



ADVANCED CAMS-FCI

Invest in Your Financial Crime Investigative Skills

By obtaining the Advanced CAMS-Financial Crimes Investigations (CAMS-FCI) credential, professionals can strengthen their existing investigation skills and build on their ability to effectively communicate suspicious activity.

Advanced CAMS-FCI is a leading certification for anti-financial crime (AFC) investigators. It equips professionals with the knowledge to conduct complex financial crimes investigations that involve multifaceted money laundering schemes and advanced typologies.

With Advanced CAMS-FCI, professionals from financial institutions, governments, and law enforcement agencies can successfully detect, investigate, and report suspicious transactions and effectively communicate with law enforcement globally.

Now an Exam-Based Certification

Formerly an in-person course, Advanced CAMS-FCI is now an exam-based program. Candidates can prepare at a pace convenient to them and take the exam either virtually, via online proctoring, or in-person at selected test center locations.

Advanced CAMS-FCI course content:

Governance of an AFC Investigations Unit (20%)

Leading Complex Investigations (30%)

Financial Crime Typologies-Intermediate (30%)

Reporting Suspicious Activity (20%)

This certification is appropriate for those who:

- Work in a financial investigation unit
- Work as a law enforcement officer, regulator, or examiner
- Work in financial crime compliance and/or independent audit
- Supervise individuals who perform financial crime investigations
- Work as MLROs, BSA officers, or in any other role with high levels of responsibility for AML compliance programs
- Aid in the preparation of an institution for a regulatory examination
- Perform bank examinations from a regulatory perspective

Applicable job titles include:

- AML Officer or AML Risk Officer
- Financial Crimes Investigator
- Global Financial Crimes Investigator
- AFC/AML Manager or Team Lead
- Special Investigations Unit Investigator

Intended Audience

Who is Advanced CAMS-FCI for?

This certification is designed primarily and specifically for those who perform and/or supervise financial crime investigations within regulated institutions, or wish to do so. It is also appropriate for additional personnel where advanced knowledge of financial crime investigations is helpful.

Benefits for Professionals

Earning this certification should mean that, when combined with several years of investigation experience, a professional has the advanced knowledge necessary to lead, and/or manage others in leading, complex financial crime investigations in a global institution, and provide highly useful suspicious activity reports to law enforcement.

Completing Advanced CAMS-FCI enables professionals to:

- Demonstrate their level of efficiency and effectiveness while conducting investigations
- Effectively communicate and share useful information
- Reach new professional heights



Benefits for Organizations

For organizations, Advanced CAMS-FCI will fulfill increasing regulatory expectations to ensure that your AFC investigators are properly trained. It will arm your investigators with the expertise to identify threats from money laundering, terrorist financing, and other illicit financial crime, including the corresponding transaction activity that may intersect with your institution's risk profile.

Certifying your AML investigation team with Advanced CAMS-FCI will enable your institution to:

- Demonstrate a highly qualified AML investigation team, able to work around advanced financial crime typologies and red flags to minimize your organization's exposure
- Build an AML program aligned with law enforcement priorities in a complex ecosystem of transnational criminal organizations and terrorist networks



Advanced CAMS-FCI FAQs

Who is eligible?

To apply, candidates must have previously passed the CAMS exam. It is recommended that candidates have a minimum of five years of previous experience in financial crime investigations or related roles.

How do I get certified?



What is the exam like?

The exam consists of 90 questions (including multiple choice, multiple selection, and scenario questions). Candidates have 175 minutes to complete the exam. The passing score to obtain the CAMS-FCI designation is 75.

In what languages is the exam available?

The Advanced CAMS-FCI exam and study materials are currently available in English.

Will I need to recertify my designation?

Advanced CAMS professionals are required to recertify every three years, to demonstrate continuing professional education. The Advanced CAMS recertification process will replace your previous CAMS recertification process. Those holding more than one Advanced CAMS designation only need to recertify their most recent designation.

Where do I apply and purchase my exam package?

Apply for the certification and purchase your exam package online at acams.org/cams-fci. You can also [contact us](#) or contact your account manager, and we'll gladly assist you.

Certification Package and Pricing

For group discounts, [request a consultation](#).

The certification package includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Study guide (PDF)- Online Study Materials (online courses, review questions)- Practice exam- Certification exam	Private sector: US\$2,195
	Public sector: US\$1,695
Virtual Classroom Series (Add-On) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Save up to US\$195 when bundled with the Certification Package!	Add-On US\$595

CAMS-FCI Blueprint Statements

A. Governance of an AFC Investigations Unit (20%)

- A1.** Knowledge of how the FCI program is set up (e.g., governance structure) and how the different elements (monitoring, investigation reporting, quality control, filing, escalations) of the program work together
- A2.** Knowledge of how an institution determines/ categorizes its financial crime risk (e.g., types of risk, national priorities, risk assessment, threat assessment, risk appetite, products/channels/ customers/geographies)
- A3.** Knowledge of differences in risks and corresponding processes of investigations (e.g., client vs. internal personnel, or insider vs. law enforcement investigation of the financial institution), determining who should participate in different types of investigations
- A4.** Ability to make risk-based decisions (e.g., how tuning impacts risk, program feed, allocating resources/time of investigators)
- A5.** Ability to assess different relationship actions (e.g., keep/exit client, hold transactions, freeze account, monitor and prepare further SAR/ STRs, update know your client (KYC) and customer due diligence (CDD), change client risk rating) and make an effective argument for taking client relationship actions in terms of risk to the institution; e.g., client relationship decisions have to go through financial institution (FI) governance, so present the case to the board or risk committee to understand the risk the case presents)
- A6.** Knowledge of the processes and tools used in customer profiling and transaction monitoring (e.g., processes like setting thresholds, tuning, risk scoring of customers, integrating systems, etc.; tools monitoring transactions, screening customers, gathering adverse media tools, etc.)
- A7.** Knowledge of which metrics are used to measure risks and controls and ability to evaluate which metrics are necessary to measure effectiveness of financial crime investigations program effectiveness, and how those should be communicated to the board or senior management (e.g., metrics for board reporting).
- A8.** Ability to identify gaps in the monitoring controls that elevate risks (e.g., identifying a new pattern of suspicious activity that is not flagged by the monitoring system and suggesting new controls related to the pattern)
- A9.** Ability to provide expert level recommendations that help financial institutions determine how to deal with particular clients, products, services, and/or geographies to mitigate ML risk (e.g., identifying and reporting trends in SARs indicating gaps in controls)
- A10.** Ability to build investigative procedures, and judge the quality of existing processes and reports in light of policies, procedures, and guidelines (e.g., review of process, quality control of process in retrospect)
- A11.** Knowledge of legal context established by laws and regulations in different jurisdictions and for different regulated entities (e.g., laws and regulations related to transaction monitoring)
- A12.** Knowledge of boundaries of obligations between FI, financial intelligence unit (FIU), law enforcement, and regulatory examiners (e.g., FI's responsibility is to identify suspicious activity and make decisions about customer; FIU's responsibility is to filter through the SARs to pass to law enforcement; law enforcement's responsibility is to determine how to make a prosecuting case)
- A13.** Knowledge of the kinds of law enforcement requests made to financial institutions (e.g., getting information, warrants, freezing accounts, unexplained wealth orders, etc.)
- A14.** Knowledge of how FIs address law enforcement requests throughout the course of the investigation (e.g., fulfilling requests while maintaining client privacy, coordinating during steps in law enforcement investigations)
- A15.** Knowledge of private-public partnerships and information sharing and how they work (e.g., 314 a and b in the US, informal/formal partnerships, other countries)
- A16.** Ability to adjust investigator training programs to institutional specifics, roles, new financial crime risks (e.g., new products, new risks, national priorities, etc.), and identified knowledge and skill gaps

B. Leading Complex Investigations (30%)

- B1.** Knowledge of when a criminal investigation needs to be escalated because of sensitivity (e.g., investigations into internal staff, politically exposed persons (PEPs)) or complexity
- B2.** Ability to craft relevant information-gathering strategies from subject or client to support an investigation (e.g., developing questions and approach for relationship managers, conducting probe without tipping off, submitting request for information (RFI))
- B3.** Knowledge of privacy rules and regulations in the given jurisdiction (e.g., sharing information with legal entities within institution, external legal entities, customers, or law enforcement)
- B4.** Ability to retain comprehensive investigation files to document and support investigative decisions (e.g., notes on investigations into unusual activity, enriching the KYC file on the customer to reflect new understanding about client's business, decision making process about data points, supporting documentation obtained, sources used, and exception to the investigation process)
- B5.** Ability to identify which data and resources are available for particular investigations (e.g., internal sources like KYC file, existing transaction history, history in other parts of the business/ other types of accounts; external sources like ultimate beneficial owner (UBO) registers, customer's source of wealth/source of funds, RFI process, customer contact [without tipping off], customer's business website, Google Earth, staff visit to business premises, public/ court records, PEP public records, company ownership records, international holdings)
- B6.** Ability to communicate effectively across function and cultures (for cross-border investigations) (e.g., how to access information differentially across jurisdictions, knowledge about different jurisdiction risks/reliability of information, knowledge about protocols for data gathering in jurisdictions, knowledge of how to match names/information in different jurisdictions, knowledge of local law enforcement and regulatory agencies, knowledge of specialists in the locale, knowledge of when to bring in specialists, knowledge of jurisdictions with extra complexity, knowledge of how jurisdictions regulate different recreational activities (e.g. marijuana, gaming, adult industry))
- B7.** Ability to evaluate and scope an investigation plan using initial data and a risk-based approach (e.g., determine gaps in data, assess which data gaps are relevant)

- B8.** Ability to assess the information to differentiate between unusual, suspicious, and/or unknown behavior, and identify the knowledge/information gaps required to make a determination (e.g., identify unusual transactions and determine whether it should be considered suspicious, following activity and relationships within and across institutions)
- B9.** Knowledge of how large databases are used to distill patterns into clear and concise conclusions
- B10.** Ability to use analytical software to provide data and visualizations to understand investigation (e.g., network analysis, complex company structures, payment message analysis, wire stripping, transaction monitoring, business account reviews, previous SARs)
- B11.** Ability to assess reliability of information and sources as part of the investigation process (e.g., internal sources like KYC file, existing transaction history, history in other parts of the business/other types of accounts; external sources like UBO registers, customer's source of wealth/source of funds, RFI process, customer contact [without tipping off], customer's business website, Google Earth, staff visit to business premises, public/court records, PEP public records, company ownership records, international holdings)
- B12.** Ability to search for additional or different information that is beyond the standard investigative sources to strengthen the understanding and conclusion of the underlying transaction activity (e.g., basic to complex open-source research, working across siloes within an institution)
- B13.** Ability to evaluate whether to continue or conclude on an investigation (e.g., evaluate decision in light of risk to institution, constraints to continuing investigation, coming to a conclusion about the investigation)
- B14.** Ability to see the possibility of more complex or sophisticated financial crime scheme in a pattern of transactions (e.g., receive alert and gather data and can see possibilities of larger ML schemes)
- B15.** Knowledge of the difference between a client-related investigation, internal investigation of an insider of the institution, and a law enforcement investigation of the financial institution (e.g., sensitivities of different investigations, differences in thresholds of evidence, differences in focus (obligations to institution vs. law enforcement requirements))

C. Financial Crime Typologies - Intermediate (30%)

- C1. Knowledge of how high-risk, complex products and services (correspondent banking, trusts, private banking, wealth management, etc.) can be used to launder illicit proceeds or exploited
- C2. Knowledge of how high-risk customers/ businesses (e.g., gatekeepers, corporations with complex structures, designated nonfinancial businesses and professions (DNFBPs), money service businesses (MSBs), trust company service providers, cash-intensive businesses) misuse legal entities/persons to launder illicit proceeds or evade taxes
- C3. Knowledge of bribery and corruption typologies (e.g., layers of complex shell companies, PEPs, offshore accounts)
- C4. Knowledge of predicate crimes for money laundering (e.g., terrorism, fraud, cyber-crime, human trafficking, tax evasion, narcotics trafficking, corruption, etc.)
- C5. Knowledge of financing techniques for proliferation, weapons of mass destruction (WMD) (e.g., WMD supply chain; methods of exploiting business for WMD; funding methods for obtaining WMD materials/evading sanctions; types of banking products, services, geographics, or customer base exploited for proliferation financing)
- C6. Knowledge of terrorism financing through FIs, MSBs, virtual asset service providers (VASPs) (e.g., financing methods terrorists use – crowd funding, payment flows tied to digital assets; basic understanding of terrorist ideologies and corresponding methods of financing; techniques to exploit non-governmental or non-profit organizations to access funds and humanitarian efforts)
- C7. Knowledge of cyber-related financial crimes (e.g., identifying red flags indicating preparation for cyber heists, business email compromise, identifying proceeds tied to Ransomware payment, key sectors targeted for Ransomware, tracing ransomware payments/interdiction of virtual currency (mixers/tumblers), methods used to rapidly move funds through cyber controlled accounts)
- C8. Knowledge of transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) and transnational drug-trafficking organizations (TDOs) (e.g., trade-based money laundering payment flows to TCO/TDO, nexus between TCOs/TDOs and other crimes, payment flows from Mexican TDOs to Chinese citizens in US, payment flows tied to fentanyl, major cartel financing methods, narcotics routes in Europe, opiate routes from Afghanistan through Iran, Turkey into Europe, etc.)

- C9. Knowledge of human trafficking typologies

- C10. Knowledge of environmental crime typologies (e.g., wildlife trafficking)

- C11. Knowledge of how criminals leverage online marketplaces, social media, and gaming platforms to launder money

D. Reporting Suspicious Activity (20%)

- D1. Knowledge of the SAR/STR process for law enforcement

- D2. Ability to determine what is necessary and unnecessary to include in the narrative of a SAR/STR

- D3. Ability to convey financial industry knowledge to law enforcement in a digestible way (e.g., simplify complex data, describe what is normal and what is unusual, describe bank products and their use)

- D4. Ability to clearly convey the bottom line of the financial crime investigation in the SAR (e.g., reader should know what bank is uncomfortable with, what remains unknown)

- D5. Ability to differentiate facts from analysis from judgment (e.g., facts as relevant, explicit information, analysis as identifying connections between data points, judgment as conclusions drawn from facts and analysis)

- D6. Ability to chronologically relate the financial crime narrative from various perspectives (e.g., transactions, customer history, customer shared information)

- D7. Ability to communicate the meaning of complex data sets

- D8. Ability to evaluate and improve a SAR for its quality of usefulness to law enforcement (e.g., review SARs to see whether they include the appropriate approach and consideration)

- D9. Ability to apply different jurisdictional laws and regulations to decision-making process for SAR-filing (e.g., initial filing and repeat filing (affirmative obligation to review after a certain amount of time))

- D10. Ability to write standards for filling out SARs (e.g., guide for best practices in writing a SAR)