Programme Specification

MSc Finance, FinTech and Data Analytics (full-time) PFTZFTDATAHM

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 Finance, FinTech and Data Analytics (full-time) - 12 months
Accreditation	Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) EFMD Quality Improvement System (EQUIS) This programme is also affiliated with the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	

Programme information and content
The aim of the programme is to prepare graduates for a career in the rapidly expanding FinTech sector of the financial services industry. Students of this degree will gain a deep understanding of the evolving digital banking and e-payment environment, will develop data analytics skills to process, analyse and extract valuable information from financial data, including "Big Data", using econometric, machine learning and other techniques, and will develop programming skills and put them into practice to solve real world problems. In addition, students are exposed to cutting-edge AI tools and frameworks, thereby building highly relevant skills that are increasingly sought after in the FinTech industry. The programme is affiliated with the CFA Institute. Parallel with your studies, you will also have the opportunity to prepare for the CFA level 1 exam.

Programme Learning Outcomes
-MSc Finance, FinTech and Data Analytics (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	**Mastery of the discipline:** Identify and critically evaluate relevant theories and practices in the fields of finance, financial technology and data analytics, including the importance of financial technology applications for the delivery of financial services.

2	**Skills in research and enquiry:** Develop and demonstrate practical and transferable skills (including programming and data analytics techniques) required to analyse large sets of financial data in order to plan, undertake and present research demonstrating the critical thinking required in the sector.
3	**Personal effectiveness:** Develop, demonstrate and reflect on the professional values and skills – including self-discipline, effective communication, critical thinking, time management and team working – required to work collaboratively in financial services and the wider business sector, recognising the importance of continuing professional learning and development.
4	**Global and future-facing outlook:** Identify and apply strategies that recognise the importance of diverse perspectives and sustainable practices, while engaging with emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) in financial services, that help you develop as an effective global citizen equipped to navigate innovation-driven roles in international organisations.
5	**Equity, diversity, inclusion and ethical behaviour:** Explore and reflect on the concepts of social responsibility and ethical behaviour in the financial industry in order to evaluate strategies and technologies capable of enhancing the quality, fairness and integrity of our society, respecting the diversity of our communities.
6	**Employability and career:** Identify and develop the employability skills relevant to the fintech industry, including data analytics and programming, and reflect on how they can help you address opportunities and challenges faced in building your career in the sector.

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
ICM318	Blockchain, Cryptocurrencies and Applications	20	M
ICM337	Econometric Analysis for Finance	20	M
ICM401	Investments	20	M
ICM403	Digital Banking, Payment Systems and Financial Markets	20	M
ICM406	Programming for Finance	20	M

ICM517	Insurance and Big Data	20	M
ICM520	Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, and Big Data in Finance	20	M

Remaining credits will be taken from the list of approved optional modules available from the Henley Business School or from the approved list of modules from the Department of Computer Science of the University (these Computer Science optional modules are available only to students with an engineering background).

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

This programme is only available on a full-time basis.

Placement opportunities

An optional summer module gives students the opportunity to undertake a work placement.

Study abroad opportunities

This programme offers an opportunity for studying abroad by taking a summer optional module which may be offered abroad (for example, Algorithmic and High Frequency Trading ICM612).

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

The programme requires a substantial amount of independent reading, research and study and you are expected to take personal responsibility and show initiative in developing your knowledge and understanding of the field of study. You will also need to enhance your skills in communications, information handling, data analytics, numeracy, problem-solving, computer programming and the use of information technology. You will work under time pressure throughout the programme and will learn to set priorities and manage your 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 different session types (e.g., lectures and seminars). The programme will be assessed through a combination of assessments (e.g., written examinations, class tests and coursework). Some modules include group work.

The total study hours for the programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical 20-credit module is 200 hours. This includes, in addition to your scheduled contact hours, guided independent study which students will be expected to undertake. 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.

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

EFMD Quality Improvement System (EQUIS)

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)

This programme is also affiliated with the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute.

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework (including class tests), group work and oral assessments. 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

Master's Degree

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

Award of a Masters'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 listed on the individual module descriptions.

Subject to your module selection, you may be required to purchase sundry materials (i.e. printing). During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs, such as printing and photocopying – for these facilities are available on campus. Essential costs in this area will be low as most coursework is submitted electronically.

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

If students choose optional modules which are offered abroad, they may face additional costs for travel, accommodation, subsistence, and other expenses (for example, visa). An estimate of total costs is approximately £1,850.

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.

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5 November 2026
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