

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	MSc Banking and Finance
2	Course Code	PT1512
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>In this course you will learn how to analyse risk and make credit decisions, how to deal with small and large business firms, how to manage a bank treasury operations etc. In addition to traditional banking skills, the course will provide skills in areas, which have become very popular in recent years such as digital banking, cryptocurrencies, initial coin offerings, etc. The main part of all modules including the assessment will be based on real-life case studies and exercises. Staff involved in designing this course have significant practical experience of working in these areas. The proposed content of the course will be related to those offered by Chartered Banker Institute (CBI) helping students to gain Advanced Diploma in Banking and Leadership in Digital Age or Professional Banker Certificate. This course prepares you for such positions as credit and loan officer, financial advisor, risk manager, treasury specialist, underwriter etc.</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. MSc Banking and Finance is the second most popular Master's program in finance in the UK according to ABS data. The banking sector is one of the most successful and one of the most stable sectors in the UK and England. The banking sector has also been strongly growing in Birmingham in recent years with some banks moving their headquarters from London including HSBC.</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 Commercial and Investment Banking and Credit Risk and Lending Strategy. These modules will provide you with in-depth knowledge of asset-liability management of financial companies, banking business and operations, as well as develop your skills in financial risk management including credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk. 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 a finance or banking 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>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>
--	---

7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Masters of Science in Banking and Finance	7	180
	Masters of Science in Banking and Finance with Professional Placement	7	240
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Postgraduate Diploma in Banking and Finance	7	120
	Postgraduate Certificate in Banking and 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)
			PT1512
			PT1514

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 credit analyst, investment banker, financial advisor or financial manager by relating your studies to the latest research led developments in finance and banking. 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 banking and finance from an international perspective and get a knowledge of different financial systems and different types of financial institutions and banks existing in different parts of the world.
--	---

12	Course Learning Outcomes
	<i>Knowledge and Understanding</i>
1	Appraise the nature of the contexts in which financial institutions and businesses can be seen as operating and functioning in the financial markets.
2	Knowledge of the major theoretical tools and theories of finance and banking, their relevance and application for investment, financing transactions and risk management
3	Critically analyse and establish the relationship between finance and banking theory and empirical testing of the available data.
4	Critically investigate the financing arrangements, governance mechanisms and structures of business entities and the role of banks in developing these arrangements.
5	Critically analyse the factors influencing the financial behaviour and opportunities of private individuals with regard to banking transactions.
6	Exhibit ability to apply advanced financial and banking decision making, mathematical and econometric techniques including digital skills to solve a range of financial and banking problems.
7	Assess the role, functions and financial performance of different types of banks
8	Critically evaluate the processes of credit granting, credit monitoring and credit risk management.
9	Exhibit knowledge of different corporate governance standards and ethical practices in finance industry and banking.

Skills and other Attributes

10	Critical evaluation of arguments and evidence.
11	Independent and self-managed learning.
12	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.
13	Location, extraction and analysis of data from multiple sources, including acknowledging and referencing of sources.

14	Numeracy, including the processing and analysis of financial and other numerical data and the appreciation of statistical concepts at an appropriate level.
15	Using contemporary information and communications technology for the acquisition, analysis and communication of financial information.
16	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.
17	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>
18	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.
19	Exhibit ability to apply some mathematical techniques to solve a range of financial and banking problems.
	<i>In addition to level LOs 18-19, award holders of the PG diploma stage, students will be able to:</i>
20	Elucidate critical awareness of theories and concepts of finance and banking, their relevance and application for investment, financing transactions and risk management.
21	Critically investigate the financing arrangements, governance mechanisms and structures of business entities and the role of banks in developing these arrangements.
22	Critically analyse the factors influencing the financial behaviour and opportunities of private individuals with regard to banking transactions.
23	Exhibit ability to apply advanced financial and banking decision making, mathematical and econometric techniques including digital skills to solve a range of financial and banking problems.
24	Critically evaluate the processes of credit granting, credit monitoring and credit risk management.
	<i>In addition to level LOs 18-24, award holders of the Master's Degree, students will be able to:</i>
25	Critically analyse and establish the relationship between finance and banking theory and empirical testing of the available data.
26	Exhibit essential skills in qualitative and quantitative research collecting, validating and interpreting data effectively utilising appropriate methodologies.
	<i>In addition to level LOs 18-26, of the Master's Degree with Professional Placement, students will be able to:</i>
27	Reflect on your current skills, behaviours and attitudes within a professional environment and how you applied these graduate attributes within your placement setting.
28	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.
29	Explain corporate social responsibility and sustainable development issues in relation to placement organisation.
30	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 banking and/or 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 of what has been delivered in class.

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
FIN7047	Commercial and Investment Banking	20
FIN7026	Advanced Corporate Finance	20
FIN7045	Financial Institutions and Regulation	20
FIN7053	Credit Risk and Lending Strategy	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
FIN7041	International Payments, Digital Banking and Cryptocurrencies	20
FIN7017	Investigating Finance Practice	20
FIN7056	Crowdfunding, Private Equity and Venture Capital	20

Level 6:

In order to qualify for the award of MSc Banking and 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: Certificate Stage	SEMESTER TWO
Core FIN7026: Advanced Corporate Finance (20 credits) FIN7021: Strategic Risk Management (20 credits) FIN7045: Financial Institutions and Regulation (20 credits)	Core FIN7047 Commercial and Investment Banking (20 credits) FIN7053 Credit Risk and Lending Strategy (20 credits)
	Optional FIN7017 Investigating Financial Practice (20 credits) FIN7041 International Payments, Digital Banking and Cryptocurrencies (20 credits) FIN7056 Crowdfunding, Private Equity and Venture Capital (20 credits)
Semester THREE: Masters Stage 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.

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	79%
Exam	8%
In-person	13%