

Programme Specification

**BSc Mathematics with Finance and Investment Banking with
International Foundation Year**

For students entering Foundation year in September 2027

**UCAS Code:
GN13**

UFMATFIBFF

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	Accredited by the Institute of Mathematics and its applications to meet the educational requirements for the Chartered Mathematician designation when followed by subsequent training and experience in employment to obtain competencies equivalent to those specified by the QAA for taught Masters degrees.
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Mathematics, Statistics and Operational Research; Finance

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with a general education in both mathematics and finance, as preparation for work in investment banking. It aims to develop your ability to use mathematical and statistical methods to study investments and corporate finance.

You will benefit from significant opportunities to develop your problem-solving skills. Logic is an essential part of the understanding and construction of mathematical proofs and is embedded throughout the programme. On the finance side, you will learn basic techniques to solve 'business world' problems.

Foundation year:	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. 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
Part 1:	Part 1 introduces you to core mathematics skills and knowledge through a number of introductory modules designed to manage the transition to university level mathematics and provide the basis for more advanced study in later years.

	In Finance, Part 1 deals with Introductory Securities and Markets, as well as Introductory Finance and Trading Simulation.
Part 2:	Part 2 provides you with more advanced topics in mathematics, with topics such as differential equations building on techniques established in Part 1 in the areas of calculus and linear algebra. Trends in finance are also studied.
Part 3:	In Part 3 you will undertake some project work in mathematics. The choice of optional modules will allow you to express your preference for certain topics in pure or applied mathematics, and finance. In finance you will explore Derivative Securities.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BSc Mathematics with Finance and Investment Banking 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	Demonstrate logical thinking through the production of a structured argument.
2	Select and use appropriate mathematical and statistical tools, techniques and theory to solve problems in the mathematical sciences, and cognate disciplines, and be able to critically evaluate and reflect on the appropriateness of these.
3	Recognise what makes an argument a mathematical proof, and be able to construct mathematical proofs to a range of propositions drawn from the mathematical sciences.
4	Critically analyse so-called 'real world' problems and identify their essential mathematical or statistical features, and apply appropriate elements of discipline-based theory to solve these.
5	Reflect on aspects from one sub-field of the mathematical sciences and articulate how this applies to or illuminates another.
6	Plan, conduct and appropriately communicate work undertaken as part of a project.
7	Communicate, clearly and effectively, discipline-based arguments to a variety of audiences through a variety of means.
8	Identify how skills obtained in the programme can be applied outside the context of your studies.
9	Critically understand the concepts and techniques of corporate finance.
10	Understand and apply the most frequently used mathematical techniques, comprising OLS estimation, hypothesis testing and model evaluation.
11	Apply financial concepts and techniques to real-world problems.

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
IF0FM	Further Mathematics	20	0
IF0MS	Mathematics for Science	20	0
IF0PH	Foundation Physics	20	0
IF0QMS	Quantitative Methods for Science	20	0

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IC101	Introductory Securities and Markets	20	4
IC102	Introductory Finance/Trading Simulation I	20	4
MA1CA	Calculus	20	4
MA1FM	Foundations of Mathematics	20	4
MA1LA	Linear Algebra	20	4
ST1PS	Probability and Statistics	20	4

All modules at Part 1 of the programme are compulsory.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IC212	Financial Modelling	20	5
MA1RA1	Real Analysis I	20	4
MA2DE	Differential Equations	20	5
MA2MMS	Mathematical Modelling and Professional Skills	20	5
MA2NAO	Numerical Analysis I	20	5

Students must take 20 credits of optional Finance modules from a list available from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

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
IC317	Derivative Securities	20	6
MA3PPR	Portfolio of Projects	20	6

Students must take a further 80 credits of optional modules from a list available from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, 20 credits of which must be Finance modules, and 60 credits of which must be Mathematics or Statistics modules.

Placement opportunities

If there is an opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme, this would normally be in-year and not for a additional full year. 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 an in-year 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.

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, computer classes and supervised project work, 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

These programmes are accredited by the Institute of Mathematics and Its Applications (IMA). Accreditation guarantees that the educational requirements for the Chartered Mathematician (CMath) designation, subject to subsequent training and experience in employment to obtain equivalent competences to those specified by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) for taught Masters degrees, are met. When you successfully complete the degree you can apply for Associate Membership of the IMA.

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

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 Mathematics with Finance and Investment Banking, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iii) at least 55% in Mathematics for Science (IF0MS), Quantitative Methods for Science (IF0QMS), and Further Mathematics (IF0FM);
- (iv) and 50% in each of Academic Literacies and Skills (IF0ALS) and Academic Communication and Inquiry (IF0ACI).

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:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including professional/work placement or study abroad:

Part 2: one-third

Placement/Study abroad: 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 £100 per year, depending on your preference to have your own books rather than borrow from the library. 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. You will need an approved scientific calculator (approximate cost £14).

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 Mathematics with Finance and Investment Banking with International Foundation Year
for students entering Foundation year in session 2027/28

1 July 2026

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