The WMI Advanced Wealth Management Programme - Affluent (AWMA) is designed to instil the right mindset and competencies for an individual, with at least 3 years of experience, to successfully transit from the affluent to the high net worth client segment. Individuals will be taught product solutions and client management skills which will establish them as trusted client advisors. This is the first programme to provide a unique portability between priority and private banking certification. The rigorous learning approach incorporates a strong use of case studies and role plays to allow ample opportunities for individuals to practise and apply what they have learnt.
Learn from senior practitioners in the wealth management industry from various leading financial institutions. No other training platform offers this best of breed approach.

Gain from the close networks formed during the programme as well as the networks you can access through WMI’s extensive alumni of wealth management professionals.

Be certified under the IBF Standards which represents a set of competency standards developed by the industry, for the industry and is supported by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG).

This programme has two distinguishing benefits. First, a participant serving in an affluent platform will be empowered with the knowledge, skills and critical competencies to meet and exceed the expectations of high net worth clients. Second, the hours spent in this programme will be fully recognised when the participant seeks private banking certification under the IBF Standards. This recognition translates to a significant time and cost savings as the participant only needs to attend a short bridging elective to be eligible for this certification.

The programme spans 8 weeks and sessions are generally held twice a week in the evenings. All the sessions are led and guided by senior practitioners from the industry who are experts in their respective fields.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

CURRICULUM

PRODUCTS, ADVISORY & COMPLIANCE

The depth and breadth of product and advisory solutions increase significantly when serving the high net worth client segment. Participants will be taught to realign from a product to a portfolio perspective and how to differentiate themselves by bringing different asset classes and non-investment products to complement and strengthen their values as trusted client advisors.

ENSURING A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION ACROSS THE WEALTH MANAGEMENT CONTINUUM

This session provides insights into the competencies and mindset change needed for a client advisor to successfully adapt across the Affluent, High Net Worth (HNW) and Ultra High Net Worth (UHNW) segments. As the profile, expectations and needs of these segments differ, it is important for a client advisor to appreciate these differences to stay ahead of the curve.

The session will also cover an overview of the industry today and where it will move towards as younger clients of new wealth challenge the traditional approaches to wealth management. To take advantage of the rapid convergence of the wealth management continuum, a client advisor needs to continuously adapt and acquire the right competencies to transit successfully across the continuum.

INTRODUCTION TO WEALTH PLANNING AND WEALTH PLANNING SOLUTIONS USING INSURANCE

The first part will cover an overview of wealth planning, its benefits for HNW clients, the typical tools in wealth planning and some of the common wealth planning needs of succession and probate avoidance, divorce and business failure.

The second part focuses on how to uncover, introduce and incorporate insurance as a key component of a comprehensive approach to wealth structuring, in areas such as succession planning, asset protection and tax optimisation. In addition to the traditional use of insurance for liquidity provision, participants will learn how to address the unique requirements of an HNW client by adopting a tailored strategy that allows the client to satisfy their personal and business needs. Extensive use of Asian-centric case studies will reinforce the practical considerations of insurance as a wealth planning tool.

DECONSTRUCTING FX OPTIONS, DERIVATIVES & STRUCTURED PRODUCTS

This session is a deep dive into the different uses of derivatives and the various levels of customisation of structured products for the HNW segment. Topics include the components of pricing for foreign exchange and interest rate derivatives, as well as structured products. It starts from the first principles - the building blocks of options and key options strategies, the components of structured products and their role in a client’s portfolio, be it for yield enhancement, capital preservation or leverage. The inherent risks and returns of these products as well as key lessons from past financial crises will be drawn upon for discussion.

UNDERSTANDING ALM & THE NEEDS OF BUSINESS OWNERS

Key concepts of Asset Liability Management (ALM) will be covered to give an appreciation of how client advisors can differentiate themselves by managing both sides of a client’s balance sheet i.e. assets and liabilities.

As entrepreneurs and business owners make up a high percentage of the new wealth today, participants will be taught to identify the profile, concerns and needs of such clients. Business expansion, working capital and the use of commercial lending to create solutions will be covered, with a focus on flexibility and unlocking the value of assets of the small business owners. A case study will be used to illustrate how to begin a conversation to uncover some of these needs.

UNDERSTANDING THE BENEFITS & RISKS OF CREDIT & LEVERAGE

A key competency for the HNW segment is the understanding and application of credit and leverage. Client advisors can differentiate themselves and add value to their relationships by combining investment solutions with appropriate credit and leverage strategies.

The use of credit by HNW clients such as cash and investment liquidity, currency and outright hedging and core satellite allocation will be discussed. Key concepts and practical considerations affecting collateral value and the risks of credit and leverage will be covered. The session will address triggers of margin calls and how to manage and monitor some of these risks proactively. There will be a practical case study on Universal Life Financing and how a client advisor can use this to benefit clients. In addition, there will be in-depth case studies to highlight some of the risks of leverage, such as amplified losses due to over-leveraging and the closing out of a margin call.

The transition across the wealth management continuum requires a shift from a product to a portfolio approach to managing wealth. The session focuses on the practical aspects of fixed income, funds and equity investing through the use of different types of instruments and a comparison of the various strategies for different client objectives. In equities, participants will learn to evaluate companies and distil key information from research reports. Lessons will also be drawn from the recent Global Financial and European debt crises and their impact on client portfolios.
Discretionary and advisory mandates are key services that differentiate private banking from all other wealth management platforms and the session aims to give an appreciation of this. HNW clients can choose their desired level of involvement in managing their investment portfolios. The differences between advisory and discretionary mandates, and the benefits of each will be addressed. In addition, the practical considerations of acquiring discretionary mandates and the different strategies will be discussed.

THE INVESTMENT PROCESS: PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT & ASSET ALLOCATION / BEHAVIOURAL FINANCE

The session covers a critical competency and mindset that the client advisor needs to embrace and apply: that for HNW clients, an in-depth knowledge of investment advisory and portfolio management is what differentiates and distinguishes a client advisor who is moving up the wealth management continuum.

An in-depth coverage of portfolio construction and management, the asset allocation process and strategy, risk management and knowing the client’s needs and constraints will enable participants to master and implement a disciplined investment process. In addition, participants will work on a case study to construct an investment portfolio based on different client objectives and constraints.

In Behavioural Finance, participants will be given a deeper appreciation of the psychology of investors and the subsequent effect on financial markets. Common behavioural patterns such as framing, mental mistakes, anchoring, representativeness, saliency and overconfidence can give rise to irrational decision making.

RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

ADVANCED SKILLS FOR CLIENT ACQUISITION: PROSPECTING, BUILDING CREDIBILITY & DEVELOPING OUR UNIQUE VALUE PROPOSITION

An understanding of client segmentation and how to use various approaches to target the different needs of these groups is the key to effective client acquisition. Identifying prospective clients and finding ways of building rapport and credibility are the cornerstone of any new relationship. This session will provide participants with a series of tools and techniques for projecting credibility and establishing trust with prospective HNW clients to uncover their needs. Participants will be guided on how to prepare for an initial client meeting through an understanding of their own unique value proposition.

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE PORTFOLIO THROUGH EFFECTIVE ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

The client advisor needs to manage his or her portfolio of clients to ensure it is sustainable. What percentage of the portfolio generates recurring versus effort based revenue? Is the client advisor recommending a diversified range of similar products? Critical account management skills such as developing an account plan, setting client KPIs, developing strategies for effective client coverage and managing opportunities will be shared, including strategies for deepening relationships and how to grow and build a mutually rewarding and sustainable trust-based relationship.

BRIDGING ELECTIVE

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS: PRIVATE EQUITY & HEDGE FUNDS

This session is an introduction to private equity concepts, the rationale for investing in private equity and private equity funds versus direct investing. In private equity funds, the types of funds, fund structure, importance of fund manager selection and key assessment criteria will be covered. In direct investments, participants will learn the value chain in a typical deal and deal evaluation criteria.

Participants will be introduced to the fundamentals of hedge funds structure in this session. They will gain a deeper understanding of the different types of hedge funds and strategies as well as risks and returns of hedge funds investing, investor profiles and lessons learnt from the past hedge fund crises.

APPLIED FINANCIAL MARKETS

This is a culmination of what has been learnt in the product and investment process sessions. The aim of this session is to ensure participants get an opportunity to apply and practise their new knowledge and skills in real life situations. Through the use of specially customised case studies, participants will learn how to assess concentration risks in sample client portfolios, as well as analyse gaps and risk sensitivities. In addition, based on client views, various market environment and news, participants are also expected to develop recommendations or adjust existing client portfolios for different levels of risk and return profiles.

ETHICS, COMPLIANCE & RISKS / CLIENT ONBOARDING

This session covers major legal, regulatory and ethical issues in the wealth management industry. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the different types of risks that client advisors face. These include cross border, market misconduct, Anti-Money Laundering / Counter-Financing of Terrorists (AML/CFT), information security, suitability and operational risks. Participants will also learn to identify the ‘red flags’ and to mitigate such risks.

With increased regulatory changes, client advisors need to demonstrate an understanding of the intent and implications of onboarding procedures. This session will focus on Know Your Client / Anti-Money Laundering (KYC/AML) procedures for client acceptance, as well as variations based on client situations including red flags such as politically exposed persons and other high risk clients. Variations based on different types of account structures will also be covered. Participants will be taken through “A Day in the Life of an RM” as the trainer goes through a typical day of a client advisor and the different ethical and situational dilemmas which he or she is confronted with.

DEALING WITH DIFFICULT CLIENT CONVERSATIONS

Whether it is issues relating to the performance of clients’ portfolios, the reputation of financial institutions, stability and security of assets placed with banks or pressures and restrictions imposed by regulatory authorities, all those responsible for managing client relationships are faced with the task of having difficult client conversations on a daily basis. The session will share the positive value which can be realised when a client advisor initiates and manages difficult client conversations well. Participants will be given techniques and examples on how this can be successfully done.

TOOLS IN A WEALTH PLANNER’S TOOLBOX: TRUST, TAX & ESTATE PLANNING

Each life stage of a client poses unique challenges and opportunities. Understanding this is key to designing wealth planning solutions which incorporate the client’s needs and values. Participants will learn how to engage clients and their families to help them attain their long term objectives of wealth preservation, inter-generational wealth transfer and succession planning. Participants will be taught how to identify their client’s latent wealth planning needs and to develop solutions through an in-depth coverage of topics such as inter-vivos gifts, wills, companies, trusts and foundations. Whatever the wealth planning solution, participants will gain relevant and practical insights on how they can be better positioned and differentiated from the competition, by adopting a more holistic approach to their clients’ needs. This session makes extensive use of real life case studies focusing on Asian families, to reinforce the application of wealth planning concepts and solutions.
PROGRAMME ASSESSMENT

Participants will be assessed to ensure they achieve the required learning outcomes. Upon successful completion of the programme and passing of all assessments, participants will be:

- eligible for the “IBF Advanced” certification status in the area of “Wealth Management - Relationship Management - Priority Banking” under the IBF Standards. The certified practitioner is entitled to use the qualification title “IBFA” and the following certification mark:

- eligible for CPD hours
- awarded the “WMI Advanced Wealth Management Programme - Affluent” Certificate
- awarded Statements of Attainment (SOAs)

Participants who complete the Bridging Elective and CACS Papers 1 and 2 will be:

- eligible for the “IBF Qualified” certification status in the area of “Wealth Management - Relationship Management - Private Banking” under the IBF Standards. The certified practitioner is entitled to use the qualification title “IBFQ” and the following certification mark:

- eligible for CPD hours
- awarded the “WMI Private Banking Wealth Management” Certificate
- awarded Statements of Attainment (SOAs)

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Professionals with at least 3 years of experience in the following positions:

- Relationship Managers and Service Relationship Managers in priority banking or in private client
- Financial Advisors and Independent Financial Advisors handling affluent or high net worth clients
- Product Managers/Specialists and Investment Consultants in consumer banking

This programme is eligible for funding under the IBF Standards Training Scheme (IBF-STS), subject to participants meeting all eligibility criteria.

HOW TO APPLY

Please download the application form available at www.wmi.ntu.edu.sg. Mail the completed form with the application fee and all required supporting documents to the Wealth Management Institute. Early application is encouraged.

WMI: YOUR PREFERRED TRAINING PARTNER

With the support of Temasek and GIC, WMI was established in 2003 to catalyse Singapore’s growth ambition as a premier international wealth management centre. In close collaboration with Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), the Institute of Banking & Finance (IBF) as well as the wealth management industry. Today, WMI is an autonomous institute at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. We are a practice-based education and research institute, with our programmes deeply integrated and aligned to serve the needs of the industry.

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This programme has been accredited by The Institute of Banking and Finance (IBF) under the IBF Standards.

www.ibf.org.sg