

Programme Specification

MSc Finance and Financial Technology (FinTech)

For students entering in September 2019

PFTZFINTECHM/PFTZFINT1YHM

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

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| Awarding Institution | University of Reading |
| Teaching Institution | University of Reading |
| Length of Programme | 9 months or 12 months |
| Accreditation | |
| Programme Start Dates | September |

Programme information and content

The aim of the programme is to prepare graduates for a career in financial services and, specifically, the rapidly expanding FinTech sector. The advances in financial technology have brought about transformational changes in many branches of the finance industry including payment systems, with the introduction of blockchain technology and digital currencies, coupled with widespread disintermediation via peer-to-peer lending and crowdfunding for firms and online stockbroking and robo-advisory services for individual investors. Many of these innovations are based on the processing of large amounts of data (or “Big Data”) via machine learning algorithms. Students of this degree will gain a deep understanding of the evolving financial environment and will also develop programming skills and put them into practice to solve real world problems. How to regulate new financial products and services to prevent fraud and ensure personal data protection will also be explored.

The MSc programme is offered on a full-time basis only.

Module information

The programme comprises of 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory Modules:

| Module | Name | Credits | Level |
|--------|-------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| ICM314 | Digital Banking and Payment Systems | 10 | 7 |
| ICM315 | Fundamentals of Financial Markets | 10 | 7 |
| ICM216 | Programming for FinTech (Python) | 20 | 7 |
| ICM107 | Securities, Futures and Options | 20 | 7 |
| ICM103 | Quantitative Methods for Finance | 20 | 7 |

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|--------|---|----|---|
| ICM317 | Machine Learning and Big Data in Finance | 20 | 7 |
| ICM318 | Blockchain, Cryptocurrencies and Applications | 20 | 7 |
| ICM319 | Insurance and Big Data | 10 | 7 |
| ICM320 | FinTech Regulation and Data Protection | 10 | 7 |

Compulsory text:

Students must choose option modules to the value of 40 credits, from programme specific options offered within Henley Business School. Computer Science modules will also be available to students with an undergraduate degree in computer science or engineering.

Students on the 12 month programme are required to select at least one module in the Summer Term.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

This programme is only available on a full time basis.

Additional costs of the programme

There are no textbooks which you must buy and students are encouraged to discuss the purchase of textbooks or other resources with the module convenor before purchasing. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs.

A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks, electronic resources and computer facilities, are available through the Central Library and the Business School Academic Resource Centre.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost per A4 page of £0.05 (black and white) and £0.30 (colour). Essential costs in this area will be low as most coursework is submitted electronically. Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2018.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the programme. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Placement opportunities

N/A

Teaching and learning delivery:

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, information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, computer programming and the use of information technology. Students will work under time pressure throughout the programme and will learn to set priorities and manage their time in order to meet strict deadlines. Career planning/development is also an integral part of the programme.

Teaching is organised in modules. The method of delivery varies among modules, especially in terms of the proportions of time allocated to lectures, seminars and dealing-room sessions. Most modules are part-assessed via a multiple-choice test or coursework that can take a variety of forms. Final assessment normally involves a written examination, and also incorporates coursework marks.

The programme is taught over two 11-week terms. Part 1 begins at the beginning of Welcome Week in September of each year. Examinations for Part 1 modules are held in Week 1 of the following spring term. Part 2 occupies 9 weeks of the spring term and 2 weeks at the beginning of the summer term. Examinations for Part 2 are normally held in late May / early June.

Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is 180 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework (including class tests), group work, and oral examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part-time and modular progression requirements

N/A

Classification

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 Degree

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iv) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iv) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iv) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

For PG Diploma

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- (iii) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits;
and
- (iii) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits;
and
- (iii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

For PG Certificate

To qualify for a **Postgraduate Certificate**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits; and
- (ii) the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.