Waivers around the World

To help members, the CFA Institute waiver program has gone global

A decade ago, CFA Institute was instrumental in obtaining waivers from state licensing exams for many investment advisers across the United States. Recently, the CFA Institute Centre for Financial Market Integrity expanded the waiver program to provide the same benefit for members in markets around the world. Today, in more than 11 countries and Canadian provinces and the majority of U.S. states, CFA charterholders and certain candidates in the CFA Program enjoy access to waivers from regulatory licensing or qualification exams. Similarly, there is a growing list of other countries—presently four—that require passage of one or more levels of the CFA Exam in order for investment professionals to practice in their jurisdiction.

The following charts provide an overview of these waivers. For complete details on waivers and requirements, please visit the CFA Institute Centre for Financial Market Integrity section of the CFA Institute Centre website (www.cfainstitute.org).

Australia

Level I

The Securities Institute has developed a module to cover ASIC generic knowledge requirements. Those seeking an exemption must take this and an "Adviser Skills" module to receive an exemption.

Canada

Level I

Ontario: Qualifications for the positions of portfolio manager and investment counsel are met by passage of Level I of the CFA exam plus passage of the Canadian Securities Course, the Canadian Investment Management Program's education component.

Level III or CFA Charterholder

Ontario: Qualification for the education portion of licensing requirements for the positions of portfolio manager and investment counsel.

British Columbia: Qualification to advise in derivatives, commodity futures, or exchange contracts.

Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta: Qualification for the position of securities adviser is routinely granted upon request.

All Other Provinces and Territories: Qualification for the education portion of licensing requirements for the positions of portfolio manager and investment counsel is not provided by law but is routinely granted upon request.

Greece

Level III or CFA Charterholder

Waivers for CFA charterholders applying for an analyst license from their regulatory exam. Licensing requirements have been imposed for five distinct categories of financial professionals:

- Analysts
- Portfolio managers
- Investment advisers
- Brokers
- Registered representatives

Getting any of the licenses involves a number of bureaucratic steps as well as passing an exam administered by the regulator. Doing business in any of the categories requires licenses for each.

Hong Kong

Level I

The Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission has approved passage of Level I of the CFA exam as a recognized industry qualification for the Investment Representatives and Commodities Trading Adviser's Representative.

Level III or CFA Charterholder

The Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission has approved the CFA designation as a recognized industry qualification for Investment Advisers and Commodities Trading Advisers.

Singapore

Level I

The Monetary Authority of Singapore recognizes passage of Level I of the CFA exam as providing an exemption from modules 6 and 7 of the CMFAS Exam for those seeking to apply for license as a CMS Representative in Fund Management and exempt from module 6, 7, and 8 of the CMFAS Exam for those seeking to apply for license as a Financial Advisor Representative—advising others concerning securities (excluding collective investment schemes).

Turkey

Level I

The Capital Markets Board of Turkey exempts those who have passed Level I of the CFA exam from the Basic License Exam.

Level II

The Capital Markets Board of Turkey exempts those who have passed Level II of the CFA exam from the Advanced and Derivatives License Exam.

Level III or CFA Charterholder

The Capital Markets Board of Turkey has approved CFA charterholders to be exempt from Basic, Advanced, and Derivatives License Exams.

United States

Level I

The New York Stock Exchange exempts those who have passed Level I of the CFA exam and the portion of the Series 16 exam that deals with rules on research standards and related matters from Part II of the NYSE Supervisory Analysts Qualification Exam.

Level II

The New York Stock Exchange and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) (formerly the National Association of Securities Dealers) require that their members who function as research analysts be registered as such and pass a qualification exam. Both regulatory bodies provide for an exemption from the analytical portion (Series 86) of the Research Analyst Qualification Exam (Series 86/87) for certain applicants who have passed Level II of the CFA exam.

Level III or CFA Charterholder

Almost all of the states provide waivers to CFA charterholders from state licensing exams for investment advisers and investment adviser representatives. The North American Securities Administrators Association provides a chart that has a state-by-state breakdown of these waivers.

To claim this waiver, you must first complete and transmit this authorization form.

Note: States provide waivers only for CFA charterholders who are investment advisers or their representatives. They do not provide waivers from their licensing or qualification exams for CFA charterholders who serve in the capacity of, and need to register as, a broker/dealer.

REQUIREMENTS TO PRACTICE

(vs. waivers from licensing or examination requirements)

Bodies in the following jurisdictions require passage of a certain level of the CFA Exam in order to practice in that jurisdiction.

- **Indonesia (Bapepam)**—Requires a minimum of one officer in a collective investments scheme with limited participation (funds with minimum investments of US$500,000 from individuals or €500,000) to have a CFA charter to operate such a fund. (Alternative is passage of the local Investment Certificate and five years of lead portfolio experience).
- **Pakistan (Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan—SECP)**—Anyone providing investment advice in Pakistan must complete an Analyst Certification Program, of which the CFA Level I exam is a mandatory component.
- **Philippines (Trust Officers Association)**—Requires at least one fund manager in each member institution to have passed Level I of the CFA exam to manage mutual funds.
- **Thailand (Securities and Exchange Commission)**—Fund managers are required, among other criteria, to pass Level III of the CFA exam or Level III of the Certified Investment and Securities Analyst (CISA) Program, which is modeled after the CFA Program. (Alternative is passage of Level I of the CFA or CISA exam programs, if the fund manager has worked in research, risk management, or securities analysis for three of the past five years.)

Centre Analyst Named "Rising Star"

The Millstein Center for Corporate Governance and Performance at the Yale School of Management has named Matthew Orsagh, CFA, CIMP, one of the "Rising Stars of Corporate Governance." Orsagh is a senior policy analyst for the Capital Markets Policy Group with the CFA Institute Centre for Financial Market Integrity.

The Millstein Center's list of Rising Stars recognizes corporate governance professionals under the age of 40 who are making their mark as outstanding analysts, experts, activists, and managers. The honorees were nominated by their peers and selected by a committee of leaders from the Millstein Center, the Open Compliance and Ethics Group, and the International Corporate Governance Network based on such criteria as past accomplishments and thought leadership, future projects and endeavors, reputation among existing industry leaders, and potential to influence the industry in the future.