

DELEGATE INFORMATION PACK 2024

The Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA) is happy to hear that you are interested in the **Certified Investor Relations Officer (CIRO) Programme**. If you wish to finalise your registration, send an email to info@meira.me or to receive more information, contact us: +971 50 3839023.

THE PROGRAMME

The CIRO programme is an **internationally recognised certification programme** for the investor relations profession. In the Middle East, the programme is organised and delivered by the Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA), in partnership with the UK IR Society (UKIRS).

The **Certificate in Investor Relations** is regarded as a valuable benchmark for those already in the profession and an essential prerequisite for those seeking to work in the investor relations sector. With over 1,800 successful candidates from more than 25 countries, the Certificate in IR is firmly established as a leading IR qualification worldwide.

Obtaining the Certificate in IR:

- Provides international recognition as a qualified IR practitioner
- Demonstrates expertise and competence in your field
- Enhances career development

The CIRO programme is in two parts: **1-full-day online training session** and a **1-hour online Exam**. Once you attend the training and pass the Exam you will receive the **Certificate in Investor Relations**, approved by both UKIRS and MEIRA.

1. THE TRAINING

Content:

The delegates will cover the following areas with the trainer during the training course:

Introduction to Investor Relations

- The IR function
- The key roles of the IRO
- Internal and external audiences
- IR best practice

Financial Markets

- Global financial markets
- The major financial centres
- Investment styles of equity investors
- Debt investors and credit rating agencies
- ESG investing

Corporate entities and corporate governance

- Type, formation and legal operation of a company
- Principles of corporate governance

Market conduct

- Principles for the regulatory environment under which listed companies globally operate

Reporting

- Periodic statutory reporting requirements
- Non-financial disclosures

Accounting, valuation and investment principles

- Key accounting and valuation concepts

Effective IR in practice

- Practical tips for real world IR, including case studies

Trainer:

The trainer is Anne Guimard, FINEO, President.

Materials:

- A Study Guide. Note: You will not receive a printed copy of the Study Guide, only an electronic copy at registration;
- Course slides will be distributed at the end of the online training session;
- You will need a pen and a calculator for the training **and** the Exam.

Timing:

From 10 am to 1pm and from 2pm to 4 pm (UAE timing).

Both sessions are mandatory and each block will include smaller sessions of 45-60 minutes and breaks.

2. THE EXAM

The Exam takes 1 hour and consists of 60 multiple choice questions. **40 hours revision is recommended.** A passing score corresponds to a minimal acceptable level of 65%.

MEIRA highly recommend that you start studying before the training and use the training as a revision course for the Exam. As a revision aid, candidates can take an **online mock examination** which will help them assess whether they have grasped the key principles.

Candidates can take the **exam through our virtual platform**. Detailed instructions will be sent accordingly prior to the exam.

The Study Guide:

The Study Guide provides a comprehensive overview of the main subject areas that candidates will need to know in order to pass the examination. It is intended to support other learning sources such as courses and reading material. The Study Guide summarises the required knowledge for each subject area. Each section of the Study Guide will indicate sources of background reading for the candidate to broaden their knowledge.

Mock exam details:

The mock exam is available for the delegates to test their knowledge. This can be done as many times as you wish. The mock exam can be found at: <https://exam3.irsociety.org.uk/>. Your ID and Password will be communicated once your registration is completed fully.

When you log-on, you will need to input your Candidate ID and Password. The exam consists of 60 multiple choice questions which you have to answer in 60 minutes. Simply click on the answer that you think is correct and then move onto the next question. You are able to go back and change the answers to previous questions during the course of the exam. At the end of the exam you will be told your score and whether, on this performance you would have passed the real exam. At the end of the exam you will be given your score out of 60 and the correct answer to any questions that you have answered incorrectly.

In case you fail the CIRO Exam, a re-sit fee of USD70 will be charged every time you would like to re-sit the Exam. You can re-sit the Exam up to 4 times in 12 months period following your first Exam attempt.

Example of Exam question:

In a typical IR programme when would you normally expect to arrange meetings between management and investors?

- A) *Immediately after the announcement of results.*
- B) *Immediately prior to the announcement of results.*
- C) *30 days prior to the announcement of results.*
- D) *At any time of the year.*
- E) *Only during the 6 weeks after the announcement of results.*

3. THE CERTIFICATE

You will receive the results of the Exam 4 days after your Exam date. The results will be sent by email, indicating your score and if you have passed or failed.

If you pass the Exam, within a month you will receive your printed ***Certificate in Investor Relations***, issued by the UK IR Society and the Middle East IR Association, at the physical address you gave when you registered.

MATERIALS

Once your registration is **complete** you will receive:

1. The **Study Guide** by email. Please note that MEIRA will not provide a printed version of the Study Guide.
2. Your individual **mock exam login details**. In case you have not received your login details before the training, please contact us as soon as possible.
3. At the end of the online revision course, you will receive an electronic version of the slide deck.

CALENDAR

The Calendar of Training Courses & Exam information are available under the training section on our website - www.meira.me/training

CIRO Training sessions 2024:

- Available every month, please refer to our website to book your preferred date

PRICE LIST

CIRO training + Exam¹

- MEIRA Members - USD1,450 per candidate (+5% VAT as appropriate)
- MEIRA Non-Members – USD1,600 per candidate (+ VAT as appropriate)

¹ Register 2 or more candidates and enjoy 10% discount on the training

² If you are not yet a member of the Association, register now and enjoy immediate discount on the training rates

CIRO Exam re-sit fee

- If you fail the Exam, a re-sit fee of USD70 will be charged every time you would like to re-sit the Exam

Additional fees

- USD50 for posting and administrative fees (as appropriate).

REGISTRATION PROCESS

The process of taking the CIRO Programme is:

1. Register by sending an email to info@meira.me.
If you are registering other delegates, don't forget to mention the name and email address of each delegate.
2. Receive invoice and pay
3. Receive Study Guide and online mock exam login
4. Attend the training
5. Sit the Exam

The invoice can be settled until the day before the start of your training, by banking transfer, cheque, cash deposit on our bank account or credit card payment. No materials will be sent unless MEIRA receive the payment.

No delegate will be authorised to attend the training or sit the Exam if the payment is not received.

FAQs

Who should take the CIRO Programme?

The CIRO Programme is suitable for anyone working in investor relations or in related professions (IR/PR Consultants). It is also suitable for those considering a move into IR. The course content is comprehensive and covers most of what an IR practitioner would require. In any case, the CIRO body of material represents a useful guide and source of reference at all times.

Can I take the training without the Exam?

We highly encourage you to complete the programme, by doing both the training and the Exam. If you wish to do the training only and delay the date of your exam under exceptional circumstances, we would accept your registration and charge you only for the training but note that this is against best practice.

Can I sit the Exam without attending the training?

We will not accept any registration to the Exam without attending the training.

What are the demographic, experience and industry profiles of past candidates?

CIRO training have been held in the following countries/cities: Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha, Kuwait City, Muscat, Beirut and Riyadh. We also saw delegates from Jordan, Palestine, Bahrain, Russia and Egypt joining us.

Previous successful candidates have included:

- Experienced and senior IROs
- IR managers and associates
- Service providers and IR advisors across a wide range of IR-related services
- Public Relations Officers
- Company Secretarial Staff
- Directors
- Candidates new to investor relations
- Executive Assistants and Personal Assistants
- Heads of Business Development and other corporate functional areas, including Communications, Compliance, Finance, Human Resources, Operations, Sales and Strategy

How long does it take to study for the CIRO Exam?

Based on our experience we suggest that a minimum of 40 to 50 hours of self-study is required to prepare for the CIRO Exam. **We highly recommend to sit the exam only if you have studied the number of recommended hours and practiced the online mock exam multiple times.**

How long is the CIRO Exam?

The exam is a one-hour online exam comprising of 60 multiple choice questions based on the topics set out in the syllabus in the Study Guide.

What is the pass mark?

The pass mark is 65%.

How many candidates have obtained the certification?

In 2019, 38, in 2020, 25 in 2021, 17 delegates, in 2022, 44, and in 2023, 57 delegates passed the exam in the Middle East.

What are the success and failure rates?

On average, approximately 70% of candidates will pass the CIRO exam at the first attempt.

How do IR employers view someone with such a certification?

Employers and search firms that specialise in IR recruitment view the CIRO as a valuable industry benchmark which helps to ensure the competence and commitment of potential employees.

What are the areas that candidates typically find the most challenging?

The Regulatory Environment and Accounting, Valuation and Investment Principles are the two sections often cited as being the most challenging. The training is designed as revision course prior to each exam sitting, complemented by the online mock exam, which allows candidates to assess their own readiness to take the CIRO Exam.

What does the registration fee cover?

The fee covers the training and CIRO Exam, the study materials, the training course materials and all administration fees.

Once your registration fee has been received you will be sent your electronic Study Guide and login details for the online mock exam.

Is the certificate permanent?

Yes, it is. If needed, employers can contact MEIRA to verify your credentials anytime.