

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	MSc Finance
2	Course Code	PT1500
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	

6	Course Description
	<p>With an array of contradictory information, the financial world and the capital markets specialists provide critical and innovative analysis of business and financial data to make short and long-term financial decisions. Thus at postgraduate level the study must be integrative, blending economic, mathematical and financial theory with analytical approaches to solve complex problems and implement solutions. Finance must also be treated as international in context to ensure its relevance in the global economy.</p> <p>The MSc Finance degree at Birmingham City University represents an ideal choice if you wish to pursue a career in financial institutions, private equity or corporate financial management. The course is designed to ensure you gain a well-balanced understanding of modern finance theories and apply your knowledge to practical case studies throughout your learning journey. You will gain a strong command of analytical techniques, computing and research methods for problem solving and develop confidence in the use and presentation of finance arguments in your professional role. The course will give you the core knowledge, skills and confidence necessary to sift through diverse and often complex information, derived nationally and internationally, to make key decisions.</p> <p>What's covered in the course?</p> <p>In the first stage, you will focus on examining the role of risk management in investment decisions and the need for ethical and regulatory frameworks governing finance. You will also focus on developing a deeper and systematic understanding on how corporate and financial markets work around the world.</p> <p>During the second stage, you will acquire the quantitative skills to analyse and interpret data. You will have a solid understanding on advanced financial strategy and the applications. The necessary analytical, quantitative, communication, and information technology skills will be developed in a process that is expected to enable you to apply those skills in real-life situations by modelling economic relations, and by interpreting finance theories, decisions and business behavior.</p> <p>The final core Research Skills and Dissertation module will strengthen your research skills and apply your developed analytical and numeracy skills, and contribute to providing efficient and effective solutions to business problems.</p> <p>To help you develop the skills that leading employers ask for, and let you see how traders work, we can access Thomson Reuters Eikon in our <i>iCITY Trading</i> room. Moreover, the course also enables you to be confident in the application of industry-specific skills, for example, with the use of platforms such as DataStream with problem-solving approaches having been exposed to</p>

	<p>real-life scenarios through industry guest-speaker workshops. These skills enrich your experience and provide an added advantage in your endeavors to pursue their future professional careers in a highly competitive industry.</p> <p>Based at the University's new campus in the UK's second city, you will live and study in a vibrant environment and engage with local, national and international businesses. You will be taught by highly-qualified, research-active academics with industrial and professional experience.</p>
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Master of Science Finance	Level 7	180
	Master of Science Finance with Professional Placement	Level 7	240
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Postgraduate Certificate Finance	Level 7	60
	Postgraduate Diploma Finance	Level 7	120

8	Derogation from the University Regulations		
	None		

9	Delivery Patterns		
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study
	Full Time	City Centre	1 year
	Full Time with Professional Placement	City Centre (and placement provider)	18 months
			Code(s)
			PT1500
			PT1502

10	Entry Requirements		
	The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/ .		

11	Course Aims
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pursuing Excellence. You will study modules that are designed to meet the high standards set by the professional finance bodies and by the UK Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. 2. Practice-led, knowledge-applied. Your course will prepare and equip you for a career as a financial analyst, financial manager or investment banker by relating your studies to the latest research led developments in business. Your studies will make use of the latest business software applications that will provide you with opportunities to gain experience and develop skills relevant to the work place. 3. Interdisciplinary. You will study on a course within a department that is part of a larger Business School. You will cover a range of investment disciplines and supporting practices on your course and you'll have to consider their interrelationship for both internal and external stakeholders in the decisions you make and the advice you provide. 4. Employability-driven. Your course will provide you with an opportunity to apply your developing knowledge and skills in workplace scenarios. You'll work on real world case studies acting in postgraduate level roles gaining experience of the workplace environment. The University Careers and Employability team will support you throughout your studies with the aim of enhancing your employability prospects on graduating. Therefore, you will also have the opportunity to gain industry experience by going on a professional placement. 5. Internationalisation. Your course will consider the study of finance from an international perspective and equip you for a career in multinational business.

12	Course Learning Outcomes
<i>Knowledge and Understanding</i>	
1	Apply knowledge and understanding of advanced theories, concepts and methods to the interdisciplinary challenges of financial management practice.
2	Critically examining the distinctive features of financial institutions, international financial markets and evaluate why the performance of the financial system is relevant to the rest of the global economy.
3	Critically evaluate how uncertainty affects finance decisions; explore managers risk attitudes, to appreciate the level at which risk can be viewed.
4	Competently collect, use, validate and interpret data effectively utilising appropriate software packages, carry out econometric tests on financial models.
5	Critically evaluate the relationship between various finance concepts such as risk and return, the impact of national and international contracts and the need for strong corporate governance, regulatory frameworks and financial market regulations.
6	Critically analyse, interpret and evaluate information within in a limited range of the topics covered in the areas of finance by reviewing the relevant literature.
7	Determine a systematic understanding of key areas in capital market theory, corporate finance, and risk control in international context.
8	Employ advanced quantitative methodologies undertake in-depth research into complex and specialist areas and arrive at conclusions that are presented in a clear, concise and professional manner.
<i>Skills and other Attributes</i>	
9	Critical evaluation of arguments and evidence.
10	Independent and self-managed learning.
11	Analysis, filtering and evaluation of data, drawing reasoned conclusions concerning structured and, to a more limited extent, unstructured problems from a given set of data and from data acquired by the student.
12	Location, extraction and analysis of data from multiple sources, including acknowledging and referencing of sources.

13	Numeracy, including the processing and analysis of financial and other numerical data and the appreciation of statistical concepts at an appropriate level.
14	Using contemporary information and communications technology for the acquisition, analysis and communication of financial information.
15	Communication, including presenting quantitative and qualitative information, together with analysis, argument and commentary, in a form appropriate to the intended audience, and oral as well as written presentation.
16	Working with others (such as through small group projects).

13	Level Learning Outcomes
	<i>Award holders of the PG certificate stage will be able to:</i>
17	Apply knowledge of theoretical tools and advance theories of finance, their relevance and application for investment, financing transactions, and risk management and different corporate governance and ethical practices.
18	Exhibit ability to apply some mathematical techniques to solve a range of financial and risk evaluation problems.
	<i>In addition to level LOs 17-18, award holders of the PG diploma stage, students will be able to:</i>
19	Competently collect, use, validate and interpret data effectively utilising appropriate software packages, carry out econometric tests on financial models.
20	Critically examining the distinctive features of financial institutions, international financial markets and evaluate why the performance of the financial system is relevant to the rest of the global economy.
21	Critically evaluate the relationship between various finance concepts such as risk and return, the impact of national and international contracts and the need for strong corporate governance, regulatory frameworks and financial market regulations.
	<i>In addition to level LOs 17-21, award holders of the Master's Degree, students will be able to:</i>
22	Critically analyse, interpret and evaluate information within in a limited range of the topics covered in the areas of finance by reviewing the relevant literature.
23	Employ advanced quantitative methodologies undertake in-depth research into complex and specialist areas and arrive at conclusions that are presented in a clear, concise and professional manner.
	<i>In addition to level LOs 17-23, of the Master's Degree with Professional Placement, students will be able to:</i>
24	Reflect on your current skills, behaviours and attitudes within a professional environment and how you applied these graduate attributes within your placement setting.
25	Critically evaluate how you further developed your professional skillset during the placement and evidence how you have applied these new graduate attributes within your placement setting.
26	Explain corporate social responsibility and sustainable development issues in relation to placement organisation.
27	Communicate your placement learning experience to others via a poster submission or reflective artefact.

14	Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
	<p>A variety of different methods of teaching delivery will be used. Small (typically around 25) and larger group (typically around 50) learning environments are used to deliver different levels of material and interactions. Typically, classes consist of some delivery some reflection and some exercises worked in class. These may involve full class participation via teamwork or they may require individual work.</p> <p>Before and/or after a session students will have the opportunity to interact via discussion forums on individual topics.</p> <p>We use the Moodle Virtual Learning Environment extensively on the Course so that online learning materials will be available to support learning sessions in class and independent learning. Your independent learning will be supported by online quizzes as well as by direction to more conventional resources such as e-books and research papers available electronically via the Library webpage.</p> <p>Assessment will comprise of several types:</p> <p>Examination or Test – these are used to assess your ability to perform critical analysis of situations from finance and investment point of view under time constraints.</p> <p>Assignments/coursework/reports – these allow you the opportunity to demonstrate how deep and critical your appreciation of the subjects is. You are given the chance to use independent learning to complement what has been delivered in class.</p>

15	Course Requirements																																									
15a	<p>Level 7:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 160 credits):</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FIN7026</td> <td>Advanced Corporate Finance</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FIN7021</td> <td>Strategic Risk Management</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FIN7045</td> <td>Financial Institutions and Regulation</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FIN7054</td> <td>Advanced Financial Theories</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FIN7051</td> <td>Applied Financial Econometrics</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BUS7XXX</td> <td>Business and Management Research Project</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FIN7022</td> <td>Behavioural Finance</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FIN7017</td> <td>Investigating Finance Practice</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FIN7048</td> <td>Entrepreneurial Finance</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Level 6:</p> <p><i>In order to qualify for the award of MSc Finance with Professional Placement, a student must successfully complete 180 credits of the Level 7 modules listed above as well as the following Level 6 module:</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PLA6001</td> <td>Professional Placement</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	FIN7026	Advanced Corporate Finance	20	FIN7021	Strategic Risk Management	20	FIN7045	Financial Institutions and Regulation	20	FIN7054	Advanced Financial Theories	20	FIN7051	Applied Financial Econometrics	20	BUS7XXX	Business and Management Research Project	60	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	FIN7022	Behavioural Finance	20	FIN7017	Investigating Finance Practice	20	FIN7048	Entrepreneurial Finance	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	PLA6001	Professional Placement	60
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15b Structure Diagram

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

Include a structure diagram for each mode of study. Level 4 is completed as an example including modules which extend the whole year.

Level 7: September intake

SEMESTER ONE: Certificate Stage	SEMESTER TWO: Diploma Stage
Core FIN7026: Advanced Corporate Finance (20 credits) FIN7021: Strategic Risk Management (20 credits) FIN7045: Financial Institutions and Regulation (20 credits)	Core FIN7051: Applied Financial Econometrics (20 credits) FIN7054: Advanced Financial Theories (20 credits)
	Optional FIN7048 Entrepreneurial Finance (20 credits) FIN7022: Behavioural Finance (20 credits) FIN7017: Investigating Finance Practice (20 credits)
Semester THREE: Masters Stage Core BUS7XXX Business and Management Research Project (60 credits)	

With Professional Placement
Year 2

Semester One PLA6001: Professional Placement (60 credits)

16 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Delete years where applicable.

Level 7

Workload

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	336
Directed Learning	380
Private Study	-1084
Total Hours	1800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	84%
Exam	12%
In-Person	4%