MSc International Accounting and Financial Management
For students entering in 2009

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Faculty	Henley Business School
Programme Length:	12 months
Date of specification:	June 2009
Programme Director:	Verna Care
Board of Studies:	Management (Postgraduate)
Accreditation:	None
Total number of credits required:	180

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to provide a thorough postgraduate education in the specialist area of international accounting and finance. The compulsory modules provide a critical understanding of current theories and empirical research in the field of knowledge and students will develop a practical understanding of the application of this knowledge within an institutional framework. They will learn to evaluate alternative theories and methodologies and to make judgements on their applicability to complex issues where there is incomplete information.

Transferable skills

The programme requires a substantial amount of independent reading, research and study and students are expected to take personal responsibility and show initiative in developing their knowledge and understanding of the field of study. They will also need to enhance their skills in communications (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, and the use of information technology. Students will work under pressure of time throughout the programme and will learn to set priorities and manage their time in order to meet strict deadlines.

Programme Content

Compulsory Modules

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
MMM022	*Anglo-American Accounting*	20	7
MMM028	*Comparative and Inter-Cultural Management*	20	7
MMM025	*Multinational Financial Reporting and Analysis*	20	7
MMM040	*Management Decision-making and Performance Evaluation*	20	7
MMM026	*Research Skills: Sources, Methods and Practice*	-	7
MMM023	*Dissertation*	40	7
Either:			
ECM08	*Corporate Finance*	20	7
Or			
MMM041	*Business Finance*	20	7
Either:			
ECM82	*Financial Systems and Institutions*	20	7
Or			
MMM054	*Cases in Financial Management and Control*	20	7

Optional Modules

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 Departmental Handbook. There is no guarantee that in any one year all modules will be available. New option modules may also be added.

Students may choose to substitute MMM023 (Dissertation, 40 credits) with a project plus an additional optional module:

MMM049   *Accounting and Finance Project*   20   7

Part-time/Modular arrangements

The programme may be studied part-time over two consecutive years by arrangement with the Director of Studies for MSc Programmes.

Progression requirements

Assessment of taught modules in the Summer Term. Re-assessment of failed modules in August /September. Submission of dissertation/project in early September or a month thereafter where there are re-sits/first sittings.

Students wishing to proceed to a higher degree by research should normally have undertaken a dissertation and obtained an average of at least 60% in the modules and at least 60% in the dissertation

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of material varies among the modules, especially in the proportion of time allocated to lectures, classes and seminars. All modules involve coursework, which takes a variety of forms reflecting the aims of the module. Final assessment of the modules typically involves a 2 hour examination and coursework (weight varies according to modules). A dissertation supervisor is appointed for each student.

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark	Interpretation
70-100%	Distinction
60-69%	Merit
50-59%	Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40-49%	Work below threshold standard
0-39%	Unsatisfactory work

For Masters Degrees

To pass the MSc students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall in 180 credits including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 in modules *MMM049 Accounting and Finance Project*. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits.

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall including a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall including a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Merit.
http://www.reading.ac.uk/Exams/pgaward08-09.pdf

For PG Diplomas
To pass the Postgraduate Diploma students must gain an average mark of 50 or more in120 credits *and have no mark below 40 in modules MMM049 Accounting and Finance Project*. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits.

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for the award of a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more and have no mark below 40 will be eligible for a Merit.
http://www.reading.ac.uk/Exams/pgaward08-09.pdf

For PG Certificates
To pass the Postgraduate Certificate students must gain an average mark of 50 or more in 60 credits *and have no mark below 40 in modules MMM049 Accounting and Finance Project*. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.
http://www.reading.ac.uk/Exams/pgaward08-09.pdf

Admission requirements
Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained a first degree equivalent to a British upper second class honours degree. Applicants whose degree results are below the required level, or whose degree is from a university where the standard is not well known, will require GMAT 600. References are also taken into account. Acceptance is at the discretion of the Director of Studies.

Admissions Tutor:
The Programme Director is responsible for admissions.

Support for students and their learning
University support 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, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and includes the Careers Advisory Service, the Disability Advisory Service, Accommodation Advisory Team, Student Financial Support, Counselling and Study Advisors. Student Services has a Helpdesk available for enquiries made in person or online (www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk), or by calling the central enquiry number on (0118) 378 5555. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions on everything from accommodation to finance. The Carrington Building is open between 8:30 and 17:30 Monday to Thursday (17:00 Friday and during vacation periods). Further information can be found in the Student Diary (given to students at enrolment) or on the Student website (www.reading.ac.uk/student).

Career Prospects
Most of the students come from outside the UK and many return to employment in the financial world in their home countries. UK students enter a variety of occupations, but over the years a

number have moved into international finance or consultancy. A minority of students proceed to a PhD and enter academic/research or international organisations.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements
None

Educational aims of the programme
The programme provides a thorough postgraduate training in international accounting and finance, with an emphasis on the application of theory and technique. It aims to produce graduates who are well placed to enter employment in financial institutions or accounting or consulting firms.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:	→	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. Evolution and workings of different business systems. 2. Theory and practice of financial markets, corporate governance and financial regulation. 3. Causes and nature of international differences in financial reporting. 4. Interpretation of financial statements in an international context.		Formal lectures, discussions, cast studies, guided reading and guidance on key sources of reference material. Feedback and guidance are important elements complementing an emphasis on self-study. **Assessment** Unseen examinations and coursework comprising essays, cases, exercises and tests.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - able to	→	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. Think logically and analytically. 2. Marshall arguments towards a conclusion. 3. Absorb date and identify and present the salient features of it.		Students are frequently challenged in all teaching situations to complete logical arguments, analyse problems and alternative policies, and justify statements. Essays, cases and exercises provide the principle vehicles for developing intellectual skills. **Assessment** Unseen examination and coursework particularly the cases and exercises.

C. Practical skills - able to	→	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. Draw on knowledge to present arguments in the areas of financial markets, governance and reporting. 2. Evaluate alternative policies. 3. Interpret financial statements. 4. Perform calculations in certain areas.		Students are required to understand a wide amount of reading, both of specific references and through researching their own sources of information. There are numerical exercises and case studies on interpretation of financial statements. **Assessment** Exercises and case studies.

D. Transferable skills - able to	→	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. Communicate orally and in writing. 2. Use IT, including word processing and Website searches. 3. Use library and Web based resources. 4. Organise extended pieces of work from planning to completion. 5. Manage time and prioritise work to achieve goals.		The presentation of well researched written work is a fundamental element of the programme and requires the application of all of the skills listed in 1-5. This is reinforced by the breadth and depth of the syllabuses for each module and the highly structured system of deadlines for assessed work, and examinations which develop the students' skills of time management. Oral skills are developed through lecture and seminar discussions.

	Assessment
	Unseen examination and coursework.