

Private Markets & Alternative Investments Certificate

LEARNING GOALS

- **Understand roles of private markets and alternative investments**, discuss key considerations for allocation, and describe benefits and challenges.
- **Gain insights into private equity and private credit investments**, including value creation, risks, and performance evaluation.
- **Explain real estate and infrastructure investment structures**, assess returns and risks, and discuss due diligence and valuation processes.
- **Compare commodity and natural resources sectors**, analyze commodity futures markets, understand commodity derivatives, and evaluate risk-return implications.

PRIVATE MARKETS & ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS CERTIFICATE CURRICULUM

COURSE 1: INTRODUCTION TO PRIVATE MARKETS AND ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS

This course is the first of the five-course Private Markets and Alternative Investments Certificate and has the following learning outcomes.

- Explain the various roles that private markets and alternative investments play in multi-asset portfolios.
- Discuss key investment considerations for allocating funds to private equity, private debt, hedge funds, commodities and natural resources, real estate and infrastructure.
- Describe the potential benefits and challenges associated with investing in private markets and alternative investments.

Module 1: Why Invest in Private Markets and Alternatives

- Lesson 1: The Role of Alternative Investments in Multi-Asset Portfolios
- Lesson 2: Investment Considerations for Allocating to Alternative Investments
- Lesson 3: Benefits and Challenges of Alternative Investments

Module 2: Survey of Private Markets and Alternative Investments

- Lesson 1: Categories and Features of Alternative Investments
- Lesson 2: Investment Methods and Ownership Structures
- Lesson 3: Risk Management and Portfolio Construction

Module 3: Alternative Investment Performance and Returns

- Lesson 1: Performance Appraisal of Alternative Investments
- Lesson 2: Calculating Alternative Investment Returns

- Lesson 3: Analyzing and Interpreting Investment Performance

Module 4: Practitioner Perspectives

- Lesson 1: Practitioner Perspectives on Private Markets
- Lesson 2: Practitioner Perspectives on Real Estate and Infrastructure
- Lesson 3: Practitioner Perspectives on Commodities and Natural Resources
- Lesson 4: Practitioner Perspectives on Hedge Funds

Course 2: Private Equity and Private Credit Investments

This course is part of the five-course Private Markets and Alternative Investments Certificate and has the following learning outcomes:

- Learners will gain an understanding of the features and characteristics of private equity and private credit investments.
- Learners will gain an understanding of value creation, costs and risks, fund structures, terms and interpreting performance of venture capital and buyout private equity investments.
- Learners will gain an understanding of value creation, costs and risks, fund structures, terms and interpreting performance of various private lending and credit investments.

Module 1: Introduction to Private Equity and Private Credit Investments

- Lesson 1: Features of Private Equity and Investment Characteristics
- Lesson 2: Features of Private Credit and Investment Characteristics
- Lesson 3: Diversification Benefits of Private Capital

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Module 2: Private Equity Investments

- Lesson 1: Value Creation and Risks in Private Equity
- Lesson 2: Leveraged Buyout and Venture Capital Investments
- Lesson 3: Private Equity Funds and Their Valuation

Module 3: Private Credit Investments

- Lesson 1: Value Creation and Risks in Private Credit Investments
- Lesson 2: Types of Private Credit Investments
- Lesson 3: Private Credit Funds and Their Valuation

Module 4: Practitioner Perspectives

- Lesson 1: Current and Future States of Private Equity and Private Credit Investing
- Lesson 2: Private Equity and Private Credit – Reasons for Investing
- Lesson 3: Due Diligence in Private Equity and Private Credit Investing

Course 3: Real Estate and Infrastructure Investments

This course is the third of the five-course Private Markets and Alternative Investments Certificate and has the following learning outcomes:

- Learners will be able to explain the characteristics and features of the various investment structures of real estate and infrastructure as asset classes.
- Learners will be able to explain the sources of return, risks, and diversification benefits from both direct and indirect investments in real estate and infrastructure.
- Learners will be able to discuss the due diligence and valuation processes for both asset classes.

Module 1: Introduction to Real Estate and Infrastructure

- Lesson 1: The Different Types of Real Estate
- Lesson 2: The Unique Features of Real Estate
- Lesson 3: The Major Categories of Real Estate Investment Structures
- Lesson 4: An Introduction to Infrastructure as an Asset Class

Module 2: Real Estate

- Lesson 1: The Sources of Return, Risks, and Diversification Benefits of Real Estate Investment
- Lesson 2: Direct Real Estate Investment and Indirect Real Estate Investment
- Lesson 3: Due Diligence of Real Estate Investments
- Lesson 4: Valuation of Real Estate Investments

Module 3: Infrastructure

- Lesson 1: The Unique Features of Infrastructure
- Lesson 2: The Lifecycle of Infrastructure Investment
- Lesson 3: The Operational Dynamics of Infrastructural Investment
- Lesson 4: Introduction to Project Financing of Infrastructure Investment

Module 4: Practitioner Perspectives

- Lesson 1: Practitioner Perspectives on Real Estate as an Asset Type
- Lesson 2: Practitioner Perspectives on Infrastructure as an Asset Type

Course 4: Commodities and Natural Resources Investments

This course is the fourth of the five-course Private Markets and Alternative Investments Certificate and has the following learning outcomes:

- Learners will be able to compare the characteristics of different commodity and natural resources sectors and understand their life cycles from production to consumption.
- Learners will gain an understanding of the types of participants, returns and risks in commodity futures markets and analyze the relationship between spot and futures prices.
- Learners will gain an understanding of the use of commodity derivatives, such as futures and swaps, to obtain or modify exposures to commodities and evaluate their risk and return implications.

Module 1: Introduction and Terminology

- Lesson 1: Introduction to Natural Resources and Commodity Investments
- Lesson 2: Types of Natural Resource Investments
- Lesson 3: Inflation Hedging and Portfolio Diversification Benefits of Natural Resources and Commodities

Module 2: How to Invest in Commodities and Natural Resources

- Lesson 1: Categories and Features of Alternative Investments
- Lesson 2: Commodity Derivatives
- Lesson 3: Commodity Indexes, Their Uses and Investment Implications

Module 3: Factors Affecting Commodity and Natural

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Resources Prices

- Lesson 1: Valuation of Commodities
- Lesson 2: Natural Resources and Economic Growth
- Lesson 3: Understanding Factors Affecting Commodity Prices

Module 4: Practitioner Perspectives

- Lesson 1: Perspectives of a Seasoned Commodities Fund Manager

Course 5: Hedge Fund Investments

Certificate and has the following learning outcomes:

- Learners will gain an understanding of the features, forms and structures, and risk and return characteristics of hedge fund investments.
- Learners will gain an understanding of equity-related, event-driven, relative value, opportunistic, and multi-manager hedge fund strategies.
- Learners will gain an understanding of performance appraisal issues, calculating and interpreting investment returns, and performing diligence of hedge fund investments.

Module 1: Introduction to Hedge Fund Investments

- Lesson 1: Hedge Fund Investment Features Compared to Those of Other Asset Classes
- Lesson 2: Hedge Fund Investment Vehicles
- Lesson 3: Risk and Return Characteristics of Hedge Fund Investments

Module 2 Hedge Fund Strategies

- Lesson 1: Classification of Hedge Fund Strategies
- Lesson 2: Key Types of Hedge Fund Strategies
- Lesson 3: Role of Hedge Fund Strategies in Traditional Investment Portfolios

Module 3: Hedge Fund Performance Appraisal, Investment Returns, and Due Diligence

- Lesson 1: Performance Appraisal Issues in Hedge Funds Investments
- Lesson 2: Understanding Hedge Fund Investment Returns
- Lesson 3: Due Diligence of Hedge Funds Investments

Module 4: Practitioner Perspectives

- Lesson 1: Current and Future States of Hedge Fund Investing
- Lesson 2: Different Types of Hedge Funds – Reasons for Investing
- Lesson 3: Due Diligence in Hedge Fund Investing



Certificate

Receive a digital badge and certificate when you finish all courses and pass the final assessment.



Study time

70-90 hours to complete with 12-month access to downloadable course content



Who should enroll

Entry level employees and/or interns in the private markets industry who work for a general partner firm (GP) or other alternative specialists. In addition, existing industry professionals, such as investors or asset owners looking to allocate to private markets or alternative investments. This course is also appropriate for consultants and those working with General Partner or Limited Partner firms who wish to understand the industry landscape and terminology.



Prerequisite knowledge of Private Markets equivalent to CFA Program Level I.



Online self-paced

Complete all coursework when and where it works for you.