MSc International Accounting and Financial Management
For students entering in 2006

Awarding Institution	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution	The University of Reading
Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences	Programme Length: 12 months
Date of specification: March 2006	
Programme Director: Prof. Chris W. Nobes	
Board of Studies Management (Postgraduate)	
Accreditation: N/A	

1. Summary of programme aims
The programme aims to provide a thorough postgraduate education in the specialist area of international accounting and finance. The compulsory modules provide a critical understanding of current theories and empirical research in the field of knowledge and students will develop a practical understanding of the application of this knowledge within an institutional framework. They will learn to evaluate alternative theories and methodologies and to make judgements on their applicability to complex issues where there is incomplete information.

2. Transferable skills
The programme requires a substantial amount of independent reading, research and study and students are expected to take personal responsibility and show initiative in developing their knowledge and understanding of the field of study. They will also need to enhance their skills in communications (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, and the use of information technology. Students will work under pressure of time throughout the programme and will learn to set priorities and manage their time in order to meet strict deadlines. Career planning will be an integral part of the programme, both in the choice of programme and in its elective components.

3. Programme content

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Level
	Compulsory Modules		
MMM21	International Accounting	20	M
MMM22	Anglo-American Accounting	20	M
MMM25	Multinational Financial Reporting and Analysis	20	M
ECM22	Financial Markets	20	M
ECM23	Financial Regulation	20	M
MMM023	Study skills (incorporating dissertation) * Study skills module to be timetabled and strongly recommended	40	M
	Optional Modules (2 of the following modules)		
MMM028	Comparative and Inter-Cultural Management	20	M
ECM08	Corporate Finance	20	M
ECM09	Financial Markets and Corporate Governance	20	M
MMM004	Strategy, Policy and Impact of Multinational Enterprise	20	M
MMM034	Corporate Social Responsibility	20	M

4. Part-time/Modular arrangements
The programme may be studied part-time over two consecutive years by arrangement with the Director of Studies for MSc Programmes. The dissertation, if selected, will be

presented by 5.00 p.m. on the first Friday in September at the end of the second year of study.

5. Progression requirements

Students wishing to proceed to a higher degree by research should normally have followed the 12 month programme and obtained an average of at least 60% in the modules and at least 60% in the dissertation.

6. Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of material varies among the modules, especially in the proportion of time allocated to lectures, classes and seminars. All modules involve coursework, which takes a variety of forms reflecting the aims of the module. Final assessment of the modules involves a 2 hour examination (weight 70%) and coursework (weight 30%). A dissertation supervisor is appointed for each student.:
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

To pass the MSc students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked at 40-49% must not exceed 40 credits and no module mark must fall below 40%. For the 12-month programme 50% or more in the dissertation is also required.

Students who gain an average mark of 70% or above, including a mark of 60% or more in the dissertation if applicable and no mark below 50% will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining a mark of 60%, including a mark of 50% or more in the dissertation (if applicable) may be eligible for a Merit pass.

A Postgraduate Diploma can be awarded to students who pass at least 120 credits of M level modules, of which at least 60 credits must be passed in compulsory modules.

7. Admission requirements

(a) Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained an upper second class honours degree or equivalent. The additional requirements for the programme can be obtained from the pre-requisites of the core modules of the programme.

(b) Admissions Tutor: Prof. Chris W. Nobes

8. Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers, and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Programme Directors,

the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Adviser, Study Advisers, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

The Programme Director acts as personal tutor to the student and also interviews every student before the beginning of term to offer advice on the operation of the degree programme and on the choice of options. Many of the students are from countries outside the UK and tutors are therefore careful to ensure that students settle down in their new surroundings and understand the requirements of the MSc programme. The initial interview is also useful in detecting whether students have some language problems (despite obtaining an IELTS score of 7.00), in which case they are strongly advised to register for language tuition. All Autumn term modules set a test at the end of the term with the primary purpose of familiarising students with the UK examination system and the requirements of the programme. Students who fail overall on their modules are identified and invited to discuss their problems with their tutor. In addition to lecture and class times, each module lecturer has appointed office hours during which they may be consulted without prior appointment. The Department of Economics also provides a Handbook with details of each module and a Handbook covering the MSc programmes as a whole, including details of the method of assessment of programmes.

9. Career Prospects

Most of the students come from outside the UK and many return to employment in the financial world in their home countries. UK students enter a variety of occupations, but over the years a number have moved into international finance or consultancy. A minority of students proceed to a PhD and enter academic/research or international organisations.

10. Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

None

11. Educational aims of the programme

The programme provides a thorough postgraduate training in international accounting and finance, with an emphasis on the application of theory and technique. It aims to produce graduates who are well placed to enter employment in financial institutions or accounting or consulting firms.

12. Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:		**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. Evolution and workings of different business systems. 2. Theory and practice of financial markets, corporate governance and financial regulation. 3. Causes and nature of international differences in financial reporting. 4. Interpretation of financial statements in an international context.	→	Formal lectures, discussions, cast studies, guided reading and guidance on key sources of reference material. Feedback and guidance are important elements complementing an emphasis on self-study. **Assessment** Unseen examinations and coursework comprising essays, cases, exercises and tests.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - able to 1. Think logically and analytically. 2. Marshall arguments towards a conclusion. 3. Absorb date and identify and present the salient features of it.	→	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies** Students are frequently challenged in all teaching situations to complete logical arguments, analyse problems and alternative policies, justify statements. Essays, cases and exercises provide the principle vehicles for developing intellectual skills. **Assessment** Unseen examination and coursework particularly the cases and exercises.
C. Practical skills - able to 1. Draw on knowledge to present arguments in the areas of financial markets, governance and reporting. 2. Evaluate alternative policies. 3. Interpret financial statements. 4. Perform calculations in certain areas.	→	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies** Students are required to understand a wide amount of reading, both of specific references and through researching their own sources of information. There are numerical exercises and case studies on interpretation of financial statements. **Assessment** Exercises and case studies.
D. Transferable skills - able to 1. Communicate orally and in writing. 2. Use IT, including word processing and Website searches. 3. Use library and Web based resources. 4. Organise extended pieces of work from planning to completion. 5. Manage time and prioritise work to achieve goals.	→	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies** The presentation of well researched written work is a fundamental element of the programme and requires the application of all of the skills listed in 1-5. This is reinforced by the breadth and depth of the syllabuses for each module and the highly structured system of deadlines for assessed work, and examinations which develop the students' skills of time management. Oral skills are developed through lecture and seminar discussions. **Assessment** Unseen examination and coursework.

Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.