

MSc Accounting and Finance (full-time)
For students entering in 2017/8

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:	12 months
Date of specification:	25/Jan/2018
Programme Director:	
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	Henley Business School BoS for PG programmes
Accreditation:	The programme has accreditation of Chartered Institute of Management Accounting (CIMA) which provides for exemptions from four professional exams BA1 - BA4.

Summary of programme aims

This programme is suited to anyone wishing to deepen their knowledge of accounting and finance, and who wants to enter a career in financial markets or advisory/financial services; either as an analyst, as a professional accountant, or as a preparation for further research at PhD level. The programme curriculum will provide a blend of theoretical-, research- and practice-led content that will enable students to develop deeper conceptual and theoretically-informed perspectives of accounting and financial practices with acknowledgment of the role of information systems in those practices. MSc Accounting and Finance is designed to deliver financial expertise with an emphasis on understanding the accounting process. You will gain insight into the accounting process both within the firm (management accounting) and for external reporting and its relevance to company valuation (financial accounting). The compulsory modules provide an analytical and integrated study of accounting and finance combining a conceptual and theoretical approach with an emphasis on application to relevant practical problem-solving scenarios. At the completion of the programme students will be able to use financial and accounting information with support of information systems. Students will learn to evaluate alternative theories and methodologies and to make judgments on their applicability to complex issues where there is incomplete information.

Transferable skills

During the course of their studies, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills in line with the University's Strategy for Learning and Teaching. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication (both written and oral), interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, information handling and the use of IT, team working 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.

Programme content

Accounting modules (90 credits) provided by BISA

Finance modules (90 credits) provided by ICMA Centre

Autumn Term (total of 90 credits)

40 credits - accounting core modules

- **ACM002 Financial Reporting and Regulation** (20 credits) - core
- **ACM005 Accounting Information Systems** (20 credits) - core

50 credits - finance core modules

- **ICM107 Securities, Futures and Options** (20 credits) - core
- **ICM108 Fixed Income and Equity Investments** (20 credits) - core
- **ICM124 Introduction to Quantitative Methods for Finance** (10 credits) - core

Spring Term (total of 70 credits)

30 credits - accounting/informatics core modules

- **ACM003 Management Accounting: Theory and Practice** (20 credits) - core
- **ACM004 Research Methods for Accounting & Finance** (10 credits) - core

Students who opt for **Accounting Project** in summer term need to choose **two** finance modules from the list below:

- **ICM251 Corporate Finance** (20 credits) - option
- **ICM201 Portfolio Management** (20 credits) - option
- **ICM295 Topics in Financial Regulation** (20 credits) - option
- **ICM302 Behavioural Finance** (20 credits) -option
- **ICM211 Derivatives: Pricing, Hedging and Trading** (20 credits) - option

Students who do not opt for **Accounting Project** (20 credits) in summer term must select one **finance module** in summer term instead (from the list below) and need to select only **one** from the above. Those student would need to select

ACM001 Corporate Governance and Ethics (20 credits)

Summer term (total of 20 credits)

- **MMM049 Accounting and Finance Project** (20 credit) - core option

OR

One finance module from the list below:

- **ICM308 Stock Index Futures** (20credits) - option
- **ICM289 Advanced Finance Theory with Empirical Applications** (20 credits) - option

Part-time or modular arrangements

None.

Progression requirements

Min of 50%

To qualify for Passed, students must gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits.

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

Assessment:

Exams, applied projects, coursework as well as individual and group assignments

Classification:

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

Further information on the classification conventions, including borderline criteria, are available at

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/exams/PGclassification-post-2008.pdf>

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Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

2:1 or equivalent as with the rest of the BISA and ICMA Centre MSc Programmes, they will also require undergraduate degree or equivalent in Accounting.

IELTS score of 7.00 or equivalent will be required for those whose education has not been undertaken in English.

Admissions Tutor: Admissions Tutor: Dr Renata Stenka

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, In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support teams and IT Services. 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 Support Centres. If a student has a general enquiry and is unsure where to seek help, they should visit their Support Centre. There are five Support Centres across the University, including one based at the London Road Campus. The Support Centre will be able to advise on matters such as extenuating circumstances, module selection, suspensions, withdrawals, timetable queries and transferring programme. The Support Centre will also be able to signpost students to Carrington building where other University services related to disability, financial support, counselling and wellbeing, accommodation and careers can be found. More information on what student services are available can be found here: <http://student.reading.ac.uk/essentials>.

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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 (e.g. 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

Career prospects

A career in financial markets or advisory/financial services; either as an analyst, as a professional accountant, or as a preparation for further research at PhD level.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

None at the moment.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. Theory and practice of accounting and finance
2. The main current technical language and practices of financial and management accounting and finance
3. The theoretical underpinnings of the above
4. The application, practical use and limitations of the above to real world structured and unstructured scenarios.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Core knowledge and understanding is normally delineated in formal lectures, class discussions, workshops, case studies, guided reading and guidance on key sources of reference material. A deeper and broader knowledge and understanding is obtained through independent study. Feedback and guidance are important elements complementing an emphasis on self-study.

Assessment

Unseen examinations, coursework comprising essays, cases, exercises and tests and project

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - able to:

1. Think logically and analytically about ideas and

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills are embedded in the knowledge

scenarios presented.

2. Identify, analyse and solve or draw reasoned conclusions relating to structured and unstructured problems.
3. Locate and extract relevant data and evidence from multiple sources and identify and present its salient features.
4. Evaluate and critically assess arguments and evidence and marshal independently derived arguments towards a conclusion.
5. Integrate theory and practice

C. Practical skills - *able to*:

1. Prepare financial analyses, projections and other numerically-based analytical documents.
2. Analyse and interpret financial data and documents relating to accounting and finance aspects of the business and financial markets.
3. Draw on knowledge and understanding to present critically considered arguments and solve structured and unstructured problems in accounting and finance.
4. Independently plan, undertake and research bibliography-based pieces of work.

D. Transferable skills - *able to*:

1. Communicate ideas effectively and appropriately to different intended audiences.
2. Apply statistical and numerical skills to data.
3. Apply problem-solving skills to a variety of scenarios
4. Use IT, including word processing and Website searches.
5. Use library and Web based resources.
6. Work in teams.
7. Independently manage a variety of pieces of work.
8. Manage time, manage change, and prioritise work to achieve goals.
9. Take responsibility for personal and professional learning and development.

and understanding of the theories, principles and practices of accounting and finance found within the programme. They are also fundamental to the successful display of the practical and analytical skills detailed below.

Intellectual skills are promoted throughout the teaching and learning programme. In lectures, workshops, classes and independent study students are regularly challenged to construct logical arguments, locate data, analyse problems and alternative policies, justify statements and integrate theory with practice. Essays, cases, reports, exercises and the project provide the principle vehicles for developing and reflecting on intellectual skills.

Assessment

Unseen examinations, case studies, coursework and projects

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Practical skills are embedded within the knowledge and understanding of accounting and finance concepts, principles and techniques. These skills are promoted via formal lectures, workshops, classes and independent study. Learning to apply these skills is achieved via numerical exercises and case studies, coursework essays and reports and the project.

Students are required to understand a wide amount of reading, both of specific references and through researching their own sources of information.

Assessment

Unseen examinations, case studies, coursework and project.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The communication of information is embedded throughout the programme in workshops, seminars and case sessions and in assessment. The vehicle for communication may be oral or written and may include the use of computer software. It may also be achieved independently or as part of a team. The presentation of well researched written work is a fundamental element of the programme and requires the application of all of the skills listed. 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, case studies, coursework and project.

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.