

BSc Finance and Management with the University of Venice
For students entering Part 1 in 2015/6

UCAS code: NN23

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	
Faculty:	Henley Business School at Univ of Reading
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	06/Apr/2017
Programme Director:	
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	Henley Business School Board of Studies for
Undergraduate Programmes	
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

This is an innovative programme lying in the expanding field that brings together finance and management, taught jointly by the Henley Business School (Part 1 and 3) in Reading and Ca' Foscari University (Part 2) in Venice. The degree, which will be delivered entirely in English, has a balanced curriculum with regard to both disciplines and offers the possibility of a truly international learning experience. The programme is designed to enable students to obtain a critical grasp of core theory along with thorough knowledge, skills of application and analysis.

The aim of the programme is to prepare the graduate for a career in both the private and the public sectors. Specifically, they will develop the skills to make a quick progression into managerial roles in the finance industry (including banking, investment, and insurance) or in the finance functions of large enterprises. Graduates will also acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to further their education at a graduate level.

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 and learning skills as well as 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 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.

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 below for Parts 3. Not all optional modules will necessarily be available. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
IC101	Introductory Securities and Markets	20	4
IC102	Introductory Finance/trading Simulation I	20	4
AC105A	Introductory International Financial Accounting A	10	4
AC105B	Introductory International Financial Accounting B	10	4
IC103	Introductory Economics for Business and Finance	20	4
IC104	Introductory Quantitative Techniques for Business and Finance	20	4

Students are strongly encouraged to take LA1PI1-IWLP Italian Level 1 on a not-for-credit basis. IWLP fees will be covered by HBS.

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
IC2VE0001	Research Project (Venice)	36	5
IC2VE2008	Human Resource Management (Venice)	12	5
IC2VE2010	International Business Strategy (Venice)	12	5
IC2VE2013	Introduction to Econometrics (Venice)	12	5
IC2VE2015	Introduction to the Modern Firm - 2 (Venice)*	12	5
IC2VE2025	Business and Labour Law Mod. 1 (Venice)	12	5
IC2VE2030	Marketing (Venice)	12	5
IC2VE2102	Management Accounting (Venice)	12	5

*This is a self-contained component of a 24 credit module divided into two parts. Material covered in Part 1 of the module is not a pre-requisite for Part 2. Students will have the option to attend Part 1 on a not-for-credit basis.

**Undergraduate courses at the University of Venice do not have a level. Students have the option to design their curriculum for the three years of their degree by choosing from all the modules available. The year of study in which the modules are taught may then vary for each student.

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
IC204	Portfolio Management	20	5

Optional modules to total 100 credits. Examples of modules that may be available include:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
MM340	International Human Resource Management	20	6
MM336	Evolution of Entrepreneurship	20	6
IC301	Derivative Securities/Trading Simulations III	20	6
IC303	Management of Risk	20	6
IC203	Debt Markets and Instruments	20	5
IC306	Foreign Exchange and Money Markets	20	6
IC310	Topics in Finance	20	6
IC309	Private Equity and Venture Capital	20	6
IC311	Alternative Investments	20	6

Progression requirements

To progress to Part 2 a student must obtain a mark of at least 40% in all Part 1 modules except for AC102 where a student must obtain a mark of at least 35%.

To progress to Part 3 a student must:

- achieve an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- achieve a mark of at least 40% in 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- achieve a mark of at least 30% in 120 credits taken in Part 2.

Italian grades will be converted into 100 point UK grades according to the following table:

UK	100	90	83	75	68	63	58	56	54	52	50	47	43	40	38	36
Italy	30	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16

UK	33	31	30	27	24	22	20	18	16	13	11	9	7	4	2
Italy	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

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 but it should be noted that the weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67% respectively.

Assessment and classification

The University 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

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

1. The requirements are:
 - a. GCSE: English grade B or above;
 - b. A and AS Levels: Three A-levels at AAB. Must include a minimum B grade at AS level Mathematics.
 - c. International Baccalaureate: 35 overall. Must also include grade 6 in standard level Mathematics.
 - d. International Foundation Programme: Overall average of 'Distinction'. The foundation programme must contain a core element of Mathematics.
 - e. English proficiency required for international students:
 - i. TOEFL (Test of English as a foreign language): Score of 570, with TWE of 5 for the paper-based version of the test, 230 for the computer-based and 88 for the Internet based test.
 - ii. IELTS (British Council International English Language Test): Score of 6.5 overall with no significant weaknesses in any component of the test.

Admissions Tutor: Dr S Varotto

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-session 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 addition, the ICMA Centre provides three purpose built dealing rooms that include Reuters and Bloomberg terminals and normal high specification PCs that students use for INVEST trading simulations and course work. All students are given a specialised financial calculator for use in their studies at the beginning of their second year. The ICMA Centre's Continuing Professional Development Unit provides specialised careers advice throughout the programme.

The University of Venice offers a similar wide range of services and specifically ensures that international students can make the most of them through a dedicated International Welcome Desk, which also provides VISA related advice. These services (contact details at www.unive.it/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=73451) include a Call Centre which directs students to the relevant office that can deal with their specific query, a Guidance Service for general induction about the University of Venice, a Counselling Office for pastoral and academic support and a Disabled Students Service. The Summer Internship that the students have the option to undertake at the end of second year will be supported by the Internship in Italy Service and Internship Abroad Service. Students have access to the Library of Economics (BEC) which was recently refurbished. It includes around 120,000 volumes and 1,700 periodicals in the areas of Economics, Business Management, Statistics, Marketing, Accounting and Finance. In addition, BEC offers the following facilities/services: bibliographical assistance, a multimedia room, reference assistance for databases and photocopying. A Language Centre provides courses in foreign languages and in Italian for foreigners at highly reduced fees. Medical services are available through the Italian National Health Service (details can be found at www.unive.it/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=10440). Accommodation Services can be contacted by phone or email (details at www.unive.it/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=159338).

Career learning

Career prospects

BSc Finance and Management prepares students for a wide range of roles both in the private and public sectors. Specifically, it is well suited for graduates looking to pursue a career in the financial services industry and the investment banking and securities markets as well as in the finance operations of large corporations. Graduates of the proposed BSc programme should have excellent career prospects.

Opportunities for study abroad

This degree is specifically designed to enable students to study abroad for one year, which is embedded in the structure of the programme. In terms of placement opportunities, the Continuing Professional Development Unit at the ICMA Centre provides support for obtaining an internship for the Summer following the end of the second year. However, responsibility to secure such internships rests with the individual students. Additional support in this direction will be provided by the Internship in Italy Service, the Internship Abroad Service and the Placement Service offered by the University of Venice. The elective module 'Topics in Finance' in Part 3 embeds placement opportunities in the programme specification of the degree in a way that allows students to develop both academically and professionally. Students will be allowed and encouraged to pursue an internship even if they decide not to choose the particular module.

Placement opportunities

Programme Outcomes

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

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1. The fundamental concepts at the core of financial and economic knowledge comprising microeconomics, macroeconomics, investments and corporate finance.
2. Fundamental concepts of company law across different legal systems, human resource management, business strategy and marketing relevant to the student becoming a manager in an international firm.
3. Introductory quantitative techniques including: Linear algebra, elementary numerical methods, probability and statistics and econometrics.
4. How to apply financial concepts and techniques to solve 'business world'; problems.

Formal lectures, practical (including dealing room sessions) and conventional classes. 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 and guidance form an important part of the process for all three years of study.

Assessment

Courses are assessed through a combination of coursework and unseen examinations.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to:*

1. Structure, analyse and solve problems.
2. Think laterally and explore alternative solutions.
3. Comprehend the evolving state of knowledge in the degree subject areas.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Substantive problems are illustrated in lectures and smaller groups. Essays, project work and problem sets provide related opportunities for problem solving. Lectures supported by essays and discussions provide the basis of ensuring the growing knowledge base becomes comprehensible.

Assessment

1-3 are assessed through examination questions, essays, project work and problem sets

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

1. Evaluate the behaviour, organisation and strategy of firms.
2. Use information technology effectively.
3. Utilise Reuters and Bloomberg business information and analytical tools.
4. Use spreadsheet software to analyse complex practical problems in finance and management.
5. Operate in a dealing room environment.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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 (and empirical evidence), and the demonstration of reflective skills and examples from the students personal experiences.

Practical skills are introduced in lectures, and are acquired in supporting tutorials, computer sessions and dealing room sessions, and are reinforced by problem sets and supervised project work.

Assessment

1-5 are assessed through simulated dealing room sessions, computer sessions and tutorials.

D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

1. Use IT, including word processing, data exchange, graphics, Excel, econometric software and directed Website searches.
2. Communicate orally and in writing, and to work with others in teams.
3. Use library and Web based resources.
4. Manage time to achieve goals.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The use of IT is an integral part of the practical side of the course. It is encouraged through applications requiring economic and financial analysis. These involve spreadsheet modelling exercises, website searches, use of library resources, the presentation of word processed documents including graphics displays. Communication skills, both oral and

written are assessed at several points throughout the program. Good time management is essential to organising a timetable to complete project work.

Assessment

Assessment of transferable skills is incorporated at several points in the programme. 1-4 contribute towards assessed work in projects, problem sets and dealing room sessions.

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.