th><th>Other</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Core Level</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-AML/CFT</td><td>AAMLP</td><td rowspan="10">Complete respective core level module training(s)</td><td rowspan="10">Pass respective core level module examination(s)</td><td rowspan="2">N/A</td><td rowspan="10">Employed by an AI</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-Compliance</td><td>ACOP</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-CRM</td><td>ACRP</td><td>1 year of relevant work experience in credit risk management[9] within 3 years immediately prior to the date of application for certification</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-Fintech</td><td>CPFinT(A)</td><td>At least 1 year of relevant work experience in Fintech[10]</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">ECF-GSF</td><td>AGFP(PS)</td><td rowspan="6">N/A</td></tr>
<tr><td>AGFP(ClimRM)</td></tr>
<tr><td>AGFP(SDR)</td></tr>
<tr><td>AGFP(SSCC)</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-ORM</td><td>AORP</td></tr>
<tr><td>ECF-ORM</td><td>ARWP</td></tr>
</table>

1 Please refer to HKMA Guide to Enhanced Competency Framework on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism for details on relevant work experience and Annex 1 for key roles of RP

2 Please refer to HKMA Guide to Enhanced Competency Framework on Compliance for details on relevant work experience and Annex 1 for key roles of RP

3 Please refer to HKMA Guide to Enhanced Competency Framework on Credit Risk Management for details on relevant work experience and Annex 1 for key roles of RP

4 Please refer to HKMA Guide to Enhanced Competency Framework on Cybersecurity for details on relevant work experience and Annex 1 for key roles of RP

5 Please refer to HKMA Guide to Enhanced Competency Framework on Fintech for details on relevant work experience and Annex 1 for key roles of RP

6 Please refer to HKMA Guide to Enhanced Competency Framework on Green and Sustainable Finance for details on relevant work experience and Annex 1 for key roles of RP

7,9 Please refer to HKMA Guide to Enhanced Competency Framework on Operational Risk Management for details on relevant work experience and Annex 1 for key roles of RP

8,10 Please refer to HKMA Guide to Enhanced Competency Framework on Retail Wealth Management for details on relevant work experience and Annex 1 for key roles of RP

25. I have obtained one of the ECF Professional Qualifications (PQs) (e.g., AAMLP) in August this year. When and how will I be notified to renew certification?

The certification renewal fee for each of the ECF PQ is on an annual basis and runs from 1 January to 31 December. Irrespective of the date of your first certification with HKIB, your certification will expire on 31 December of the same year. You are required to renew your certification annually and a renewal notice will be emailed to all PQ holders in December..

If you fail to renew the certification before 31 January, your certification will be suspended, and your name and status information will not appear on the Certified Individuals (CI) Register published on HKIB website. As a result, you will not be allowed to include the Professional Qualification on your name card or CV.

26. How long does it take to process an application of ECF Professional Qualification (PQ) certification?

It will take approximately 60 days under normal circumstances to process an application upon receipt of the completed application form and full set of supporting documents.

27. If there is a change of job or industry, and/or personal information after being certified as one of the ECF Professional Qualifications (PQs) shall I inform HKIB?

Relevant Professional Qualification holders should notify HKIB of any change of job or industry, and/ or personal information upon renewal of their certifications. This would serve to re-confirm the status of a qualified RP. All Members are obliged to maintain an updated profile with the Institute.

Continuing Professional Development

28. Do I need to fulfil CPD requirements after I have become an ECF Professional Qualification (PQ) holder?

ECF PQ holder is required to fulfil the annual CPD requirements. Each PQ has different requirements (e.g., number of CPD hours, relevant topics of CPD training, etc.). For details, please refer to the HKIB CPD Scheme found in HKIB website
[HKIB Website Home > Membership > Individual Members > HKIB CPD Requirements]

29. What if I fail to meet the annual CPD requirements?

If ECF Professional Qualification (PQ) holders fail to comply with the CPD requirements, it would result in the suspension of their professional qualifications. Their name and Professional Qualification status would not appear on the Certified Individuals (CI) Register published on HKIB website, and they would not be allowed to include the Professional Qualification on their name card or CV.

For cases where there are special reasons to justify the failure to meet the annual CPD requirements, for example, due to an extended sick leave, HKIB may consider reinstating the RP’s certification(s) on a case-by-case basis.

30. Do I need to provide any supporting documents when applying for the certification renewal?

No, it is not necessary to provide any supporting documents when applying for the certification renewal. However, the professional qualification holders or HR of AIs are expected to be responsible for keeping records of completion of relevant programmes and CPD trainings undertaken by the PQ holders. HKIB reserves the right to request further documentation for confirmation purposes.

Enhanced Competency Framework (ECF) Programme Specific

31. Is it mandatory for Relevant Practitioners (RPs) to take the ECF programme?

While all ECF programme is not intended to be mandatory, Authorized Institutions (AIs) are encouraged to make use of it to enhance the level of core competence and ongoing professional development of RPs.

ECF-AML/CFT Specific

32. Is it a must to purchase the study guide for the ECF-AML/CFT (Professional Level) training?

Yes, the study guide is an essential training material in addition to the 18-hour training at HKU SPACE. The study guide contains several case studies as well as real life examples and students are required to complete the pre-course reading materials listed in the study guide before training sessions. Moreover, majority of the examination questions are from the study guide. The study guide is available for collection and payment at HKIB office. For details, please contact HKIB at (852) 2153 7800 or visit https://www.hkib.org/.

33. I have completed and passed the ECF-AML/CFT (Professional Level) training at HKU SPACE, how do I enrol the 3-hour revision session and the 3-hour examination?

Upon successful completion of the 18-hour training session at HKU SPACE, you can enrol for the relevant examination through HKIB with a 3-hour revision session provided. The purpose of the 3-hour revision session is to recap what you have learned in the 18-hour training at HKU SPACE and to help you prepare for the upcoming examination. Schedule for Revision session and examination can be found HERE.

34. How can I enrol for the Bridging Programme?

Candidates can submit online application at HKU SPACE website should they want to enrol for the ECF on Bridging Course. More details can be found HERE.

35. Will I receive any training materials for the Bridging Programme?

PPT of the Bridging Programme will be provided to learners. Learners can also purchase a set of ECF-AML/CFT (Core and Professional Level) study guides at HKIB office upon request.

36. Can the ECF-AML/CFT (Professional Level) training or Bridging Programme provided by HKU SPACE be counted as eligible CPD training for AAMLP holders?

Yes, relevant topics of qualified CPD training for AAMLP/ CAMLP holders include AML/CFT, compliance (including financial crime compliance), legal and regulatory requirements, risk management or ethics. More details can be found in HKIB website – Overview of HKIB CPD Scheme.

ECF-Compliance Specific

37. If I have completed both Module 4 and Module 5, can I apply for CCOP(GC) and CCOP(IIC) certification?

Yes. You can apply for CCOP(GC) and CCOP(IIC) certifications if you have fulfilled the requirement of the working experience for each of these professional qualifications.

38. Since ECF-ORM Module 1 and Module 2 are identical to ECF-Compliance Module 1 and Module 2, do I need to apply for exemption if I have successfully completed Module 1 and Module 2 of ECF on Operational Risk Management?

Yes. The exemption has to be applied. However, the exemption fee is waived due to the respective modules are identical in nature between these two ECF programmes.

39. If I have already been grandfathered for CCOP(IIC) and would like to further pursue CCOP(GC), what should I do?

Learner is required to complete the training and pass the examination for Module 4 if he/ she wants to pursue the Professional Qualification of CCOP(GC). Meanwhile, he/ she is also required to be an RP and fulfil at least 5 years of relevant work experience in the general compliance function as specified in the Annex 1 of the “HKMA’s Guide to ECF-Compliance”.

ECF-CRM Specific

40. If I am working in consumer lending (e.g. credit card and personal lending) or some specialised functions such as credit risk modelling, am I a RP of the ECF-CRM?

No, consumer lending (e.g. credit card and personal lending) and some specialised functions such as credit risk modelling are not included in the scope of application of the ECF-CRM. The ECF-CRM applies to staff members who are performing credit initiation, evaluation, approval and monitoring of commercial credit business.

41. Could I apply for the CCRP(CL)/ CCRP(CPM) certifications at the same time if I can fulfil all the requirements?

Yes, RPs who have sufficient work experience in commercial lending (Role 1) and credit portfolio management (Role 2 and/ or Role 3) are eligible to apply for both the CCRP(CL) and CCRP(CPM) certifications at the same time.

ECF-Cybersecurity Specific

42. I am working in the Bank's Product Development Team, is ECF-Cybersecurity (Core Level) Programme applicable to me?

Yes, this programme is designed for all learners who meet entry requirements, including the ones from non-IT background to acquire the fundamental knowledge related to cybersecurity.

43. What is the difference between this programme and the cybersecurity programmes found in the market?

This is the banking specific programme with sharing of the common practices adopted in the banking industry. It will introduce the technical foundation of cybersecurity and the cybersecurity controls used in the banking environment.

ECF-GSF Specific

44. What is the major difference between Modular Exemption and Training Exemption?

Under Modular Exemption, module training(s) and examination(s) will be waived for the specific exempted module. Applicant is required to pay for the modular exemption fee.

Under Training Exemption, only the module training for the specific module(s) will be exempted. Applicant is still required to pass the relevant examination. This is a self-declaration process before examination. No exemption application fee is required.

45. For training exemption, what is the definition of in-house training? What if the bank has engaged external vendor to organise in-house training for the staff? Is it eligible for training exemption?

In-house training refers to training organised by the banks (including in-house training provided by external vendors) to their staff. Applicants are required to provide the programme name, the date and duration of training and full syllabus, training contents to substantiate that the in-house training syllabus coverage are substantially overlapping with that of ECF-GSF for the HKIB consideration. Once the respective training is exempted, applicants can proceed to apply for examination directly (examination fee apply). There is no exemption fee for training exemption.

46. Is there any deadline for application of Modular Exemption?

Currently, there is no specific deadline for Modular Exemption as long as the respective qualification exemption is still valid.

47. (For ECF-GSF (Core Level) ONLY) If I have already completed the Specialist Cert. in Green Finance and Sustainability of Certified Banker, what should I do next to apply for the professional qualification related to ESF-GSF Role 1? Is there any deadline to apply for certification?

Under the HKIB's streamlined administration procedures, Modules 1 and 2 will be automatically exempted. Candidates can directly apply for ECF-GSF certification (upon completion of modular exemption and fulfilled RP requirements of Role 1). There is no deadline for such certification applications.

ECF-RWM Specific

48. Does the ECF-RWM apply to individuals who work on a temporary basis in Hong Kong?

The ECF is to be adopted voluntarily by practitioners in an RWM function of an AI and is always useful for those pursuing professional development. In general, the only situation the ECF may not be practical is for individuals working on a one-off basis for only a few months in Hong Kong.

49. How do I apply for modular exemption? What is the exemption application fee?

Eligible candidates may submit the “Exemption Application Form” together with the relevant documentary evidence for his/her qualifications (i.e. examination result slip, certificates, official transcripts, etc.).

The amount of exemption fee is subject to the number of module(s). Exemption results will normally be provided in writing within 30 days after receipt of the COMPLETED application form and all supporting documents. If further assessment is needed due to unexpected circumstances, separate notifications will be sent. The decision of HKIB is final and cannot be appealed.