Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	**Course Title**	BSc (Hons) Business Finance
2	**Course Code**	US1230
3	**Awarding Institution**	Birmingham City University
4	**Teaching Institution(s)** (if different from point 3)	N/A
5	**Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation** (if applicable)	

6	**Course Description**
	Finance is evolving rapidly through digital technologies, AI and fintech, creating new opportunities for people with strong business and financial knowledge. This degree is designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills to understand and respond to these changes, combining core knowledge and skills in business and finance with emerging technologies and contemporary financial practice. You will develop key business and financial skills, explore the latest fintech innovations and AI-powered financial tools, and build the entrepreneurial mindset needed to thrive in a changing financial environment. You will also gain a strong foundation in business finance principles, enabling you to understand market dynamics, global economic trends and policy impacts on financial decision-making. This combination will develop your ability to critically analyse economic environments and make informed strategic choices in a rapidly evolving global economy. **What's Covered in the Course?** Throughout the course, you will develop practical and transferable skills in financial analysis, quantitative data analysis, risk assessment and evidence-based decision-making. You'll learn to use AI, digital tools and emerging fintech technologies to analyse financial information, solve real-world problems and develop strategic, sustainable financial solutions. Through a combination of lectures, workshops, field trips, online learning and applied activities, you'll also strengthen your communication, teamwork, critical thinking and professional judgement. These skills are reinforced through the BCU Award employability programme, helping you to apply your learning to real-world professional contexts. As a Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI) education partner, the course is designed to develop the technical expertise, professional competencies and entrepreneurial mindset valued by employers across the finance sector. You'll learn to navigate changing markets and financial environments, communicate complex financial information clearly and make informed decisions in a range of contexts. By graduation, you'll have developed the confidence and skills to pursue a wide range of careers in finance, while also having the entrepreneurial skills to identify opportunities and develop your own ventures. The course team brings together years of industrial experience across Finance, AI, and

	Economics, complemented by a strong academic foundation. This diverse skill set means you are not only taught core financial principles but are also exposed to current thinking in areas such as digital innovation and emerging financial technologies, equipping you with skills that are relevant and sought after in today's job market. You will learn a great deal from the course team's breadth of knowledge and real-world experience, as you will be regularly engaging in inquiry-based and experiential learning designed to simulate work-based scenarios, bridging the gap between classroom theory and modern financial practice. **Artificial Intelligence** Artificial Intelligence (AI) is integrated throughout the course, helping you develop the digital skills and critical thinking needed in a rapidly changing business and finance environment. You'll learn to use AI responsibly and transparently, developing an understanding of its opportunities and limitations and how to critically evaluate AI-generated information. You'll explore the appropriate use of AI in academic and professional contexts, including understanding the boundaries between AI-supported and human-produced work. AI use is incorporated into learning and assessment in different ways, with course content and assessment regularly reviewed to reflect developments in AI and emerging professional practice. **Sustainability, SDGs and Ethics** Sustainability, ethics and responsible practice are embedded throughout the Business Finance course, reflecting the importance of considering wider impacts when making financial and strategic business decisions. You will explore how decisions made by businesses and financial professionals can affect people, organisations, society and the environment, developing your ability to consider these factors alongside commercial objectives. Throughout the course, you will consider areas such as ethical decision-making, corporate governance, sustainability, responsible investment and the social and environmental implications of financial strategy. You will also be introduced to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), helping you understand their relevance to challenges such as climate change, inequality and sustainable economic growth. These perspectives are developed alongside your financial knowledge and practical skills, preparing you to make informed and responsible decisions in a changing business environment.

7	**Course Awards**		
7a	**Name of Final Award**	**Level**	**Credits Awarded**
	Bachelor of Science with Honours Business Finance	Level 6	360
	Bachelor of Science with Honours Business Finance with Professional Placement Year	Level 6	480
7b	**Exit Awards and Credits Awarded**		
	Certificate of Higher Education Business Finance	Level 4	120
	Diploma of Higher Education Business Finance	Level 5	240
	Bachelor of Science Business Finance	Level 6	300

	Bachelor of Science Business Finance with Professional Placement Year	Level 6	420

8	**Variation 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	3 years	US1230
Full Time with Professional Placement Year		City Centre	4 years	US1232
Part Time		City Centre	5 years	US1231

10	**Entry Requirements**	
	Home:	The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at Birmingham City University or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website.
	EU:	
	International:	
	Access:	

11	**Course Aims**
1	To foster a broad understanding of global financial systems and economic environments, encouraging students to critically evaluate the role of finance in advancing sustainable development, responsible investment, and ethical decision-making in an interconnected world.
2	To ensure the course is accessible to students from diverse academic and professional backgrounds, providing the support, resources, and inclusive learning opportunities needed for all students to excel and reach their full potential
3	To develop technically proficient, critically analytical, and entrepreneurially minded graduates, equipping them with the transferable skills, professional judgement, and industry-aligned competencies sought by employers across business finance, investment, and fintech sectors.
4	To integrate cutting-edge fintech innovations, AI-powered financial tools, and digital learning opportunities throughout the course, ensuring students are prepared to navigate and lead in an increasingly technology-driven financial landscape.

12	**Course Learning Outcomes**
	Knowledge and understanding
K1	Identify the key components of the **financial environment** within which businesses operate, with a view to supporting sustainability and long-term growth
K2	Analyse current **international developments** and trends in finance, evaluating their impact on UK businesses while recognising the role of sustainable finance and ESG considerations in shaping a responsible global financial environment

K3	Identify and analyse financial **risk** and develop practical risk mitigation mechanisms, equipping students with the professional competencies and analytical skills sought by employers
K4	Exhibit a critical understanding of **mathematical** techniques that are available in finance, and they can be used to aid in decision-making and problem solving.
K5	Apply and evaluate a broad range of financial products and services, leveraging **AI** and digital tools to deliver inclusive, data-driven recommendations that are responsive to the diverse needs, risk profiles, and evolving market conditions
K6	Demonstrate a thorough understanding of core business finance principles and how they translate into practice within the rapidly evolving Fintech landscape, through engagement with cutting-edge digital tools and emerging financial technologies
K7	Demonstrate an understanding of the broader social and cultural dynamics shaping the global business environment, recognising how financial decisions impact diverse and inclusive communities, while developing leadership and employability skills essential for a successful career
	Skills and other attributes On successful completion of the BSc (Hons) Business Finance course, you will have acquired skills and abilities in the following areas:
S1	Communication, including presenting quantitative and qualitative information, together with analysis, argument and commentary, in a form appropriate to the intended audience
S2	Using contemporary information and communications technology tools for the acquisition, analysis and communication of financial information.
S3	Collaboration and teamwork are developed through group projects and team-based activities that reflect real-world professional working practices
S4	Apply cutting-edge AI and Fintech competencies, ready to apply data-driven tools and intelligent automation to solve real-world challenges in the domain of finance for increased employability

13	**Level Learning Outcomes**
	Upon completion of Level 4 / the Certificate of Higher Education, students will be able to:
LO-1	Demonstrate a solid understanding of core financial principles, applying theoretical frameworks to analyse national and global market dynamics, financial statements, and quantitative data in real-world contexts.
LO-2	Utilise quantitative data analysis techniques to support evidence-based financial decision-making, interpreting complex datasets to derive meaningful insights and develop the analytical competencies sought by employers in the finance sector.
LO-3	Identify and apply numeric, academic, and employability skills including STEAM leadership, professional writing, and career readiness
LO-4	Evaluate financial information and economic trends, drawing on a broad and integrated knowledge base to make informed, strategic judgements across a range of financial scenarios.
	Upon completion of Level 5 / the Diploma of Higher Education, students will be able to:

LO-1	Demonstrate a critical understanding of corporate financial principles, risk assessment, and insurance frameworks, applying these to inform inclusive and strategic financial decision-making across diverse business environments
LO-2	Analyse quantitative data analysis techniques to interpret market behaviour, support evidence-based decisions, and solve real-world financial problems with analytical rigour and intellectual depth that provides a strong foundation for postgraduate study and research
LO-3	Apply entrepreneurial thinking and sustainable finance principles to identify innovative business opportunities, assess operational challenges, and develop financially sound strategies that align with broader environmental and social goals.
LO-4	Exhibit the professional competencies and self-management skills required for career readiness in the financial sector, including personal wealth planning knowledge and the ability to communicate and operate effectively within a range of financial contexts.
	Upon completion of Level 6 / the bachelor's degree, students will be able to:
LO-1	Demonstrate a critical understanding of global financial systems, markets, and institutional frameworks, and evaluate the strategic and economic forces that shape international financial decision-making.
LO-2	Apply advanced finance principles, theories, and practices to analyse complex financial problems and formulate data-driven strategic solutions that promote inclusive economic participation and support sustainable financial outcomes for businesses and communities.
LO-3	Critically assess the role of emerging financial technologies and digital innovation in transforming business models, real asset markets, and the broader financial landscape.
LO-4	Design and conduct independent, rigorous academic research, demonstrating the ability to synthesise evidence and communicate findings to both academic and professional audiences, while developing the research competencies and scholarly discipline essential for progression to postgraduate study

14	**Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy**
	Learning Strategies The course is designed to develop students' conceptual understanding, applied competence, critical thinking and professional skills through a coherent and progressive learning framework. • Development of conceptual knowledge in finance through engagement with theory, industry standards, regulation, and contemporary issues shaping the digital financial landscape. • Application of knowledge to realistic financial, investment, corporate finance, and Fintech scenarios, enabling students to translate theory into practical and work-ready competencies. • Progressive development of higher-order cognitive skills, including analysis, evaluation, synthesis, and professional judgement within complex and evolving financial market scenarios. • Integration of digital and data literacy, encompassing financial modelling, data analytics, AI-powered tools, machine learning applications, and intelligent automation relevant to modern business finance practices.

- Critical engagement with AI-driven innovations to evaluate their transformative impact on financial products, services, and business models.
- Structured opportunities for reflective learning, ethical awareness, and professional identity development, with particular attention to the responsible and ethical use of AI within financial services.
- Support for independent, self-directed and lifelong learning through scaffolded activities and cumulative learning outcomes

Teaching Strategies

A blended, student-centred and research-informed teaching approach is adopted to promote deep learning and active engagement. This includes:

- Lectures to introduce key concepts, frameworks and theoretical perspectives.
- Seminars and workshops focused on problem-solving, discussion, application and critical evaluation.
- Case-based learning using real-world and simulated accounting and finance scenarios.
- Active and collaborative learning, including group tasks, debates and peer discussion
- Technology-enhanced learning, including the use of virtual learning environments, accounting and financial software, and digital resources.
- Practitioner engagement, including guest lectures, industry examples and applied projects.
- Blended delivery, combining synchronous and asynchronous activities to enhance flexibility and accessibility.
- Teaching informed by current research, professional practice and regulatory developments

Assessment Strategies

Assessment is designed to be balanced, inclusive, rigorous and aligned with learning outcomes, enabling students to demonstrate knowledge, skills and professional competence.

- Examinations (open and closed-book, paper or computer-based) assessing conceptual understanding, application and judgement.
- Coursework, including reports, essays and analytical reviews requiring critical engagement with theory and practice
- Case based and scenario based assessments integrating technical calculations with written evaluation and recommendation
- Presentations and debates to assess communication, analysis and professional skills
- Group and individual assessments to develop collaborative skills while ensuring fair individual evaluation.
- Reflective assessments (learning journals, reflective reports) to support self-awareness and lifelong learning.
- Formative assessments embedded across modules to provide timely feedback and support continuous learning.
- GenAI-aware assessment design, requiring critical evaluation, ethical awareness and transparency in the use of digital tools.
- Clear assessment criteria and rubrics aligned to programme learning outcomes.

Approach to AI:

	BSc (Hons) Business Finance course fully adheres to BCU's AI policy, which provides a clear and consistent framework for the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence across all modules. At the module level, students are also actively guided on the appropriate and differentiated use of AI tools, with module leaders practically demonstrating the distinctions between AI-generated work and human-produced work. This enables the students to develop critical awareness of AI outputs and their limitations. Students are also introduced to different levels of AI use to ensure they understand the boundaries of acceptable use in both academic and professional contexts. Furthermore, the assessment briefs are and will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis to reflect ongoing developments in AI to make sure that course content remains current, relevant, and responsive to the rapidly evolving AI landscape. The course team also engages in continuous professional development opportunities in AI, offered by the school, to ensure that teaching practices keep pace with emerging tools and technologies. The students are encouraged to critically evaluate AI tools as part of their broader digital and analytical skill set, preparing them for a professional environment in which AI literacy is increasingly essential. **Sustainability, SDGs and Ethics:** Sustainability, SDGs, and ethics are meaningfully embedded across BSc (Hons) Business Finance degree program. This can be clearly witnessed in several modules in explicit and implicit forms. "Economics Principles", for instance, explicitly connects macroeconomic theory to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), examining how policy interventions address market failures such as climate change within the SDG framework, enabling students to critically evaluate contemporary global challenges through an economic lens. Similarly, "Fundamentals of Accounting and Business" integrates ethical awareness, professional responsibility, and sustainability directly into its learning outcomes, aligning with QAA expectations and emphasising that these values underpin sound accounting practice from the outset of a student's academic journey. "Entrepreneurial and Sustainable Finance" also engages students with the ethical and sustainable dimensions of entrepreneurial finance, including Islamic finance, responsible decision-making, and the role of ethics in funding strategies, thereby reinforcing that financial practice must be guided by principles of responsibility and integrity. On the similar lines, "Corporate Financial Strategy" embeds corporate governance, ethics, and sustainability as core themes alongside business valuation and mergers and acquisitions, ensuring that students evaluate strategic financial decisions through both an analytical and an ethical lens. Further embedding of these values is also evident in the "Investment and Portfolio Management" module which introduces students to sustainable (ESG) investment as a contemporary development in portfolio construction and management, reflecting the growing importance of environmental, social, and governance considerations in financial markets. The "Research Design and Practice" module reinforces ethical conduct at the level of research methodology, that requires students to identify potential ethical issues, obtain ethical clearance, and ensure compliance with ethical standards throughout the research process, a practice that nurtures long-term professional integrity. Finally, the "Accounting, Finance and Economics Research Project" module continues this commitment by making ethical clearance a prerequisite for any primary research and by offering a STEAM project format that encourages students to consider real-world business and social impact. Collectively, these modules demonstrate that sustainability, the UN SDGs, and ethics are included throughout the intellectual structure of the program.

15	Course Requirements

15a

Level 4:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
FIN4009	Introduction to Finance	20
ACC40XX	Fundamentals of Accounting and Business	20
QME4XXX	Economics Principles	20
FIN4008	Data Intelligence	20
FIN4010	Quantitative Methods in Finance	20
QME4XXX	Leadership, Future Skills and Personal Branding	20

Level 5:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 80 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
FIN5019	Corporate Finance	20
FIN5XXX	Entrepreneurial and Sustainable Finance	20
ACC5037	Business Operations	20
FIN5XXX	Risk Management and Insurance	20

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules:

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
FIN5XXX	Financial Data Science	20
QME5XXX	Intermediate Microeconomics and Decision Analysis	20
FIN5026	Personal Wealth Planning and Management	20
ACC5045	Professional Career Accelerator	20

In order to qualify for the award of BSc (Hons) Business Finance with Professional Placement Year a student must successfully complete the following module:

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PPY5001	Professional Placement Year	120

Level 6:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 80 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
FIN6XXX	Financial Markets and Institutions	20
FIN6041	International Finance	20
FIN6040	Corporate Financial Strategy	20
FIN6035	Fintech	20

	In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules: `

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
FIN6030	Investment and Portfolio Management	20
QME6XXX	International Economics	20
ACC6XXX	Business Transformation	20
QME6XXX	Real Estate Economics and Property Investment	20
QME60XX	Research Design and Practice	20
QME60XX	Accounting, Finance & Economics Research Project	20

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.

Full Time Course Structure

Level 4

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core: FIN4009: Introduction to Finance (20 credits) ACC40XX: Fundamentals of Accounting and Business (20 credits) QME4XXX: Economics Principles (20 credits)	Core: FIN4008: Data Intelligence (20 credits) FIN4010: Quantitative Methods in Finance (20 credits) QME4XXX: Leadership, Future Skills and Personal Branding (20 credits)

Level 5

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core: FIN5019: Corporate Finance (20 credits) FIN5XXX: Entrepreneurial and Sustainable Finance (20 credits) Optional — 20 credits from: FINXXXX: Financial Data Science (20 credits) QME5XXX: Intermediate Microeconomics and Decision Analysis	Core: ACC5037: Business Operations (20 credits) FIN5XXX: Risk Management and Insurance (20 credits) Optional — 20 credits from: FIN5026: Personal Wealth Planning and Management (20 credits) ACC5045: Professional Career Accelerator (20 credits) ACC50XX: Study Abroad (60 credits)

Level 6

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core: FIN6XXX: Financial Markets and Institutions (20 credits) FIN6041: International Finance (20 credits) Optional — 20 credits from: FIN6030: Investment and Portfolio Management QME6XXX: International Economics (20 credits) QME60XX: Research Design and Practice (20 credits)	Core: FIN6040: Corporate Financial Strategy (20 credits) FIN6035: Fintech (20 credits) Optional — 20 credits from: ACC6XXX: Business Transformation (20 credits) QME6XXX: Real Estate Economics and Property Investment (20 credits) QME60XX**: Accounting, Finance & Economics Research Project (20 credits)

** Only an option if QME60XX Research Design module is chosen in S1

Full Time with Professional Placement Year Course Structure

Level 4

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core: FIN4009: Introduction to Finance (20 credits) ACC40XX: Fundamentals of Accounting and Business (20 credits) QME4XXX: Economics Principles (20 credits)	Core: FIN4008: Data Intelligence (20 credits) FIN4010: Quantitative Methods in Finance (20 credits) QME4XXX: Leadership, Future Skills and Personal Branding (20 credits)

Level 5

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core: FIN5019: Corporate Finance (20 credits) FIN5XXX: Entrepreneurial and Sustainable Finance (20 credits) Optional — 20 credits from: FIN5XXX: Financial Data Science (20 credits) QME5XXX: Intermediate Microeconomics and Decision Analysis	Core: ACC5037: Business Operations (20 credits) FIN5XXX: Risk Management and Insurance (20 credits) Optional — 20 credits from: FIN5026: Personal Wealth Planning and Management (20 credits) ACC5045: Professional Career Accelerator (20 credits) ACC50XX: Study Abroad (60 credits)

Following successful completion of Level 5:

Core: PPY5001 Professional Placement Year (120 credits)

Level 6

SEMESTER ONE	**SEMESTER TWO**
Core: FIN6XXX: Financial Markets and Institutions (20 credits) FIN6041: International Finance (20 credits) Optional — 20 credits from: FIN6030: Investment and Portfolio Management QME6XXX: International Economics (20 credits) QME60XX: Research Design and Practice (20 credits)	Core: FIN6040: Corporate Financial Strategy (20 credits) FIN6035: Fintech (20 credits) Optional — 20 credits from: ACC6XXX: Business Transformation (20 credits) QME6033: Real Estate Economics and Property Investment (20 credits) QME60XX**: Accounting, Finance & Economics Research Project (20 credits)

** Only an option if QME60XX Research methods module is chosen in S1

Part Time Course Structure

Level 4 — Year 1

SEMESTER ONE	**SEMESTER TWO**
Core: FIN4009: Introduction to Finance (20 credits) ACC40XX: Fundamentals of Accounting and Business (20 credits)	Core: FIN4008: Data Intelligence (20 credits) FIN4010: Quantitative Methods in Finance (20 credits)

Level 4/5 — Year 2

SEMESTER ONE	**SEMESTER TWO**
Core: QME4XXX: Economics Principles (20 credits) FIN5019: Corporate Finance (20 credits)	Core: QME4XXX: Leadership, Future Skills and Personal Branding (20 credits) ACC5033: Business Operations (20 credits)

Level 5 — Year 3

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core: FIN5XXX: Entrepreneurial and Sustainable Finance (20 credits) **Optional** — 20 credits from: FIN5XXX: Financial Data Science (20 credits) QME5XXX: Intermediate Microeconomics and Decision Analysis (20 credits)	**Core:** FIN5020: Risk Management and Insurance (20 credits) **Optional** — 20 credits from: FIN5026: Personal Wealth Planning and Management (20 credits) ACC5045: Professional Career Accelerator

Level 5/6 — Year 4

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core: FIN6XXX: Financial Markets and Institutions FIN6041: International Finance (20 credits)	Core: FIN6040: Corporate Financial Strategy FIN6035: Fintech (20 credits)

Level 6 — Year 5

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Optional — 20 credits from: FIN6030: Investment and Portfolio Management (20 credits) QME6XXX: International Economics (20 credits) QME60XX: Research Design and Practice (20 credits)	**Optional** — 20 credits from: QME6XXX: Real Estate Economics and Property Investment (20 credits) ACC6XXX: Business Transformation (20 credits) QME60XX: **Accounting, Finance & Economics Research Project (20 credits)

** Only an option if QME60XX Research design module is chosen in S1

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 4

Workload

19% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	228
Directed Learning	348
Private Study	624
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	91.67%
Exam	8.33%
In-Person	0%

Level 5
Workload

19% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	228
Directed Learning	348
Private Study	624
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	67.5%
Exam	15%
In-Person	17.5%

Level 6

Workload

19% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	228
Directed Learning	270
Private Study	666
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	42.5%
Exam	47.5%
In-Person	10%