

Programme Specification

BSc Finance

For students entering Part 1 in September 2021

UCAS Code: N300

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

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BSc Finance (International Business) - 3 years (UCAS Code: N390) BSc Finance (FinTech) with Year Abroad - 4 years (UCAS Code: N392) BSc Finance (International Business) with Placement Year - 4 years (UCAS Code: N391) BSc Finance (Investments) - 3 years (UCAS Code: N301) BSc Finance (Investments) with Year Abroad - 4 years (UCAS Code: N311) BSc Finance (Investments) with Placement Year - 4 years (UCAS Code: N310) BSc Finance (Sustainable Finance) - 3 years (UCAS Code: N370) BSc Finance (Sustainable Finance) with Year Abroad - 4 years (UCAS Code: N372) BSc Finance (Sustainable Finance) with Placement Year - 4 years (UCAS Code: N371) BSc Finance with Year Abroad - 4 years (UCAS Code: N304) BSc Finance (FinTech) - 3 years (UCAS Code: N360) BSc Finance (FinTech) with Year Abroad - 4 years (UCAS Code: N362) BSc Finance (FinTech) with Placement Year - 4 years (UCAS Code: N361)

	BSc Finance with Placement Year - 4 years (UCAS Code: N303)
Accreditation	AACSB, EQUIS CFA program partner: BSc. Finance (Investments) IMC Advantage partner: BSc. Finance (Investments)

Programme information and content

The aim of the programme is to prepare graduates for a career in corporate finance, financial markets and financial services with the possibility of specializations in investments, sustainable finance, the rapidly expanding FinTech sector, and international business. The recent changes that have affected finance in general, and especially the emergence of financial technology and the need to focus on sustainability have brought about alterations in many branches of the finance industry including payment systems and the increasing importance of environmental principles. Finance as a degree is gaining popularity, and students on this degree will gain a deep understanding of finance and the financial services industry in general. Students would have the option to stay on the general programme in Finance, or they might wish to do the different pathways and specialize in one of the following areas: (1) Investments; (2) FinTech; (3) Sustainable Finance or (4) International Business, and thus would be able to gain an understanding of the challenges in their particular areas, and learn how to respond to those.

Part 1:	Introduces you to the fundamental principles of Accounting, Finance Economics, quantitative techniques and ethics required to work in the finance industry.
Part 2:	Provides you with a deeper understanding of the core concepts in portfolio management, financial modelling and Corporate Finance. Also, you are given the opportunity to choose the specialist modules of the pathways.
Placement/Study abroad year:	Students have the option to have a placement year or to do a study abroad year.
Part 3:	Gives you the opportunity to specialize in some of the most exciting areas of finance according to your own preferences and professional aspirations.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IC101	Introductory Securities and Markets	20	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
IC105	Ethics in Investment Management	20	4
MM1F27	Business in Practice: Accounting for managers	20	4

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IC201	Corporate Finance	20	5
IC204	Portfolio Management	20	5
IC212	Financial Modelling	20	5

For the BSc. Finance (Investments) pathway students must take:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IC205	Introductory Econometrics for Finance	20	5
IC211	FX and International Debt Markets	20	5

For the BSc. Finance (FinTech) pathway students must take:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IC208	Programming for Finance	20	5
MM258	An Introduction to the Management of Information Systems	20	5

For the BSc. Finance (Sustainable Finance) pathway students must take:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IC209	Sustainable Finance	20	5
IC210	Environmental Economics	20	5

For the BSc. Finance (**International Business**) pathway students must take:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AC201	Management Accounting	20	5
MM296	Building Competitive Advantage: Business Strategy and Operations	20	5

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Module	Name	Credits	Level
MM284	Work Placement	120	5

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IC303	Management of Risk	20	6
IC317	Derivative Securities	20	6

Students are required to attend and submit the assessment related to the career management component of the IC314 Bond and Money Markets module.

For the BSc. Finance (Investments) pathway students must take:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IC314	Bond and Money Markets	20	6
IC315	Advanced Derivative Securities: Hedging and Trading	20	6

For the BSc. Finance (FinTech) pathway students must take:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IC316	Fintech and Cryptocurrencies	20	6
MM3101	Information Systems and Digital Business	20	6

For the BSc. Finance (Sustainable Finance) pathway students must take:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
MM334	New Directions in Business and Corporate Social Responsibility	20	6
AC310	Responsible Investment and Sustainability Reporting	20	6

For the BSc. Finance (International Business) pathway students must take:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
MM303	Strategy and International Business	20	6
MM359B	Business Ethics for International Managers	20	6

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Henley Business School and modules from elsewhere in the University.

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 optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be offered the opportunity to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable placement. If you undertake a placement year, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you; also, Part 3 as described above may be subject to variation.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad year during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you; also, Part 3 as described above may be subject to variation.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through lectures, seminars and workshops.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 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 Part 1 - 222 hours, Part 2 - 205 hours, Part 3 (following the Placement year or Study Abroad year if applicable) - 202 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

CFA programme partner: BSc. Finance (Investments)

IMC Advantage partner: BSc. Finance (Investments)

EQUIS: BSc. Finance, BSc. Finance (Investments), BSc. Finance (FinTech), BSc. Finance (Sustainable Finance), BSc. Finance (International Business)

AACSB: BSc. Finance, BSc. Finance (Investments), BSc. Finance (FinTech), BSc. Finance (Sustainable Finance), BSc. Finance (International Business)

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework, tests, oral presentation and practical skills assessments.

Progression Requirements:

Part 1

The University-wide rules relating to ‘threshold performance’ are as follows:

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.’

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a ‘threshold performance’, and:

- (i) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in all Part 1 modules, with the exception of IC105 in which a mark of at least 35% must be obtained;

The achievement of a ‘threshold performance’ at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 2

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

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2;
- (ii) Marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and
- (iii) Marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except

that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics & Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the 3-year programmes, a student must achieve a 'threshold performance', and:

- (i) Marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.

Placement / Study Abroad Year:

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the 4 year programmes:

Programmes with a Placement year: Students are required, in addition to the above requirements, to pass the Placement year module.

Programmes with a Study Abroad year: Students are required, in addition to the above requirements, to meet the pass requirements of the Study Abroad Year as specified in the Study Abroad agreement.

Students who fail the Placement year or Study Abroad year transfer to the corresponding three-year version of the programme.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

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

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 / Study Abroad year:

Normally:

Part 2 one-third

Placement/Study Abroad Year not included in classification

Part 3 two-thirds

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

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BSc Finance for students entering Part 1 in session 2021/22

24 May 2022

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