

MSc in Islamic FinTech and Artificial Intelligence

Academic Year:	2026/2027
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
Main Location:	City Campus
Subject Benchmarks:	SUBJECT BENCHMARK STATEMENT (QAA YEAR)
Qualifications Framework:	HE Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies (FHEQ: QAA 2024/2014)
Target Degree Award:	Master of Science (MSc) Title [FHEQ Level 7]
Intermediate/exit awards:	Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) [FHEQ Level 7] Postgraduate Certificate (PGC) [FHEQ Level 7]
Programme Admissions:	UK and international students
Programme Start Dates:	September
Programme Modes of Study:	12 months full-time (September start)

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 an offer of a place on a programme of study at the University of Bradford is accepted. [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.

Programme Aims

"Islamic Fintech" is a term used by the World Bank Group to describe how "fintech technologies are exponentially enhancing and disrupting 20th century Islamic financial services, operations, business models, and customer engagement."

According to the Global Islamic Fintech Report, transaction volume in the Islamic FinTech sector reached approximately USD 198 billion in 2024/25 and is projected to grow to USD 341 billion by 2029, amplifying demands for highly skilled and trusted professionals to drive innovation, growth and thought leadership in this expanding field.

The MSc in Islamic FinTech and Artificial Intelligence (MSc IFTAI) offers a uniquely interdisciplinary programme that integrates Islamic Finance, FinTech and Artificial Intelligence (AI). This hybrid curriculum strategically prepares graduates to lead the next generation of Islamic FinTech development, advancing ethical finance and the responsible use of financial technologies and AI in support of human rights and sustainable economic progress.

The programme will equip students with competency in ethical discourse alongside interdisciplinary knowledge and skills - including finance, technology, analytics, research, entrepreneurial capabilities and soft skills. These competencies will enable graduates to exercise thought leadership through research and advocacy, pursue professional careers, and establish commercial or social enterprises

that address community needs for financial inclusion and financial security in support of sustainable social and economic development.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this programme, graduates will be able to:

Subject knowledge and skills

1. Demonstrate a systematic and critical understanding of Islamic Finance and/or Financial Technology and artificial intelligence, including current developments, challenges, and emerging trends informed by academic research, data, and professional practice.
2. Demonstrate advanced understanding of techniques and approaches used in FinTech and AI, and/or their application within Islamic finance contexts.
3. Apply knowledge of Islamic finance principles and/or FinTech and AI to analyse and address complex problems, demonstrating originality in the integration of interdisciplinary perspectives.
4. Critically evaluate research, methodologies and evidence relevant to Islamic Finance or FinTech and AI and use these to develop and justify informed conclusions or new insights.

Practical and transferable skills

5. Critically analyse complex issues - both systematically and creatively, make sound and ethical judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences in the FinTech sector.
6. Demonstrate critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making skills in complex and uncertain environments that are applicable to the Islamic FinTech sector.
7. Independently acquire and apply new knowledge and skills, supporting continued professional and academic development.
8. Engage with ethical, regulatory and interdisciplinary perspectives, applying these to decision-making and analysis within Islamic FinTech contexts.

Professional behaviours and qualities

9. Critically reflect on personal perspectives, values and approaches, and their influence on academic work and professional decision-making.
10. Exhibit leadership, collaboration and entrepreneurial capabilities in developing or evaluating solutions that support financial inclusion, ethical finance and sustainable socio-economic development.

Student journey

The MSc Islamic FinTech and Artificial Intelligence is a one-year full-time Master of Science programme. The academic year is structured in three stages: two taught semesters (Semester 1 and Semester 2), followed by a dissertation research stage.

Student Journey

Taught Stage – Sem 1

At the beginning of the semester, students will attend an induction session, which will provide them with the information necessary to study in this programme. There will be a session on 'Meet the Programme Leadership (PL), Responsible FinTech (ResFinTech), and Local Leader' where they will be introduced to the PL and gain insight about financial inclusion from a Community Leader in Bradford (e.g., MP).

In Semester 1, students develop foundational knowledge of financial technology and Islamic finance principles. This provides the basis for understanding key concepts, challenges and opportunities within the Islamic FinTech landscape.

Students are introduced to quantitative methods and data analytics in financial contexts, developing skills in data interpretation and visualisation to support evidence-based analysis.

During this stage, students begin to identify areas of interest or emerging problems within Islamic FinTech, which will inform their progression into more advanced study and independent research.

Taught Stage – Sem 2

In Semester 2, students build on these foundations through the study of Islamic financial markets and instruments, alongside the application of machine learning and artificial intelligence in financial contexts.

Students explore the practical implementation of financial technologies, considering both conventional and Islamic approaches, and critically examine associated risks, ethical considerations and regulatory frameworks.

This stage supports the development of more advanced analytical and technical capabilities, preparing students to engage with complex, real-world challenges in Islamic FinTech.

To help students gain a practical insight of real-world problems, there will be a ResFinTech session that features external experts, professionals or entrepreneurs from Islamic Finance or FinTech sector.

Research Stage

In the final stage, students undertake a 60-credit dissertation focused on a topic related to Islamic FinTech and/or artificial intelligence.

The dissertation enables students to apply their knowledge and skills to an independent research project, demonstrating critical analysis, methodological rigour, and an understanding of both theoretical and practical dimensions of the field.

This stage supports the development of advanced research capability and prepares students for professional roles or further academic study.

Graduation and next steps

After completing the programme, graduates are encouraged to pursue thought leadership by going for either 1) PhD studies or 2) professional roles in financial services industry by taking up employments or starting up commercial/social enterprises that address community needs for financial inclusion and financial security in support of sustainable social and economic development. There will be opportunities to leverage on the Programme Leadership Team's continued engagements with professional bodies, businesses, charities, consumers, parliamentary and international communities. Through continued engagement with FinTech research group, they will gain refreshing access to actively engaged alumni members, local communities, and networks of entrepreneurs and

professionals who might open doors to collaborative ventures within Islamic Finance and FinTech sector.

Modules List:

Period	Type	Module Title	Credit	Level	Code
Sem 1	Core	Fundamentals of Financial Technology, Blockchain, and Value Creation	20	7	AFE7517-B
Sem 1	Core	Quantitative Methods in Finance	20	7	AFE7501-B
Sem 1	Core	Islamic Economics, Philosophy and Shariah Governance	20	7	AFE7529-B
Sem 2	Core	Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence in Finance	20	7	AFE7518-B
Sem 2	Core	FinTech Regulation, Compliance, Ethics and Risk Management Finance	20	7	AFE7516-B
Sem 2	Core	Islamic Financial Markets and Instruments	20	7	AFE7530-B
NSYR	Core	Dissertation (AFE)	60	7	MAL7502-E

Learning, teaching and assessment strategy

Programme learning

The teaching team brings together a unique blend of expertise, experience, profile and networks as Fellow Chartered Accountants (FCA), British judges and arbitrators in English and international law, senior qualified international lawyers, Islamic financial practitioners, Shari'ah scholars, government advisors and stakeholders of the UK's All-Party Parliamentary Group on Islamic and Ethical Finance (APPGIEF). This blend of in-house expertise is not offered by any other British university's Islamic Finance programmes, portraying the strength we have in terms of developing graduate/profession in this market with professional, technical and soft skills.

The learning will be directed, supported, and reinforced through a combination of lectures, tutorials, seminars, labs, project supervision, as well as through personal research and directed and self-directed study. These activities will all be further supported using a virtual learning environment (VLE). To facilitate learning, lectures will be grounded in active and collaborative learning and will typically utilise high-calibre in-house expertise (as described above), external industry experts, case studies and problem-solving exercises. The nature of the collaborative activities varies, though typically students may be required to engage as a group, develop and discuss a case(s)/scenario and provide solutions based on sound analysis and logical arguments using information from varying sources. Students also will use the expertise of their peers and will gain the skills to lead start-ups (commercial or social ventures). Constructive feedback is provided by peers and the module leader/tutor during the teaching sessions.

Tutorials will be in the format of discussion-based, problem-solving and/or review and Q&A sessions, with oral feedback given in class. Lab sessions will complement formal lectures and tutorials and will be an opportunity for students to do some hands-on-system work and focus on developing and practising both coding analytics skills and coding-free analytics skills. Students will be guided to suitable primary and secondary (open access) data sources and be required to conduct research, analysis, and presentation exercises.

Students will experience collaborative lectures and interactive activities, where the philosophy, principles and governance frameworks of Islamic finance are taught, together with the markets and products in this space. Seminar sessions allow students to interact and discuss by presenting on assigned issues/articles/case studies. Students are expected to undertake research and be well-prepared for the seminars and demonstrate evidence of having gained sound knowledge on the subject-matter by contributing during the seminars. The seminar provides opportunities for students to engage more thoughtfully with the course concepts and discipline knowledge.

Lectures will present the main concepts, theories related to FinTech and the application of technology in finance with critical reflection on ethics and regulatory implications. Ethics in FinTech and AI are covered throughout the programme: The context of Ethics in FinTech and AI will be covered in two modules of “Fundamentals of Financial Technology, Blockchain, and Value Creation” and “FinTech regulation, compliance, Ethics and Risk Management”. Specifically, the following key ethical concerns are covered in these two modules:

- The impact of increasingly pre-emptive, data-driven approaches to financial decision-making for consumer privacy and autonomy, particularly the ability of individuals to determine and manage their own (financial) identities.
- The scope for bias and discrimination against vulnerable people due to the use of these technologies.
- Unfair price discrimination, and the implications of predictive risk measurement for those whose perceived riskiness increases as a result (i.e., the problem of too much information).
- The power differential between the large-scale financial institutions and the small scale customers, which suggests big financial institutions should be subject to greater ethical scrutiny and responsibility than retail customers.

Knowledge and skills development

Islamic Finance knowledge and skills will be acquired from the following modules:

- Islamic Economics, Philosophy and Shariah Governance
- Islamic Financial Markets and Instruments

FinTech and AI knowledge and skills will be developed in the following modules:

- Fundamentals of Financial Technology, Blockchain, and Value Creation
- Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence in Finance
- Analytics in Finance and Accounting
- FinTech Regulation, Compliance, Ethics and Risk Management

Tech skills that are fundamental to AI include programming (translating algorithms into code). Programming languages include:

- R – “Fundamentals of Financial Technology, Blockchain, and Value Creation” module involves step-by-step learning of R programming and the application of R in FinTech. “Analytics in Finance and Accounting” module involves the application of R in statistical computing and data visualization, together with Microsoft analytics tools (Excel, Power Query and Power BI). Tutorial/lab sessions and coursework challenge students with real cases and problems and push students to make their hands dirty with real datasets.
- Python – in module “Machine learning (ML) & AI in Finance”: each 2-hour lecture consist of explaining the theoretical context of ML (a subset of AI) following by application of theories using real-data in Python.

For this, the programming in Python will be taught to students step-by-step with adequate examples and practices. Students will be given some real-world tasks and cases to solve. 1-hour tutorial is allocated to providing answers and discussion on tasks and cases.

People skills are developed throughout the programme:

- Lectures, seminars and tutorials give students the opportunity to develop people skills. The interaction of students during lectures and tutorials will develop their oral communication. Group-based discussion and student presentations during lectures, and group-based case studies during seminars and tutorials will improve their team-working, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.
- Interaction with supervisor during the process of preparing dissertation will develop the skills of communication, personal responsibility and decision making, inclusivity, and diversity in defining problems and proposing solutions etc.

Programme assessment

The two most frequently cited skills in job postings across both Finance and AI are communication and management (Higher Education Overview, 2025). For Finance roles, the next most common skills are detail-oriented and sales, whereas in AI roles they are problem solving and leadership.

To facilitate the development of the abovementioned skills that are expected by the industry/sector characterised by Finance and AI, all the modules in this programme will assess students using a combination of individual pieces of coursework or group work and presentations.

Group work and presentations will help develop communication and management skills involving the exercise of team-working and emotional intelligence including respect for accessibility, inclusivity, and diversity in problem solving. Individual pieces of coursework will help develop detail-oriented skills and personal responsibility for decision making and problem solving.

To facilitate further the development of detail-oriented skill, the dissertation should be grounded on theoretical foundation and empirical evidence derived from data. As a matter of developing problem solving and sales skills, the submission should contain a 'saleable' (i.e., convincing) practical solution to a real-world problem formulated through the chosen research project in Islamic FinTech or AI. This assessment will help students develop a thought leadership to support their post-graduation quest for PhD studies, entrepreneurship or employment in Islamic FinTech sector of broader financial industry.

Programme regulations

This programme conforms to the standard University postgraduate regulations which are available at the following link: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations>

Entry and admission requirements

Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications and/or students without formal qualifications who have relevant work experience. For such applicants, evidence of their interests and work experience would be required and this would likely take the form of ...??

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.

The University welcomes applications from all prospective students and most important in the decision to offer a place is our assessment of a candidate's potential to benefit from their studies and of their ability to succeed on this programme. It's not just about your grades: consideration of

applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

The programme does not require prior knowledge of Islam or Islamic finance. Foundational concepts, including Islamic economic principles and Shariah governance, are introduced in the early stages of the programme.

The minimum entry requirements for this programme are:

A 2:2 (or above) UK Honours degree, or an equivalent internationally recognised qualification, in any subject.

Applicants with non-degree qualifications will be considered where they have relevant work experience (minimum 3 years full-time) and will be assessed via an interview.

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.

International applicants who do not meet the IELTS requirement can take a [University of Bradford pre-sessional English course](#). Examples of other equivalent international qualifications for entry are provided on the [University of Bradford page for a country or region](#).

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: <<Insert course page URL >>

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