

Programme Specification

MSc Accounting, Financial Management & Digital Business (full-time)

PFTZAFMDBXHM

For students entering in 2027/28

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	MSc Accounting, Financial Management & Digital Business (full-time) - 12 months
Accreditation	Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) European Foundation for Management Development (EQUIS)
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Accounting and Finance

Programme information and content

The aim of the programme is to prepare students to work in the fields of accountancy, consulting, or banking, or to undertake academic research in these fields. It enables students to engage in and contribute meaningfully to accounting and financial decision-making in a digital business environment. Its adaptable design is appropriate for students from a variety of disciplines who do not have a prior study background in accounting. Students will be able to learn how accounting and financial information is used for decision-making purposes, how data analytics is utilised in the process, and how the results of those decisions are communicated and evaluated in businesses. The programme equips students not only with the necessary theoretical foundations of accounting, financial management, and digital business but also with a set of practical skills and expertise sought after by employers in the wide accounting and financial services industry in the fast-developing digital business world.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MSc Accounting, Financial Management & Digital Business (full-time)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

Learning outcomes	
1	Critically evaluate and interpret the implications of digitalisation and data analytics on business management and decision-making, applying an integrated approach to select suitable strategies.
2	Critically discuss and apply accounting and financial management frameworks to navigate the sphere of big data and digital business, emphasizing solution design and implementation.
3	Adopt an analytical and reflective approach to critically evaluate and discuss accounting and financial management matters, integrating knowledge and insights for effective problem-solving.
4	Select and apply specialised skills in accounting, financial management, and data analytics to support strategic decision-making and problem-solving in business management within the digital landscape.
5	Communicate complex information effectively in both oral and written format for a variety of purposes and audiences including specialist and non-specialist accounting and finance professionals.
6	Work collaboratively with others to address complex problems in the sphere of accounting and finance to create evidence based, credible and innovative solutions.
7	Take personal responsibility for self-directed learning and demonstrate flexibility and readiness to change within the rapidly evolving digital business world.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information			
The programme comprises 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.			
Compulsory modules			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
ACM010	International Financial Accounting	20	M
ACM011	Advanced International Financial Reporting and Analysis	20	M
ACM015	Business Finance	20	M
ACM018	Accounting for Sustainability, Governance and Ethics	20	M
INMR91	Business Informatics	20	M

Of the remaining 80 credits, 80 credits will be made up of optional modules available within Henley Business School and ICMA.

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In addition to the compulsory modules above, students must choose one of the following core optional modules: Project, or Work Placement.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

None

Placement opportunities

The programme offers students an optional module with a work placement opportunity during the summer semester. Students are expected to find and arrange their own placements, but the Henley Business School careers team will provide them with the necessary support.

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Optional modules

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. 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.

Teaching and learning delivery

You will be taught primarily through a mixture of lectures, tutorials and seminars, depending on the modules you choose. Some modules may include group work.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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

The programme is accredited by the following accreditation bodies.

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)

European Foundation for Management Development (EQUIS)

After the successful completion of the programme, students will be granted exemptions from selected ACCA exams. The list of exempted ACCA exams that apply for this programme will be provided to students at the start of the programme.

For CIMA, students who successfully complete the programme will be able to join CIMA through an accelerated route that allows you to get up to 11 exemptions towards CIMA's certificate, operational and management levels.

Assessment

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

Progression

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 Master's Degree

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits
- (ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits
- (iii) no credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

[An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits]

[AND

Where the dissertation is included in the conditions for the award of a Master's degree, a mark of at least 60% in the dissertation]

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

[An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits]

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits
- (ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits
- (iii) no credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

[An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits]

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

[An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits]

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits

(ii) No credits with a mark below 40%

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget approximately £300. 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 Central Library and the Business School Academic Resource Centre. Reading lists and module-specific costs are typically listed on the individual module descriptions.

Subject to your module selection, you may be required to purchase sundry materials (i.e., printing). Essential for printing and photocopying will be low as most coursework is submitted electronically.

Many students find it advantageous to have their own personal computing facilities, but there are central facilities available.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

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.

MSc Accounting, Financial Management & Digital Business (full-time) for students entering in session 2027/28

20 August 2026

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