

BA Accounting and Economics

For students entering Part 1 from 2007

UCAS code: NL41

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| Awarding Institution: | The University of Reading |
| Teaching Institution: | The University of Reading Henley Business School |
| Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group: | Accounting; Economics |
| Programme length: | 3 years |
| Date of specification: | March 2008 |
| Programme Director: | Mrs. J. Cooper |
| Programme Adviser: | Mrs. J. Cooper |
| Board of Studies: | BA/BSc Management Studies |
| Accreditation: | Accreditation directly by each of the professional accountancy bodies. |

Summary of programme aims and learning outcomes

The programme aims to provide a degree-level education in accounting and economics, with additional essential background study in law, finance, management and quantitative techniques. The studies of accounting and economics progress through the programme, so that students should obtain a thorough grasp of the core theory and applications in these disciplines. The programme is differentiated from the BSc Accounting and Economic Studies by its lesser quantitative content and is differentiated from single-subject BSc and BA Economics degree programmes by particularly focusing on core macroeconomic and microeconomic theory.

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which all students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to career management, communications (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology. The subject specialisms of accounting and economics also ensure that this programme particularly encourages business awareness.

Programme content

The following profile lists the compulsory modules, together with their credit size, for each Part. Each Part comprises 120 credits. Where the compulsory modules in a Part total less than 120 credits, students are required to select options containing sufficient credits to make up the shortfall. Options for Part 3 are listed following the compulsory modules. Not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Part 1 introduces the basic underpinnings of financial accounting, macroeconomics and microeconomics. This is supplemented with an introduction to management and business law to provide a broader business background to accounting, and with an introduction to quantitative techniques used in economics. Part 2 compulsory modules develop the fundamental concepts and techniques of financial accounting and economic analysis while introducing the study of management accounting. Part 3 compulsory modules deepen the theoretical and practical knowledge and skills of accounting and economics while also introducing students to business finance. An option provides the opportunity to broaden or

deepen the study of either accounting or economics.

| Part 1 | (three terms) | Credits | Level |
|---------------|--|---------|-------|
| | <i>Compulsory modules</i> | | |
| EC1F1A | Introductory Microeconomics | 20 | C |
| EC1F1B | Introductory Macroeconomics | 20 | C |
| MM1F2 | Introductory Financial Accounting | 20 | C |
| MM1F4 | Introductory Management | 20 | C |
| EC1F5 | Introductory Quantitative Techniques | 20 | C |
| EC1F8 | Introduction to Mathematics for Economics & Business | 10 | C |
| MM1F9B | Development of Academic & Professional Skills | 10 | C |
| Part 2 | (three terms) | | |
| | <i>Compulsory modules</i> | | |
| EC201A | Microeconomics I.1 | 20 | I |
| EC202A | Macroeconomics I.1 | 20 | I |
| MM204 | Management Accounting | 20 | I |
| MM205A | Corporate Financial Reporting 1 | 20 | I |
| MM205B | Corporate Financial Reporting 2 | 20 | I |
| MM256 | Management Skills (<i>including CMS</i>) | 20 | I |
| Part 3 | (three terms) | | |
| | <i>Compulsory modules</i> | | |
| EC301A | Microeconomics II.1 | 20 | H |
| EC302A | Macroeconomics II.1 | 20 | H |
| MM306 | Advanced Financial Reporting | 20 | H |
| MM307A | Organisational Accounting & Control 1 | 20 | H |
| | Either: | | |
| EC309A | Business Finance 1 | 20 | H |
| | Or: | | |
| MM376 | Financial Management & Analysis | 20 | H |
| | <i>Note: The module not chosen is unavailable as an option</i> | | |

Optional modules at Part 3

Students must choose ONE option module to the value of 20 credits. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant School Handbook.

Progression requirements

To progress to Part 2 a student must:

- (i) obtain an average mark of 40% across all Part 1 modules;
- (ii) obtain at least 40% in all compulsory Part 1 modules;
- (iii) achieve not less than 30% in any module except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

To progress from Part 2 to Part 3 a student must:

- (i) obtain an average mark of 40% across all Part 2 modules;
- (ii) obtain at least 40% in all compulsory Part 2 modules;
- (iii) achieve not less than 30% in any module except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching is organised in 20-credit modules. Modules involve a mixture of lectures, large-group practical workshops and smaller-group discussion-based seminars. The delivery of material varies among modules, especially in the proportions of time allocated to lectures, workshops and seminars. All module teaching is supplemented by private study. All modules involve coursework, which takes a variety of forms. Final assessment normally involves a written examination, and may also incorporate coursework marks; the maximum proportion of a final module mark allocated to coursework is 20%, other than in special cases. The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook but you should note that the weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67% respectively.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

Grade B or better in English and Mathematics in GCSE; and achieved:

UCAS Tariff: 320 points from 3 A Levels or 350 points for those applying with three A2s and one AS

International Baccalaureate: 34 points

Irish Leaving Certificate: AABBB

Mature applicants Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example 2 or more A levels or an Access course, but each case is assessed on its individual merits.

International applicants Applications from international candidates are welcomed. If you are not offering A levels we advise you to contact either the EU or international admissions tutor before applying in order to discuss the acceptability of your qualifications.

Admissions Tutor: Dr. Michael Mol

Support for students and their learning

University supports for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union. The Business School and the School of Management provide handbooks that outline programme and module content. In addition to lecture and class time, each module lecturer has appointed office hours during which they may be consulted without prior appointment.

Career prospects

In recent years graduates from this programme have entered a variety of careers in both the private and the public sectors. Many graduates enter training contracts with accountancy firms. However, other examples include jobs in banking and finance, management accountancy, the civil service, and universities.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

There are no formal arrangements, but informal arrangements are possible and may be discussed with the programme director.

Educational aims of the programme

The programme aims to provide a thorough degree-level education in accounting and in economics, with substantial introductions into the related fields of law, management and finance. It aims to produce graduates with sound technical and theoretical knowledge who can move into accounting or other business careers.

Programme outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and abilities in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. the contexts in which accounting operates, including the legal, economic, organisational and capital market environments.
2. the main accounting frameworks, their technical language and practices
3. the theories and empirical evidence concerning the interaction of accountancy with people in organisations, the capital markets and with regulatory systems
4. the fundamental concepts and techniques of microeconomics and macroeconomics
5. the fundamental concepts and techniques of economic and organisational analysis

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Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Core knowledge and understanding is delineated generally in formal lectures supported by large group workshops and smaller group seminars. Workshops usually focus on numeric problems, while seminars are used for discussion purposes. Students are also expected to work on their own at additional problems and reading and to seek help when required using the office hours of staff. A deeper and broader knowledge and understanding is obtained through further independent study.

Feedback on knowledge and understanding is initially given orally in workshops and classes. 'Model' written solutions may also be provided. Written feedback is provided on formative and summative assessed coursework. Sometimes this is provided orally.

Assessment

Knowledge and understanding is assessed through a combination of coursework and unseen formal examinations.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:

1. think logically about the ideas presented
2. identify, analyse and solve problems
3. integrate theory and practice
4. critically evaluate arguments and evidence



Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills are embedded in the knowledge and understanding of accounting and economics found within the programme. They are also fundamental to the successful display of the practical skills detailed below.

Intellectual skills are promoted via formal lectures, workshops, seminars and independent study. Learning to apply these skills is obtained via numeric exercises, case studies, required reading and assignments.

Feedback on intellectual skills is initially given orally in workshops and seminars. Written feedback is provided on formative and summative assessed coursework. Sometimes this is provided orally.

Assessment

Intellectual skills are assessed through a combination of coursework and unseen formal examinations.

C. Practical skills – able to:

1. record and summarise transactions and other economic events and prepare financial statements
2. analyse the operations of an organisation which uses accounting
3. prepare financial analyses and projections
4. understand and develop a chain of economic reasoning
5. formulate and analyse economic problems
6. plan, undertake and research a bibliography-based piece of work
7. undertake a set of tasks associated with improving their career prospects



Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Practical skills 1 – 5 are embedded within the knowledge and understanding of accounting frameworks and economic concepts and techniques. These skills are promoted via formal lectures, workshops, classes and independent study. Learning to apply these skills is obtained via numerical exercises and case studies. Practical skill 6 is promoted by each module providing a comprehensive bibliography and guidelines for the production of coursework essays. Learning to apply this skill is obtained via the production of coursework essays and the feedback on these.

Feedback on practical skills is initially given orally in workshops and classes. ‘Model’ written solutions may also be provided. Written feedback is provided on formative and summative assessed coursework. Sometimes this is provided orally.

Assessment

Practical skills 1-5 are assessed through a combination of coursework and unseen examinations. Practical skill 6 is assessed through coursework.

The career skills component at 7 will be assessed according to the module description of the Careers Advisory Services CMS discrete model.

D. Transferable skills – able to:

1. use IT (word processing and spreadsheet software, the world-wide web and e-mail)
2. structure and communicate ideas effectively and appropriately
3. apply basic statistical and numerical skills to information
4. utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations
5. work in groups
6. find information
7. manage time, manage change and respond to changing demands
8. work independently of formal timetabled events and take responsibility for personal and professional learning and development
9. understand career opportunities and begin to plan a career path



Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The use of specific IT software is embedded within particular modules of the course. All students are required to submit word-processed work. Reading is referenced to the World Wide Web. A number of modules are supported by the Blackboard on-line learning system. Staff and students communicate via e-mail user groups.

The communication of information is embedded throughout the programme in work done in workshops, seminars and for assessment purposes. The vehicle for communication may be oral or written and may include the use of computer software. It may also be achieved individually or within a group situation.

Group working is a major workshop activity and is also promoted as one aspect of independent learning.

Finding information is fundamental to deepening and broadening knowledge and understanding and completing assessed coursework.

Time management is essential for the timely and effective completion of the programme and the assessed work components therein and is learnt through the management of various deadlines for submission of coursework. All deadlines are notified at the beginning of the module. Career planning is embedded in various aspects of the programme.

The case sessions exemplify a range of accounting, individual and organisational issues. They assist students in their appreciation of everyday events and the different contexts in which these occur. These can be evidential contexts for a series of interrelated notions.

Assessment

Transferable skills 1-4 are assessed through coursework. Practical skills 2, 3 and 4 are also assessed by examination. Transferable skills 5-8 contribute to assessment but are not assessed directly. Transferable skill 9 is assessed in a separate module.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably expect to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme handbooks.