

## Finance and Investment MSc Programme Specification

|                                  |                                                                    |                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Academic Year:</b>            | 2026/2027                                                          |                |
| <b>Degree Awarding Body:</b>     | The University of Bradford                                         |                |
| <b>Main Location:</b>            | City Campus                                                        |                |
| <b>Subject Benchmarks:</b>       | Masters in Business and Management (Quality Assurance Agency 2019) |                |
| <b>Qualifications Framework:</b> | HE Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies (FHEQ: QAA 2014)    |                |
| <b>Target Degree Award:</b>      | Master of Science (MSc)                                            | [FHEQ Level 7] |
| <b>Intermediate awards:</b>      | Postgraduate Diploma (PGD)                                         | [FHEQ Level 7] |
|                                  | Postgraduate Certificate (PGC)                                     | [FHEQ Level 7] |
| <b>Programme Admissions:</b>     | UK and international students                                      |                |
| <b>Programme Start Dates:</b>    | September, January                                                 |                |
| <b>Course Modes of Study:</b>    | 12 months full-time (September start)                              |                |
|                                  | 15 months full-time (January start)                                |                |

Some modules in this programme are recognised to provide exemptions by [The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants \(ACCA\)](#). This means that by successfully completing these modules within the programme, students are eligible for credit towards professional examinations.

**Please note:** The University has a set of terms and conditions for all students accepting an offer to study on a course here at Bradford. This is called the Student Contract. This document sets out the Terms and Conditions which apply when you accept an offer of a place on a programme of study at the University of Bradford. [View our Student Contract for further details](#). Information about this programme and its modules has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them.

### Minor Modification Schedule

1. March 2023: Updated options and January intake
2. July 2025: Annual Changes for the 2025 academic year, including changes to academic regulation.
3. April 2026: Annual changes for 2026 entry, including revised modes of study.

### Programme Overview

The Master's in Finance and Investment is designed to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills in advanced financial decision-making along with core topics in accounting and economics. The programme focuses on the key elements of corporate finance, investment management and applied quantitative finance. The aim is to produce specialists who have a strong financial perspective on corporate activity, pension fund behaviour, the economy and international financial markets.

The MSc Finance and Investment programme cultivates the ethos of an engaging and inclusive learning community that is responsive to different learning styles and allows each student to develop to their full potential. Throughout the programme, there will be widespread use of financial software packages that are the most widely utilised in industry and the City of London. There is an emphasis on specialist areas within finance including undertaking financial investments, financial modelling, mathematical finance and financial management roles within mainstream financial firms. There will also be particular focus on providing students with the conceptual understanding, knowledge and technical skills that are required to implement advanced financial models in a practical way.

The MSc in Finance and Investment is supported by experienced academics associated with the Accounting Finance and Economics Department. Staff hold a reputation in the field and will provide significant insights into key elements of business in creating and measuring value, and views of accounting and finance from a strategic perspective.

The School of Management aims to provide programmes that educate students as a manager and business specialist and thus improve the quality of management as a profession. The MSc programme is commensurate with the UK QAA Benchmark for a Type 1 (Specialist Level Career Entry) Master's Degree in Business and Management. The subcategory is "professionally oriented leading to a job in a company/organisation".

On graduation from this programme, students will have developed a portfolio of work that demonstrates specialist knowledge in finance and investment as well as employability skills and will thus be well-placed to access a range of career opportunities in finance, stock markets and banking either nationally or internationally. Therefore, graduates from this programme will be able to contribute to business and society as a whole whilst applying the highest professional standards and will be capable of identifying their own professional development requirements. Equipped with the skills, knowledge and critical faculties required to operate and thrive in the contemporary business environment, students will be ideally placed to pursue a specialised financial related career in business.

This MSc degree programme offers exemptions from professional examinations in the UK and internationally for the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA). This means you can save time and money if you choose to pursue certification after completing this course. Exemption details can be found on the [ACCA Exemptions Calculator](#) website.

## **Programme Aims**

**The programme is intended to:**

- Provide a critical understanding of the main theoretical and empirical evidence relating to equity, currency, fixed income and derivatives asset pricing models.
- Provide a critical understanding of the theory and practice of corporate finance.
- Provide the knowledge and technical skills required to undertake advanced financial modelling using the most widely implemented software packages.

- Provide advanced study of financial markets, financial institutions and business organisations, their financial and organisational structure and the political and economic environment in which they operate.
- Develop personal transferable skills, particularly in the areas of teamwork, communication, computing, analytical reasoning and mathematics.
- Provide training within specialist areas of finance including topics such as undertaking financial investments, financial modelling, mathematical finance and financial management roles within mainstream financial firms.
- Prepare students for careers in corporate finance, investment banking, portfolio management, financial consultancy, fixed income & derivatives trading, risk management and other finance related disciplines.
- Provide a supportive, structured environment in which students are encouraged to develop independent learning skills and provide original contributions to the field of finance.
- Prepare students for further advanced study (at MPhil / PhD level) in finance.

## Programme Learning Outcomes

**Students eligible for the FHEQ Level 7 Masters degree award will be able to demonstrate:**

1. A detailed knowledge of the political, economic and business environments in which international financial markets and institutions operate.
2. A detailed knowledge of the types of financial assets that are available for trading on international financial markets and a critical understanding, both theoretical and empirical, of the way in which these assets are priced.
3. A critical understanding of how multinational corporations can be financed.
4. Advanced technical skills in the areas of financial mathematics, financial statistics and computational finance.
5. Knowledge of recent developments in the theory and practice of finance (e.g. credit risk management).
6. An ability to apply financial models to real-world problems, particularly through the use of popular computer software packages.
7. Experience of interpersonal skills of communication, negotiation, leadership and teamwork, through group work and tutorial activities.
8. Developed research skills and demonstrated original thought in finance by preparing for and writing a Masters dissertation.

## Assessment Strategy

The assessment strategy for this programme is based on principles of constructive alignment, diversity, and inclusion. It employs a well-developed range of formative and summative assessments tasks which are designed to help students to develop and demonstrate knowledge

and understanding as well as a skill set in accordance with the learning outcomes for the programme overall and for specific modules. Our overall strategy aims to develop ability to succeed in a global context, and to assist individuals to take effective roles within them in a balanced and diverse range of assessment tasks.

The formative assessment strategy includes monitoring student's learning throughout each semester, using a range of class and seminar activities, personal tutors, project supervision and a variety of coursework, including essays, reflective notes, literature reviews, oral or audio-visual presentations, and group and individual tasks for which formative feedback is given.

The programme is summatively assessed by a mixture of written examinations, assessed coursework, and applied coursework requiring the use of specialist computer software used on this programme as well as case studies, group projects and [multimedia] presentations. Assessment is integrated with learning and teaching to support and demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes for individual modules and the programme as a whole.

Learning outcomes 1, 4, 5, and 6 focus on gaining a critical appreciation of the socio-political and economic context within which financial institutions operate, as well as application of knowledge and technical skills to address "real world" problems. They also aim to provide insights into likely future challenges faced by financial institutions, and the ways to address those challenges in an ethical manner. They are assessed by group coursework, tutorial exercises, examinations, preparation of the MSc dissertation and group work in modules such as International Finance.

Learning outcomes 2, 3 and 7 are focused on subject-specific knowledge in both finance and banking, gaining a critical appreciation of financing and the interplay between financial institutions, and acquisition of advanced knowledge of formal concepts in finance using appropriate mathematics, statistics and computational tools. They are assessed by employing a mixture of examinations, individual items of coursework, group coursework and the MSc dissertation, in modules such as Quantitative Methods in Finance, Asset Pricing and Financial Markets and Business Economics.

Learning outcome 8 focuses on the development of interpersonal and leadership skills, as well as skills in communication, time management and negotiation. These skills will contribute to the student's portfolio of personal transferable skills and their employability. This learning outcome is assessed by group coursework and interactive tutorial and computer lab sessions in modules such as Quantitative Methods in Finance and Asset Pricing and Financial Markets.

The Dissertation integrates a significant number of Programme learning outcomes. The student will be provided with an opportunity to receive formative feedback in preparation for completing the final research dissertation. The dissertation is an extended piece of written work involving an original and in-depth investigation of a specialist finance issue related to this programme. Guidance on dissertation choice and supervision is provided during the first two phases of the degree, thus giving them the opportunity to prepare in advance for phase three.

## Learning and Teaching Strategy

This programme aims at integrating applied and theoretical knowledge with assessment processes that test both knowledge of the discipline and understanding of its application and limitations. The learning and teaching strategy put significant emphasis on the development of analytical, practical and interpersonal skills. Throughout the programme, students will be actively engaged in a diverse range of learning activities designed to develop your capacities for thoughtful analysis and reflective practice.

Teaching on the programme will take different formats and will be directed, supported and reinforced through a combination of formal online lectures, staff/student led online and face-to face group tasks and discussions, simulations, personal research and guided self-study, tutorials, seminars and directed reading. Sessions may be delivered weekly or in blocks.

Small group sessions will use case studies and lab tutorials/simulations with formative feedback given in class. Students will be guided to suitable primary and secondary data sources and be required to conduct research and presentation exercises. These activities will all be further supported by the use of a virtual learning environment.

The MSc in Finance and Investment makes intensive use of Trading Room facilities. By access to specialist resources within our Trading Room, students are able to gain hands on experience in a simulated trading environment, as well as get a feel for “real” investment decisions made in industry. Bradford University's Trading Room in our Bright Building enables our students to gain exposure to, and receive training in, dealing with “real life” financial and economic markets through simulations and exercises. Students have access to [Bloomberg Professional Terminals](#), an industry standard market information software package that is used widely internationally. It is used by a majority of organisations engaged in finance, banking and macroeconomic analysis. Bloomberg Professional offers a feature rich environment with a wide range of data classes whereby students have access to data used in decision making in areas such as macroeconomic policy making, central banking, portfolio management, equities, insurance, risk analysis and more.

In addition to learning within modules, personal academic tutors will support individual academic development, by helping in analysing learning needs, developing appropriate learning strategies that enable students to reflect on their own progress. Building many and varied opportunities to engage with and learn from each other into the programme is integral to fostering an inclusive learning environment. University wide there is support available for students for academic skills, information literacy and programming language learning.

Further, there are many opportunities to take part in exciting extra-curricular activities. The Faculty's own Career Booster professional development programme will offer opportunities to advance intellectual and employability skills (e.g. critical thinking, communication, team work, problem solving). The School of Management is dynamic with a diverse and active Faculty and wider University. It arranges numerous events and opportunities each semester beyond the taught modules to engage with not only academic but also policy and practitioner events and issues. These include invited speakers, seminars, workshops, activities and conferences.

## Curriculum

The Master's programme in Finance and Investment is built on a foundation of general Finance and Financial Management, Econometrics and Investment modules. It is 180 credits in total.

This programme also provides the opportunity for granular personalised learning and specialism where students can take 20 credits of options over the programme.

**Table 1: Finance and Investment Modules (cores/options) FHEQ Level 7**

| Module Code | Module Title                                           | Credit | Period | Selection |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|
| MAL7502-E   | Dissertation (AFE)                                     | 60     | NSYR   | Core      |
| AFE7501-B   | Quantitative Methods in Finance                        | 20     | Sem 1  | Core      |
| AFE7503-B   | Asset Pricing and Financial Markets                    | 20     | Sem 1  | Core      |
| AFE7504-A   | Business Economics                                     | 10     | Sem 1  | Core      |
| HRM7503-A   | Developing Skills for Business Leadership              | 10     | Sem 1  | Option 1  |
| MAR7509-A   | Digital Marketing Metrics                              | 10     | Sem 1  | Option 2  |
| MAR7504-A   | International Marketing                                | 10     | Sem 1  | Option 3  |
| AFE7505-B   | Contemporary Issues in Accounting and Finance          | 20     | Sem 2  | Core      |
| AFE7507-B   | Derivatives Pricing and Valuation                      | 20     | Sem 2  | Core      |
| AFE7508-A   | International Finance                                  | 10     | Sem 2  | Core      |
| SIB7506-A   | International Master's Summer School                   | 10     | Sem 3  | Option 4  |
| AFE7513-A   | Corporate Finance                                      | 10     | Sem 2  | Option 5  |
| SIB7505-A   | Corporate Social Responsibility                        | 10     | Sem 2  | Option 6  |
| EAE7501-A   | Entrepreneurship and Innovation                        | 10     | Sem 2  | Option 7  |
| SIB7507-Z   | International Master's Summer School (attendance only) | 0      | Sem 3  | Option    |

This programme offers the Summer School as attendance only (Z) which allows you to select a third module within your 20 credits. You may not study SIB7506-A and SIB7507-Z together.

As part of the School of Management's exchange agreement with TBS (France), students could study a credit-bearing Semester 2 option "Financial Risk Management in European Banking" in Toulouse. This module runs irregularly, and students will be advised after enrolment if this module (AFE7512-A) is available. Travel and maintenance costs are additional for students. The School of Management subsidises the cost to students of taking the module in France but the level of contribution can vary.

## Study Abroad

This programme is not designed to include a full study abroad component. We do not recommend you take up "study abroad semester" opportunities while studying on this programme. This is due to the professional ACCA exemptions of the programme being attached to performance in specified modules, which you will not be eligible for if you study substitute modules overseas.

Students can still explore opportunities for short international activities (1-6 weeks) that are held over the summer periods by speaking to the University International Opportunities team. Further

information about international [internships and placements](#) and [study abroad opportunities](#) is published on the University's website.

## Academic Student Journey

This programme is completed within 4 semesters. Students entering the full-time programme in September or January will study modules in a different order to each other as follows:

**Table 2: Student journey comparison between September and January start**

| September Start                                                                            | Study Period and Year     | January Start                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Start Taught Component with Semester 1 Modules                                             | Autumn Semester 1, Year 1 | /                                                                                |
| Conclude Taught Component with Semester 2 Modules. Start Dissertation.                     | Spring Semester 2, Year 1 | Start Taught Component with Semester 2 Modules                                   |
| International Master's Summer School (Credit or attendance). Continuation of Dissertation. | Summer Semester 3, Year 1 | International Master's Summer School (Credit or attendance). Start Dissertation. |
| Submission of Dissertation in September - complete programme. Graduation in December.      | Autumn Semester 1, Year 2 | Conclude Taught Component with Semester 2 Modules. Continuance of Dissertation.  |
| /                                                                                          | Spring Semester 2, Year 2 | Submission of Dissertation in March - complete programme.                        |
| /                                                                                          | Summer Semester 3, Year 2 | Graduation in July.                                                              |

## Assessment, Continuation and Award Regulations

This programme follows the Assessment, Continuation and Award regulations published on the University's website for postgraduate courses ([Regulation 9](#)).

Award of the Masters degree requires 180 FHEQ Level 7 credits and achievement of the award learning outcomes. Students who exit the programme with 120 or 60 credits completed may be eligible for an intermediate award in line with the regulations.

The professional bodies which award credit or exemptions for this programme maintain their own criteria for awarding these. You may need to meet their requirements, including choosing specific options, in order to be eligible for any specified exemption.

## Admission Requirements

We are proud to be [one of the most inclusive universities in the UK](#). All our students have potential, and we believe that as many people as possible should have the chance to benefit from higher education, no matter what their background or circumstances.

We take the time to understand the background of our applicants, understand their journey to education, and make decisions based on an applicant's potential to thrive at university and beyond. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

As the programme is taught in English, all applicants are required to have GCSE Grade 4 (national grade C) or above in English Language. Alternative RQF Level 2 qualifications such as Key Skills are also acceptable if equivalent. For international students, the level of English required is listed on the [University of Bradford English language requirements website](#). Exceptionally, holders of a UK degree awarded within 2 years prior to entry to the Bradford programme may be exempt from these English test requirements.

**Applicants to MSc Finance and Investment typically have an undergraduate Honours degree passed at 50% (2:2 class) or higher, in accounting and finance, economics, management (with a significant component of economics and/or accounting and finance) or a quantitative science such as mathematics, physics or engineering from an accredited higher education institution.** This is generally equivalent to an international grade percentile average (GPA) of 2.5 out of 4.0 or 6.5 out of 10, or overall average of 70 from 100%. Examples of other equivalent international qualifications are provided on the [University of Bradford page for your country or region](#).

Equivalent professional qualifications will also be eligible if supported with appropriate practical experience. Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications or mature students (those over 25 years of age on entry) with significant relevant experience.

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University of Bradford has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme. Find more information about [recognition of prior learning decisions](#) on the University website.

If you are thinking of coming or have recently applied to the University of Bradford, don't wait until you have arrived to contact our Disability Service. We can arrange for you to talk to a member of our team about what support is on offer here at the University including an invitation to our Get Set Day. To contact the Disability Service please complete the [request support form](#).

**Please note:** Information in this document is for the contemporary recruitment cycle and was accurate at time of publication. The current tariff and accepted qualifications for entry onto the programme is published at the online course page:

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/pg/finance-and-investment/>