

Programme Specification

**BSc Economics and Finance with International Foundation
Year**

For students entering Foundation year in September 2023

**UCAS Code:
LN14 LN15**

UFECOFINFF

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 | 4 years |
| Accreditation | N/A |

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with a broad-based curriculum that leads to an in-depth understanding of both sub-fields. By the end of the programme, successful candidates will have acquired a detailed knowledge in both areas, and will appreciate the interactions between them. Parts 1 and 2 include only compulsory modules that build critical knowledge and key skills in economics and finance, while a broad range of optional modules in the final year allow the student to focus on specific areas of interest.

This programme comprises of a foundation year (Part 0) provided through the International Foundation Programme (IFP) which provides access to higher education in Britain to international students who do not possess the normal entry requirements of GCE Advanced level qualifications or the equivalent. Through the part 0 you will be equipped with subject specific and general study skills which will enable you to cope with the demands of undergraduate study. This is achieved through the provision of high quality teaching which is sympathetic to the needs of students from a wide range of educational backgrounds.

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| Foundation year: | <p>In the Foundation year you will have the opportunity to develop transferable skills through the provision of a compulsory credit-bearing Academic Skills module. The key skills relate to Critical Thinking, Essay Writing, Research, Referencing and avoiding plagiarism, Group Work and Projects, Presentations, and Assessment and Examination techniques. You will also take three 40-credit modules as specified in the module information aligned to the 'A Level' entry requirements for the degree. If your level of English is below the standard specified for undergraduate study, one of these 40 credit modules must be International English.</p> <p>Students starting Part 0 in January will join Part 1 in September of the same year.</p> |
| Part 1: | <p>Introduces you to the basic underpinnings of economics, finance, financial markets, and quantitative techniques.</p> |

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| Part 2: | Provides you with the opportunity to further develop the core strands of economics and finance. |
| Placement/Study abroad year: | A placement year provides the opportunity to obtain practical experience and apply academic knowledge. It also helps provide focus in the final year of academic study. Students gain transferable skills demanded by graduate employers and on return to university are better informed about future career paths. A year abroad provides the opportunity for students to broaden both their academic and cultural awareness. As a year abroad does not contribute to the final degree classification, although students are required to take some economics modules, the opportunity exists to study a wider range of topics. |
| Part 3: | Gives you the opportunity to deepen the theoretical and practical knowledge and skills of the core strands and allow students to apply what they have learnt to a topic of their choosing. |

Module information

Part 0 comprises 140 credits and Parts 1, 2 and 3 each comprise 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Foundation modules:

| Module | Name | Credits | Level |
|--------|------------------------|---------|-------|
| IF0ACA | Academic Skills | 20 | 0 |
| IF0FM1 | Foundation Mathematics | 40 | 0 |

Students starting in January will take the compulsory modules IF0ACJ in place of IF0ACA and IF0FMJ in place of IF0FM1.

If your level of English is below the standard specified for undergraduate study, one of the 40 credit modules must be IF0IE1 (or IF0IEJ for those students starting in January) International English.

The remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available from a list provided by the International Foundation Programme.

Part 1 Modules:

| Module | Name | Credits | Level |
|--------|---|---------|-------|
| EC113 | Introductory Microeconomics | 20 | 4 |
| EC114 | Introductory Macroeconomics | 20 | 4 |
| EC128 | Intermediate Mathematics for Economics | 20 | 4 |
| IC101 | Introductory Securities and Markets | 20 | 4 |
| IC102 | Introductory Finance/Trading Simulation I | 20 | 4 |

| | | | |
|-------|---|----|---|
| IC104 | Introductory Quantitative Techniques for Business and Finance | 20 | 4 |
|-------|---|----|---|

Part 2 Modules:

| Module | Name | Credits | Level |
|--------|-----------------------------|---------|-------|
| EC201 | Intermediate Microeconomics | 20 | 5 |
| EC202 | Intermediate Macroeconomics | 20 | 5 |
| EC204 | Introductory Econometrics | 20 | 5 |
| IC201 | Corporate Finance | 20 | 5 |
| IC204 | Portfolio Management | 20 | 5 |

Students must select one 20 credit optional module in Economics or Finance.

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

Students on one of the 4 year programmes will take one 120 credit module in either Work Experience or Study Abroad.

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

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 |
|--------|-----------------------|---------|-------|
| EC349 | Financial Economics | 20 | 6 |
| IC212 | Financial Modelling | 20 | 5 |
| IC317 | Derivative Securities | 20 | 6 |

Students must select at least 20 credits of optional modules from the Department of Economics and at least 20 credits of optional modules from the ICMA Centre.

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Economics and the ICMA Centre.

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

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget up to £400 per year. This figure is approximate. Actual costs will vary depending on individual study technique, preferences, and requirements. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page.

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 2022.

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 required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement 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.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through lectures, tutorials and computer classes.

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 - 252 hours, Part 2 - 192 hours, Part 3 - 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) and oral examinations.

Progression

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

Progression Part 0 Foundation Year

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

- i. an overall average of at least 40% over all modules taken in Part 0;
- ii. no more than 40 credits of these modules with a mark below 35%
- iii. at least 40% in the Academic Skills module

To progress to Part 1, students must satisfy the following progression and English language requirements:

- i. an overall average of at least 60% over all credit modules taken in part 0;
- ii. at least 60% in two 40 credit modules, including any specified modules;
- iii. no module mark below 40% in the remaining two modules

In addition, students taking module International English (IFOIE1 or IFOIEJ) must obtain 55% in that module.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 0 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Completion if he or she leaves the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 1

- (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

- (iii) obtain a weighted average of 40% across all compulsory modules in Economics at Part 1 (EC113, EC114, EC128); and
- (iv) obtain marks below 40%, but at least 30%, in compulsory modules in Economics

amounting to not more than 20 credits; and
(v) obtain at least 40% in all compulsory modules in ICMA Centre (IC101, IC102, IC104).

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; and
- (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and
- (iii) obtain 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 and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **3 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **4 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance and obtain a pass in the professional/workplacement or study abroad year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer to the non-placement 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 professional/workplacement or study abroad:

Part 2: one-third

Placement/Study Abroad Year abroad not included in the classification
Part 3: two-thirds

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 Economics and Finance with International Foundation Year for students entering Part 1
in session 2023/24

24 October 2022

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