

BA Accounting and Economics
For students entering Part 1 in 2013/4

UCAS code:

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Accounting; Economics
Faculty:	Henley Business School at Univ of Reading
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	30/Apr/2015
Programme Director:	Dr Jessica Yang
Programme Advisor:	Dr Simon Burke
Board of Studies:	Henley Business School Board of Studies for
Undergraduate Programmes	
Accreditation:	Accredited directly by each of the professional accountancy bodies.
Optional placement variation(s):	with Placement Experience

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to provide a degree-level education in accounting and economics, with additional essential background study in finance, management and quantitative techniques. The studies of accounting and economics progress through the programme, so that students obtain a critical grasp of core theory applications and analysis in these disciplines along with the opportunity to apply for credit for prior learning for a range of professional accounting papers. The programme is differentiated from the BSc Accounting and Economics by its lesser quantitative and more applied content and it differentiated from single-subject BSc and BA Economics degree programmes by particularly focusing on core macroeconomic and microeconomic theory.

Transferable skills

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self management, use of IT and problem-solving and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

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. Any such options selected must be drawn from the options listed in the School Handbook. 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 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

EC101	Principles of Microeconomics	20	4
EC102	Principles of Macroeconomics	20	4
EC105	Introductory Quantitative Techniques	20	4
EC108	Mathematics for Economics: Introductory Techniques for BA	10	4
and			
AC104	Introductory Financial Accounting	20	4
and			
EC107	Introduction to Economic Institutions and Policy	10	4
or			
AC101	Introduction to Accounting	30	4

Students must choose optional modules 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 Programme Handbook. There is no guarantee that in any one year all modules will be available. New optional modules may also be added.

Part 2 (three terms)*Compulsory modules*

EC219	Economic Analysis	20	5
EC238	Economics of Social Policy	20	5
AC201	Management Accounting	20	5
AC202	Corporate Financial Reporting	20	5
AC203	Business Finance	20	5
MM256	Management Skills	20	5

Year abroad/Year away/Additional year (three terms)*Compulsory modules*

MM284	Work placement experience (including minimum 9 month, full-time work placement and the submission of a reflective learning log, an employer reference and a poster presentation.	120	5
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Part 3 (three terms)*Compulsory modules*

Students must choose at least two modules from the following:

AC301	Advanced Financial Reporting	20	6
AC302	Advanced Management Accounting	20	6
AC303	Advanced Business Finance	20	6

Students must choose up to FOUR option modules to the value of 80 credits. At least TWO optional modules to the value of 40 credits must be chosen from those available in the Department of Economics. A complete list of options is available from the Programme Director, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Programme Handbook. There is no guarantee that in any one year all modules will be available. New option modules may also be added.

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 EC101, EC102, EC105, and AC104 or AC101, and
- (iii) achieve not less than 35% in all other individual modules

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2;
- (ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- (iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance

Students are required to pass the professional/placement year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional/placement year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Assessment and classification

The University's honours classification scheme is:

Mark	interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

For the University-wide framework for classification, which includes details of the classification method, please see: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/exa-class.aspx>.

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is

Three-year programmes

Part 2 one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

Four-year programmes, including placement year: Normally:

Part 2 one-third

Placement Year not included in classification

Part 3 two-thirds

(where students fail a placement year which does not contribute to classification they transfer to the three-year version of the programme)

Teaching is organised in 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. Modules involve coursework which takes a variety of forms. Final assessment normally involves a written examination and may also incorporate coursework marks. Details are given in the relevant module descriptions. The conventions for classifications 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: AAB from 3 A Levels

International Baccalaureate: 35 points

Irish Leaving Certificate: AAABB

IELTS Band 6.5 (or equivalent) is required for those whose education has not been undertaken in English.

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: Julie Cooper

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Careers, Placement and

Experience Centre (CPEC), In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and 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 advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. 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 and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see www.reading.ac.uk/student

The Henley Business School and the School of Economics 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 learning

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. Graduates on this programme may apply for exemptions from relevant professional examinations of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales.

Opportunities for study abroad

As part of the degree programme students have the opportunity to study abroad at an institution with which the University has a valid agreement.

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

Placements are an optional part of the programme in the third year. Students taking this option are expected to seek and secure a work placement in an appropriate firm. The work placement or internship should be of at least 9 months in an organisation approved by the Board of Studies. In exceptional circumstances (e.g. company failure) the Board may reduce this or approve a substitute or other alternative on the advice of the Director of Studies. Help in seeking an appropriate placement is provided by the School Placement Officer and the Job Shop located in the Student Employment, Experience & Careers Centre. Employer requests are also put up on the departmental notice board and circulated via email.

There are also other placement opportunities and opportunities to engage in entrepreneurial activities. In conjunction with the following existing schemes, students will be assessed and gain academic credits: UROP (Univeristy Research Opportunities Programme): These placements provide opportunities for undergraduates to work with academic staff on University research projects. Placements last six weeks over the summer vacation following the students second year of study.

SEED (Summer Employment Experience and Discover): This is a project-based eight to twelve week programme, which takes place in the summer vacation following the students second year of study.

Students may also undertake an approved placement outside the existing schemes. The placement must be supported and approved by our placement Officer, and last at least six weeks over the summer vacation following the students second year of study. Typically for students on Accounting programmes these may be with the larger accountancy services firms.

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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:

the contexts in which accounting operates, including the, economic, organisational and capital market environments.

the main accounting frameworks, their technical language and practices

the theories and empirical evidence concerning the interaction of accountancy with people in organisations, the capital markets and with regulatory systems

the fundamental concepts and techniques of microeconomics and macroeconomics

the fundamental concepts and techniques of economic and organisational analysis

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:

think logically about the ideas presented
synthesise information from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding of theory and practice

identify, analyse and solve problems

identify and apply appropriate theoretical and practical knowledge and understanding to

quantitative and qualitative problems to aid their solution

integrate theory and practice

critically evaluate arguments and evidence from a variety of sources

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.

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

D. Transferable skills - able to:

1. use IT (word processing and spread-sheet 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 (personal Development Planning)
9. understand career opportunities and begin to plan a career path

Assessment

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

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 modules that provide 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 in the module Management Skills.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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. Career planning is embedded in the Management Skills module.

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 either through coursework or 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 be expected 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 the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.