Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	**Course Title**	MSc Finance and Investment
2	**Course Code**	PT1613
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**
	The dynamic and fast-moving industry of investment offers wide variety of careers; it demands professionals with high level of finance knowledge, technical skills and the abilities that quickly adopt to new challenges. The MSc Finance & Investment degree at Birmingham City University will equip you with the knowledge, skills and abilities required to start a graduate level career and make a difference in the industry. As the investment professionals of the future, you will gain knowledge as well as the essential soft skills like adaptability and lifelong learning skills. While you progress throughout the course, you will become more effective and creative in problem solving. You will develop ways of analyzing and thinking about investments that will remain with you in the years ahead when new and different investment opportunities become available. **What's covered in the course?** The course curriculum is aligned with professional programs - the Chartered Financial Analyst Institute (CFA)*, the Chartered Institute of Securities & Investment (CISI) and the Chartered Institute of Management Accounting (CIMA), and is well suited in preparing students to complete the relevant professional examinations. You will be provided a solid grounding in finance theories, investment techniques and strategies as well as their real-life application. You will also have the opportunity to gain real world trading techniques from professional traders with first-hand knowledge of the financial markets. We offer flexible learning that will enable you to specialize in particular subject areas, as well as allowing you to tailor your course to a specific career aim. Based at the University's campus in the UK's second largest city, you'll 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. 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 Thomson Reuters Eikon and DataStream, and with problem-solving approaches having been exposed to real-life scenarios through industry guest-speaker workshops. 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 *iCITY Trading* room.

	You will have the opportunity to take the Professional Placement version of the course, which is offered as an alternative to the standard version of the course. This will allow you to complete a credit bearing, 20 week Professional Placement as an integral part of your Master's Degree. The Professional Placement will enhance your employability and transferable skills and allow you to evidence your professional skills, attitudes and behaviours at the point of entry to the postgraduate job market. These skills enrich your experience and provide an added advantage in your endeavors to pursue their future professional careers in a highly competitive industry. *Trademark Disclaimer: CFA Institute does not endorse, promote or warrant the accuracy or quality of the products or services offered by Birmingham City University. CFA® and Chartered Financial Analyst® are registered trademarks owned by CFA Institute.

7	**Course Awards**		
7a	**Name of Final Award**	**Level**	**Credits Awarded**
	Master of Science Finance and Investment Master of Science Finance and Investment with Professional Placement	Level 7 Level 7	180 240
7b	**Exit Awards and Credits Awarded**		
	Postgraduate Certificate Finance and Investment Postgraduate Diploma Finance and Investment	Level 7 Level 7	60 120

8	**Variations from the University Regulations**
	None

9	**Delivery Patterns**		
Mode(s) of Study	**Location(s) of Study**	**Duration of Study**	**Code(s)**
Full Time	City Centre	1 year	PT1613
Full Time With Professional Placement	City Centre (and placement provider)	18 months	PT1615

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**
	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 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 and investment from an international perspective. You'll also be able to participate in international finance and investment games and competitions as you progress through your Course of study.

12	**Course Learning Outcomes**
Knowledge and Understanding	
1	Elucidate critical awareness and knowledge of the nature of finance in the context of significance of institutional frameworks in the smooth operations and functioning of capital markets and other financial institutions.
2	Critically evaluate the major theoretical tools and theories of investment finance, with the ability to appraise their relevance and application to theoretical and practical problems for financial investments.
3	Exhibit a critical understanding of the relationship between financial theory and empirical testing, be able to apply the knowledge to the appraisal of the empirical evidence in investment.
4	Competently collect, use, validate and interpret data effectively utilising appropriate software packages, carry out econometric tests on financial models.
5	Critically evaluate how corporate governance and regulatory controls are applied to carry out financial activities in an efficient and ethical manner, and inspect their effect on various stakeholders and corporate activity locally and internationally.
6	Identify and analyse the factors influencing the investment behavior and opportunities for both corporate and private individuals.
7	Show a systematic understanding of financial services activities in the economy, and the factors that are changing these activities over time, an appreciation of how finance theory and evidence can be employed to aid such understanding.
8	Employ advanced research and critical enquiry to further develop professional understanding of chosen specialism to aid and inform finance and investment decision-making.
Skills and other Attributes	
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	Locate, extract 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**
	Award holders of the PG certificate stage will be able to:
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.
	In addition to level LOs 17-18, award holders of the PG diploma stage, students will be able to:
19	Exhibit a critical understanding of the relationship between investment theory and empirical testing; be able to apply the knowledge to the appraisal of the empirical evidence in investment.
20	Competently collect, use, validate, and interpret data effectively utilising appropriate software packages, carry out econometric tests on financial models.
21	Identify and analyse the factors influencing the investment behaviour and opportunities for both corporate and private individuals.
	In addition to level LOs 17-21, award holders of the Master's Degree, students will be able to:
22	Exhibit essential skills in qualitative and quantitative research collecting, validating and interpreting data effectively utilising appropriate methodologies.
23	Critically evaluate how corporate governance and regulatory controls are applied to carry out financial activities in an efficient and ethical manner, and inspect their effect on various stakeholders and corporate activity locally and internationally.
24	Employ advanced research and critical enquiry to further develop professional understanding of chosen specialism to aid and inform finance and investment decision-making.
	In addition to level LOs 17-23, of the Master's Degree with Professional Placement, students will be able to:
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 teamwork 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 critical analysis of situations from finance and investment 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**
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
FIN7026	Advanced Corporate Finance	20
FIN7021	Strategic Risk Management	20
FIN7045	Financial Institutions and Regulation	20
FIN7018	Portfolio Analysis and Management	20
FIN7051	Applied Financial Econometrics	20
ACC7031	Research Skill 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
FIN7022	Behavioural Finance	20
FIN7017	Investigating Finance Practice	20
FIN7050	Derivatives Investments	20

Level 6:

In order to qualify for the award of MSc Finance and Investment 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.

Level 7: September and January intakes

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) FIN7018: Portfolio Management and Analysis (20 credits)
	Optional FIN7050: Derivative Investment (20 credits) FIN7022: Behavioural Finance (20 credits) FIN7017: Investigating Finance Practice (20 credits)
Semester THREE: Masters Stage **Core** **ACC7031** Research Skill 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

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

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	81%
Exam	14%
In-Person	5%