Programme Specification

BSc Economics and Finance with International Foundation Year	**UCAS Code: LN14 LN15**
For students entering Foundation year in September 2027	**UFECOFINFF**

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	4 years
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Economics; Finance

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Programme information and content</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">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.

This programme comprises of a foundation year (Part 0) provided through the International Foundation Programme (IFP) with entry points in both September and January. The IFP 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.

The programme will be of intrinsic value to those with an interest in both economics and finance. It will also develop a mix of skills of significant value in the graduate job market. Among those who will find it attractive will be those who intend to pursue a career in finance, but who wish to have a broader university education that encompasses a complementary area of study.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Foundation year:</td><td>In the Foundation year you will have the opportunity to develop transferable skills through the provision of two compulsory 20-credit modules: Academic Literacy and Skills, and Academic Communication and Inquiry. If your level of English is below the standard specified for undergraduate study, these modules will ensure those English Language Entry Requirements are met.

The key skills in these modules relate to Critical Thinking, Academic Writing, Research, Referencing and avoiding plagiarism, Group Work and Projects, Presentations, and Assessment and Examination techniques. You will also take a further 80 credits of subject modules as specified in the module information.</td></tr>
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	These modules are aligned to the ‘A Level’ entry requirements for the degree and provide the knowledge and skills required for further undergraduate study at Part 1. Students starting Part 0 in January will join Part 1 in September of the same year.
Part 1:	Part 1 introduces you to the basic underpinnings of economics, finance, financial markets, and quantitative techniques.
Part 2:	Part 2 provides you with the opportunity to further develop the core strands of economics and finance.
Part 3:	Part 3 gives you the opportunity to deepen your theoretical and practical knowledge and skills in core modules and allow students to apply what they have learnt in optional modules of their choosing in both finance and economics. This includes the opportunity to do a dissertation in economics. This allows you to do research supervised by a staff member, enhancing independent learning, research, writing, econometric and analytical skills.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BSc Economics and Finance with International Foundation Year

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 understand the fundamental concepts of microeconomics and macroeconomics.
2	Critically understand the fundamental concepts at the core of financial knowledge comprising investment and corporate finance.
3	Establish links between economics and finance.
4	Apply the key techniques in econometrics comprising OLS estimation, hypothesis testing and model evaluation.
5	Structure, analyse and solve problems.
6	Use spreadsheet software to analyse complex practical problems in finance.
7	Operate in a dealing room environment including the ability to manage the bid/ask spread.
8	Use IT, including word processing, data exchange, graphics, Excel, econometric software and directed Website searches.
9	Communicate ideas in a logical way both verbally and non-verbally to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
10	Manage time to achieve goals.
11	Carry out careers planning.

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.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes
N/A

Module information

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

Foundation modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IF0ACI	Academic Communication and Inquiry	20	0
IF0ALS	Academic Literacies and Skills	20	0
IF0EC1	Foundation Economics - Microeconomics	20	0
IF0EC2	Foundation Economics - Macroeconomics	20	0
IF0MFE	Mathematics for Finance and Economics	20	0
IF0QFE	Quantitative Methods for Finance and Economics	20	0

Students entering the programme in January will take the following compulsory modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IF0ALSJ	Academic Literacies and Skills	20	0
IF0ACIJ	Academic Communication and Inquiry	20	0
IF0EC1J	Foundation Economics - Microeconomics	20	0
IF0EC2J	Foundation Economics - Macroeconomics	20	0
IF0MFEJ	Mathematics for Finance and Economics	20	0
IF0QFEJ	Quantitative Methods for Finance and Economics	20	0

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
EC113	Introductory Microeconomics	20	4
EC114	Introductory Macroeconomics	20	4
EC144	Mathematical Methods for Economists	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

All students will take a preparatory module in core skills required for transition to undergraduate study.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
EC213	Microeconomics	20	5
EC214	Macroeconomics	20	5
IC201	Corporate Finance	20	5
IC215	Data Science for Finance	20	5

Remaining credits will be made up of 20 credits of optional modules available in the Department of Economics and 20 credits of optional modules available in ICMA.

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

Remaining credits will be made up of 40 credits of optional modules available in the Department of Economics and 20 credits of optional modules available in ICMA.

Placement 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 (including some computer classes) 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 International Foundation Year will include at least 18 hours of classroom-based teaching each week.

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
N/A

Assessment

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

Progression

Foundation Year

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

(i) obtain an overall weighted average of 50% over 120 credits taken in Part 0; and

(ii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all individual modules.

In order to progress from Part 0 to Part 1 and be eligible for transfer to BSc Economics and Finance, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

(iii) at least 50% in Mathematics for Finance and Economics (IF0MFE or IF0MFEJ);

(iv) and 50% in each of Academic Literacies and Skills (IF0ALS) or (IF0ALSJ) and Academic Communication and Inquiry (IF0ACI) or (IF0ACIJ).

Part 1
To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:
(i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
(ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
(iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

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.

Students considering transferring to another programme should seek guidance from their designated Support Centre in the first instance.

Part 2
To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

(i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
(ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
(iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

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:

Four year programmes:
Part 2: one-third
Part 3: two-thirds

Five year programmes, including study abroad / placement year:
Part 2: one-third
Study abroad/Placement year: not included in the classification
Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the Assessment Handbook under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

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

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. However, actual costs will vary depending on individual study technique, preferences, and requirements. Some textbooks are available to our students for free online which can significantly reduce costs. Students can also reduce their costs by buying books second-hand. 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. 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.

BSc Economics and Finance with International Foundation Year for students entering Foundation year in session 2027/28
2 July 2026