



Professional Islamic Finance Specialist

1 – 5 March 2027
Cape Town (South Africa)



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Introduction

This Professional Islamic Finance Specialist course prepares participants to understand Islamic finance as a practical, ethical, and professionally regulated discipline. It explains how Shariah-compliant finance differs from conventional finance through asset-backed transactions, risk sharing, and the avoidance of interest. It introduces the major structures used in Islamic banking, capital markets, and Islamic insurance, with clear attention to their business purpose and compliance logic. Participants examine the standards that shape the industry, including accounting, auditing, governance, ethics, and Shariah requirements, as applied across Islamic financial institutions. The program builds a strong foundation for interpreting products, evaluating transactions, and supporting compliant decision-making in real market environments. It is for learners who want a professional Islamic finance course that combines technical understanding with practical industry relevance.

Targeted Groups

This Professional Islamic Finance Specialist training targets professionals seeking knowledge and skills:

- Banking and finance staff.
- Compliance and Shariah review teams.
- Investment and treasury professionals.
- Audit and risk practitioners.
- Insurance and takaful staff.
- Regulators and policy teams.
- Graduates entering Islamic finance.

Course Objectives

Participants will achieve the following objectives by completing the Professional Islamic Finance Specialist course:

- Understand core Islamic finance principles.
- Distinguish Shariah-compliant and conventional structures.
- Explain the logic of asset-backed financing.
- Recognize key contracts used in banking and investment.
- Interpret the role of governance and compliance.
- Apply ethical thinking to finance decisions.
- Identify product risks and control points.
- Support informed analysis of Islamic finance operations.

Targeted Competencies

Participants will gain the following competencies during the Professional Islamic Finance Specialist program:

- Clear understanding of Shariah-based finance.
- Ability to read Islamic finance structures.
- Skill in identifying compliant product features.
- Awareness of governance and audit expectations.
- Competence in discussing market applications.
- Better analysis of risk and documentation.
- Stronger professional judgment in Islamic banking.

Studying Scenarios

In this Professional Islamic Finance Specialist training, participants develop skills through the following scenarios:

- Reviewing a murabaha transaction for compliance.
- Comparing ijara and conventional leasing.
- Assessing sukuk structure in capital markets.
- Identifying issues in a takaful arrangement.
- Evaluating governance gaps in a finance file.

Course Content

Unit 1: Foundations of Islamic Finance

- Define Islamic finance and its professional scope.
- Explain the prohibition of riba and unjust gain.
- Understand risk sharing, ownership, and real economic activity.
- Recognize the difference between interest-based and trade-based value creation.
- Identify the ethical purpose of Shariah-compliant finance.
- Explore the main segments of Islamic banking, capital markets, and takaful.
- Build the terminology needed for a professional Islamic finance specialist.

Unit 2: Shariah Principles and Contract Structures

- Study the Shariah foundations that guide financial transactions.
- Understand murabaha as a cost-plus sale structure.
- Examine ijara as a lease-based financing model.
- Review mudaraba as a profit-sharing partnership.
- Review musharaka as a joint participation model.
- Explore salam and istisna as forms of trade-linked financing.
- Link each contract to its business use, risks, and compliance conditions.

Unit 3: Islamic Banking Products and Operational Practice

- Map Islamic banking products to customer needs and business objectives.
- Understand how retail and corporate financing are structured.
- Review deposits, investment accounts, and agency-based models.
- Examine the practical flow of documentation in a finance transaction.
- Identify asset transfer steps and ownership responsibilities.
- Analyze pricing logic without interest-based return.
- Recognize the operational controls that support compliant execution.

Unit 4: Islamic Capital Markets, Sukuk, and Takaful

- Understand the role of sukuk in Islamic capital markets.
- Distinguish sukuk from conventional debt instruments.
- Explore underlying assets, cash flows, and issuance structures.
- Recognize common market risks in Islamic securities.
- Study takaful as a cooperative risk-sharing model.
- Compare participant protection, surplus logic, and fund separation.
- Connect these products to market development and professional practice.

Unit 5: Governance, Compliance, and Industry Standards

- Understand the purpose of Shariah governance in financial institutions.
- Review the role of accounting, auditing, governance, and ethics standards.
- Identify compliance checkpoints across product design and execution.
- Explore the responsibilities of Shariah boards and internal reviewers.
- Examine documentation, disclosure, and monitoring expectations.
- Discuss prudential soundness and industry stability.
- Apply professional judgment to compliance issues in Islamic finance operations.

Final Insights & Key Takeaways

This course gives participants a solid professional pathway into Islamic finance by combining theory, product knowledge, and compliance awareness. It develops the confidence to work with Islamic banking, sukuk, takaful, and governance frameworks in a structured and credible way.