

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	MSc International Finance
2	Course Code	PT1508
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>This course aims to provide you with a comprehensive program of study of international finance, providing you with the knowledge and professional skills including digital skills to develop a career in banking or another financial institution dealing with international operations. You will develop a broad vision and understanding of the changing role and nature of finance within the context of a global marketplace. You will become competent in dealing with international investment and financing transactions, international payments and exchange rates. In addition to traditional areas of international finance, the course will provide skills in areas including responses to international financial crises and cryptocurrencies. This course is offered for local as well as international students.</p> <p>Birmingham City University is a modern practically-oriented and students-oriented university that was recently ranked 7th in employability rankings. You will be taught by highly-qualified academics with industrial and professional experience and actively involved in research.</p> <p>What's covered in the course?</p> <p>In Semester 1 (Certificate stage) you will take Financial Institutions and Regulation, Advanced Corporate Finance and Strategic Risk Management. In these modules, you will receive an overview of financial institutions, financial markets and their regulation and develop your skills in financial analysis related to different types of business decisions and operations.</p> <p>In Semester 2 (Diploma stage) you will take Global Finance and International Payments, Digital Banking and Cryptocurrencies. These modules will provide you with in-depth knowledge of international financial markets and operations, exchange rates determination and international payments as well as develop your skills in digital banking and cryptocurrencies. You will also select among optional modules available based on your interest. The rationale for optional modules is based on our vision on supporting students be successful in an international finance career.</p> <p>In Semester 3 (Masters stage) you will develop advanced research skills and work on your dissertation, which will involve an in-depth exploration of both the theory and practice of international finance using primary research.</p> <p>The international focus of the course is derived through a variety of means including the student body, the teaching team and the use of international teaching materials. 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, and with problem-solving approaches having been exposed to real-life scenarios through industry guest-speaker workshops.</p>

	<p>To help you develop the skills that leading employers ask for, and let you see how traders/ forex traders work, we can access Thomson Reuters Eikon in our <i>iCITY Trading</i> room.</p> <p>Moreover, you'll also have the opportunity to gain industry experience by going on a professional placement. Whatever route you choose, the knowledge attained from the course will help you to seek a variety of employment in the sector nationally and internationally.</p>
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Masters of Science in International Finance	7	180
	Masters of Science in International Finance with Professional Placement	7	240
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Postgraduate Diploma in International Finance	7	120
	Postgraduate Certificate in International Finance	7	60

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)
			PT1508
			PT1510

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		
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	<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 fund manager, financial analyst, investment banker or financial manager 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 financial 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. The course will help you to prepare for a career in a local or international firm/bank dealing with international business and finance.
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12	Course Learning Outcomes
	<i>Knowledge and Understanding</i>
1	Appraise the nature of the contexts in which international financial institutions and businesses can be seen as operating and functioning in the international markets.
2	Knowledge of the major theoretical tools and theories of international finance, their relevance and application for international investment, financing transactions, international payments and exchange rates.
3	Critically analyse and establish the relationship between international finance theory and empirical testing of the available data.
4	Critically investigate the financing arrangements, governance mechanisms and structures of business entities in an international context.
5	Critically analyse the factors influencing the financial behaviour and opportunities of private individuals or global investors in an international context.
6	Exhibit ability to apply advanced financial decision making, mathematical and econometric techniques including digital skills to solve a range of international financial problems.
7	Evaluate international finance activities in the economy, and the factors that are changing these activities over time.
8	Exhibit knowledge of different corporate governance standards and ethical practices.
	<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, and 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 mathematical techniques to solve a range of international corporate financial problems.
	<i>In addition to level LOs 17-18, award holders of the PG diploma stage, students will be able to:</i>
19	Elucidate critical awareness of theories and concepts of international finance, their relevance and application for international investment, financing transactions, international payments and exchange rates.
20	Critically analyse the factors influencing the financial behaviour, governance mechanism and opportunities of private individuals/ business entities or global investors in an international context.
21	Exhibit ability to apply advanced financial decision making, mathematical and econometric techniques including digital skills to solve a range of international financial problems.
22	Solve complex problems and make decisions in ambiguous and uncertain international business and finance environments.
	<i>In addition to level LOs 17-22, award holders of the Master's Degree, students will be able to:</i>
23	Critically analyse and establish the relationship between international finance theories and empirical testing of the available data.
24	Exhibit essential skills in qualitative and quantitative research collecting, validating and interpreting data effectively utilising appropriate methodologies.
	<i>In addition to level LOs 17-24, of the Master's Degree with Professional Placement, students will be able to:</i>
25	Reflect on your current skills, behaviours and attitudes within a professional environment and how you applied these graduate attributes within your placement setting.
26	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.
27	Explain corporate social responsibility and sustainable development issues in relation to placement organisation.
28	Communicate your placement learning experience to others via a poster submission or reflective artefact.

14	Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
	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 team work or they may

require individual work. Before and/or after a session students will have the opportunity to interact via discussion forums on individual topics.

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.

Assessment will comprise of several types:

Examination or Test – these are used to assess your ability to perform analysis and also make critical analysis of situations from international finance point of view under time constraints.

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.

15	Course Requirements
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15a Level 7:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following core modules (totalling 160 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
FIN7021	Strategic Risk Management	20
FIN7052	Global Finance	20
FIN7026	Advanced Corporate Finance	20
FIN7045	Financial Institutions and Regulation	20
FIN7041	International Payments, Digital Banking and Cryptocurrencies	20
FIN7044	Research Skills and Dissertation/Project	60

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules:

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
MAN7062	Security Analysis and Management	20
FIN7017	Investigating Finance Practice	20
FIN7043	Islamic Social Finance	20

Level 6:

In order to qualify for the award of MSc International 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:

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PLA6001	Professional Placement	60

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	SEMESTER TWO
Core FIN7026: Advanced Corporate Finance (20 credits) FIN7021: Strategic Risk Management (20 credits) FIN7045: Financial Institutions and Regulation (20 credits)	Core FIN7052: Global Finance (20 credits) FIN7041: International Payments, Digital Banking and Cryptocurrencies (20 credits)
	Optional FIN7017: Investigating Financial Practice (20 credits) MAN7062: Security Analysis and Portfolio Management (20 credits) FIN7043: Islamic Social Finance (20 Credits)
Semester THREE Core FIN7044: Research Skills and Dissertation/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

Activities	Hours
Scheduled Learning (SL)	324
Directed Learning (DL)	540
Private Study (PS)	936
Total Study Hours:	1800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	75%
Exam	16%
In-person	9%