

BSc Finance and Business Management
For students entering Part 1 in 2014/5

UCAS code:

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Finance and Business Management
Faculty:	Henley Business School at Univ of Reading
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	15/Oct/2014
Programme Director:	Dr Ioannis Oikonomou
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	Henley Business School Board of Studies for
Undergraduate Programmes	
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The BSc in Finance and Business Management is an innovative undergraduate programme that provides an academic grounding in key areas of both finance and business management. As a result it provides a multidisciplinary undergraduate degree that develops an in-depth understanding of the interrelationships between the areas of finance and business management. It will be taught at the University of Reading Campus in Malaysia. Modules will cover finance specialisms and core areas of business management, such as strategy, marketing, organisational behaviour and international business. The degree provides a thorough and balanced curriculum with regard to both disciplines. The study of finance and business management progresses through the programme so that students obtain a critical grasp of core theory along with thorough knowledge, skills of application and analysis. The programme also aims to prepare students for responsible professional leadership and managerial roles after graduation. It is distinctive in placing a strong emphasis on international business themes relevant for the emerging challenges facing business in a global context.

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 career management, communications (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology 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 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 their field of study. 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. Career planning will be an integral part of the programme, both in the choice of programme and in its elective components.

Programme content

The following profile lists the compulsory modules, together with their credit size, for each Part. Students are required to take a total of 120 credits in each Part. 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 Programme 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

Code	Title	Credits	Level
M1F12	Markets, Marketing and Strategy	20	4
MM1F11	People & Organisations	20	4
AC104A	Introductory Financial Accounting	10	4
AC106	Introductory Management Accounting	10	4
IC102	Introductory Finance/Trading Simulation I	20	4
IC103	Introductory Economics for Business and Finance	20	4

IC104	Introductory Quantitative Techniques for Business and Finance	20	4
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Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

Code	Title	Credits	Level
IC201	Corporate Finance	20	5
IC202	Financial Modelling/Trading Simulation II/CMS	20	5
MM255	Marketing Management	20	5
MM272	International Business Strategy	20	5

(a 20 credit IWLP module may be substituted for either of the following):

Code	Title	Credits	Level
IC204	Portfolio Management	20	5
AC201	Management Accounting	20	5

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

Code	Title	Credits	Level
IC301	Derivative Securities/Trading Simulation III	20	6
MM303	Strategy and International Business	20	6

(a 20 credit IWLP module may be substituted for ONE of the following)

Code	Title	Credits	Level
IC303	Management of Risk	20	6
IC306	Foreign Exchange and Money Markets	20	6
MM335	International Marketing	20	6
MM330	Comparative International Management	20	6

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 100 credits
- (iii) achieve not less than 35% in the remaining 20 credits

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

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 achieve at least 35% in the remaining 40 credits

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

Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of material varies among modules, especially in the proportions of time allocated to lectures, and to classes and seminars. Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework, which takes a variety of forms, and formal examination, with modules varying the relative weighting of these two types of assessment. However, some modules may be assessed only as coursework, while others may be assessed solely by examination. Details are given in the relevant module descriptions. The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

- English grade B at GCSE (or equivalent); AND,
- AAB from 3 A levels, including a minimum grade B at AS level Mathematics (or equivalent); OR,
- 35 points in International Baccalaureate, including 6 in standard level Mathematics; OR,
- Distinction-level results in the Foundation in Business programme, (or equivalent); AND,
- IELTS: overall 6.5, with no single skill less than 5.5 (or equivalent).

Admissions Tutor: Komala Tangavellu

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

In Malaysia: Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the Learning Resource Centre, the Careers Centre, In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice team, IT Services and computer-based teaching and learning facilities. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Association, Student Wellbeing and Counselling Services, medical practitioners and advisers at UoRM/EduCity. Student & Academic Services at UoRM offer advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing, academic issues 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 & Academic Services also offer drop-in sessions and run workshops and seminars on a range of topics.

Within the Henley Business School (including the School's presence in Malaysia), students are supported in their learning through tutorials, workshops, practical classes and problem-based learning classes. Students are supported in self-development and career management skills through engagement with their personal and academic portfolio, which is closely linked to all modules and all personal tutor meetings. In addition to lecture and class time, each module lecturer has appointed office hours during which they may be consulted without prior appointment. The students are also provided with vocational training through a number of simulated professional experiences, inter-professional learning activities, public involvement and placement opportunities. A programme handbook is provided to all students and any problems can be addressed by talking to their personal tutor, their year tutor, the senior tutor, or raising the issue for discussion through the staff-student liaison committee.

Career learning

Career prospects

Graduates from this programme will find employment in many different types of firms, especially in banking and financial organisations worldwide, multinational corporations and firms that are particularly interested in a management and finance combined knowledge and specialization. Graduates of this BSc programme should have excellent career prospects.

Opportunities for study abroad

There are no formal arrangements in place for studying abroad. However, as part of the degree programme students have the opportunity to study at the University of Reading in the UK.

Placement opportunities

Students are encouraged to undertake eight to ten week working internships throughout the summer vacation. This invaluable experience can provide students with excellent experience and skills to add to their CV, as well as the opportunity to network. The University provides assistance in identifying and applying for internships with CV grounding and honing interview techniques.

Programme Outcomes

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

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

A1. Finance:

Fundamental theory of finance, including financial decision-making in an uncertain environment.

Practical and analytical techniques for the valuation and the risk management of cash and derivative securities in equity, fixed income, commodity and foreign exchange markets.

Introductory Quantitative techniques including: Linear Algebra, Elementary Numerical Methods, Probability and Statistics (incl. Econometrics)

A2. Business Management:

1. Economic models of firms and external economic environment facing firms.
2. Fundamental concepts of business management relevant to the student becoming a manager in a business.
3. The international institutional environment and how it affects the interaction between international firms and the growth of developing and developed economies.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

A1.

Formal lectures, guest lectures from industry, discussions, individual and group presentation, group exercises, case studies, guided readings and guidance on key sources of reference material. Feedback and guidance are important elements complementing an emphasis on self-study

A2.

Formal lectures, practical (including dealing-room) sessions and conventional classes, supervisions supported by directed and assessed self-study. Feedback and guidance are an important part of the process.

This body of knowledge is communicated by detailed, paper-based lecture notes. These are supported by lectures or e-lectures and a Learning Management System (LMS). The LMS provides the students with the ability to participate in online discussion.

Assessment

Unseen examinations and coursework comprising of

4. An understanding of the importance of international business and the drivers of change in business in this country and abroad, including management practice and business cultures in other countries.
5. The theoretical basis of management and key functional areas of business.
6. Current developments in the practice and theory of business management.
7. Fundamental concepts of business management relevant to the student becoming a manager in a business.
8. The environmental and ethical context of business management.
9. An understanding of the importance of international business and the drivers of change in business in an international context. Includes a analysing management practice and business cultures in other countries

long essays. Seminar presentations are also used as a means of assessment in some modules. A2: Knowledge is tested via multiple-choice tests, tutor-marked assignments and unseen written examinations.

Courses are assessed through a combination of coursework and unseen examinations. Assignment involving practical type of coursework is also assessed and provides a source of feedback on performance to students

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - able to:

1. Gather, analyse and interpret data.
2. Read, understand and discuss the relevant literature in refereed academic journals.
3. Think logically and apply analytical principles to a range of problems in management and finance.
4. Cognitive and moral reasoning skills and an increase in assimilative reasoning skills and “third person” perspective when deciding how to best apply the moral norms that guide financial management and decision making.
5. Validate the pricing and hedging models used by derivative securities traders (finance modules).

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

(1) to (5) Substantive problems are illustrated in lectures and smaller group seminars. Essays, project work, case study and problem sets provide related opportunities for problem solving. Lectures supported by essays and seminar discussions provide the basis of ensuring the growing knowledge base becomes comprehensible.

These skills are developed by each of the core modules, which are supported by key milestones and submission of tutor-marked assignments. In Finance modules, students will be presented with financial datasets and required to analyse them and to draw appropriate inferences.

Assessment

Through tutor-marked assignments, project work, problem sets, moderated online discussions and unseen written examinations.

C. Practical skills - able to:

1. Evaluate the behaviour, organization and strategy of firms.
2. Evaluate the moral norms involved in the financial management and compliance of firms and their variations according to context, and be cognizant on conflicts involved, between moral practices of a culture in which managers and those of their home culture and how they relate to the international standards of compliance and financial management.
3. Use Information Technology effectively.
4. Utilise Value-at-Risk (VaR), statistical and econometric software to analyse financial data.
5. Utilise Reuters and Bloomberg business

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

(1)-(3) Students are required to undertake and understand a wide range of reading, both of specific references and through researching their own sources of information. Discussion in lectures and seminars emphasises the use of critical thinking (empirical evidence), and the demonstration of reflective skills and examples from the students personal experiences (in relevant industries and their countries of origin). 1-3 are achieved through lectures, seminars, presentations, case studies, and group exercises

(3) to (7) Practical skills are introduced in lectures, developed

information and analytical tools.

6. Use spreadsheet software, and VaR models in particular, to assess risk capital (both regulatory and economic)
7. Operate effectively in a simulated middle office environment, including the ability to handle daily P&L and to validate quantitative trading models

D. Transferable skills - able to:

1. Interpret critique and discuss relevant theory in management.
2. Use reflective and analytical skills and moral reasoning skills, applied in analysis of cases based on theory and methods taught in relation to management and finance.
3. Gather and interpret data, and present results.
4. Work in teams.
5. Demonstrate familiarity with the workings of the international financial markets.
6. Use IT, including word processing, data exchange, graphics, spreadsheet and econometrics software and directed website searches.
7. Communicate orally and in writing.
8. Use library and web-based resources.
9. Manage time to achieve goals.
10. Increase conceptual thinking and a “helicopter view” to management and finance.

in supporting tutorials, computer-based sessions and dealing-room sessions, and reinforced by problem sets and supervised project work.

Assessment

These are assessed through simulated dealing-room sessions, computer-based sessions and tutorials.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The use of IT is an integral part of the practical side of the finance part of the degree. It is encouraged through applications that require economic and financial analysis. These involve spreadsheet-modelling exercises, Monte-Carlo simulations, website searches, use of library resources, the presentation of word-processed documents including graphics displays. Communication skills are assessed at several points throughout the programme. Communication, presentation and team-working skills are specifically emphasised in CMS. Good time management is essential for organising a timetable to complete project work.

Assessment

Assessment of transferable skills is incorporated at several points in the programme. (1) and (2) and (7) contribute towards assessed coursework such as essays, and (4) contributes towards assessed work in team and individual assignments that are being reflected upon in the process of team working. (3), (5) and (6) contribute towards assessed work on projects, problem sets and dealing-room sessions. These are also assessed by means of unseen written examinations, tutor-marked assignments and moderated online discussion.(10) is the outcome of both the combined degree overall content and its adopted teaching and learning pedagogy.

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.