

MSc Finance Accounting & Management Programme Specification

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

Academic Year:	2023/24
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
Target Award (FHEQ Level 7):	Master of Science in Finance Accounting and Management
Interim Awards:	Postgraduate Diploma and/or Postgraduate Certificate (FHEQ Level 7)
Programme Accreditation:	Some modules accredited by ACCA
Programme Admissions:	September and January
Programme Duration:	12-15 months full-time, 24-27 months part-time
QAA Subject Benchmark:	Masters degree in Business and Management
Programme Origination:	March 2019

Please note: This programme specification 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. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

Minor Modification Schedule

1. September 2020: Confirmed COVID adaptations.
2. December 2020: Specification made accessible.
3. June 2021: Specification reformatted. Returned to campus delivery. Replaced old modules AFE7509-A and AFE7510-A with AFE7513-A and AFE7515-A. Added Study Abroad section.
4. March 2022: updates for the 2022-23 academic year
5. March 2023: updates for the 2023-24 academic year

Introduction

In accordance with the University's mission 'Making Knowledge Work', 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 Master's in Finance Accounting and Management is designed to provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills in business and management subjects to enhance their utility and employability in the fields of accounting, finance and management. This programme is aligned with the expertise within the Accounting Finance and Economics Research Centre and has been designed with reference to relevant professional standard frameworks including the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA). The 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.

The Master's in Finance Accounting and Management is supported by experienced academics associated with the Accounting Finance and Economics Research Centre. Members of this research centre 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 programme contains an international dimension. The aim is to produce fully rounded managers by combining finance and accounting with a detailed treatment of other subjects concerned with the management of organisations. Throughout this programme, students will have opportunities to develop research and analytical skills, real-life problem-solving capacities, and the personal and interpersonal skills needed to succeed prepare individuals for employment

The programme is commensurate with the UK QAA Benchmark for a Type 2 (Career Entry) Master's Degree in Business and Management and is suitable for students from a wide range of backgrounds with first degrees in any subject from an approved university, or an acceptable professional qualification.

On graduation from this programme students will have developed a portfolio of work that demonstrates competence and employability and will thus be well-placed to access a range of career opportunities in finance accounting and management either nationally or internationally. Therefore, they 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 financial and accounting career in business and commerce.

Programme Aims

The programme is intended to:

- Develop broad knowledge and understanding of organisations, encompassing the external and internal contexts within which they operate;
- Develop understanding and knowledge across all management subject areas so that the financial context can be considered from multiple perspectives;
- Provide knowledge and understanding of a range of specialist subjects within the general disciplines of finance, accounting and management;
- Develop students competence to be a business partner or “agent for change” who understands the functions and environment of the organisation in which they work and to shape the financial management agenda accordingly;
- Provide training in discipline skills to enable them to pursue a career in finance, accounting, management or related practice;
- Develop personal transferable skills to enable students to work co-operatively, constructively and effectively so that they can contribute to ethical practice to encourage sustainability in business or academic environments;
- Develop reflective skills to enable students to reflect on their own performance and the impact of their actions in order to manage their own professional development.

Admission Requirements

We take into consideration a number of factors when assessing your application. It's not just about your grades; we take the time to understand your personal circumstances and make decisions based on your potential to thrive at university and beyond.

As the programme is delivered entirely in English, applicants must be able to demonstrate proficiency in the English language thus, UK educated students must have a GCSE grade 4 (C) or above. Speakers whose first language is not English must have a 6.5 score on IELTS test of English or the equivalent score in another recognised test – 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 Accounting and Management usually have a Bachelor's degree with at least a second-class Honours classification (2:2), in accounting and finance, economics, or business and management, from an accredited higher education institution.

This is generally equivalent to an International degree grade percentile average (GPA) of 2.5 out of 4.0 or 6.5 out of 10, or overall average of 70 from 100%. Equivalent professional qualifications will also be eligible if supported with appropriate practical experience.

Please note: The information above relates to the contemporary application cycle when this document was published and so may not reflect the current admission requirements. The tariff that applies is published on the course website at <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/pg/finance-accounting-and-management/>.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications or mature students (those over 25 years of age on entry) with significant relevant experience.

The University welcomes applications from all potential 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 particular programme. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme. For more details about our Recognition of Prior Learning procedures visit the website www.brad.ac.uk/teaching-quality/prior-learning.

Programme Learning Outcomes

To be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

1. Explain the context in which organisations conduct their business and how the business environment influences strategic and operational decision making in a national and international context;

2. Describe in detail the functional activities of a business and the difficulties and management complexities that arise because of the interrelationships that exist between them;
3. Effectively communicate complex ideas clearly, both orally and in writing to a broad range of recipients;

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

4. Explain and evaluate the key issues in financial management and illustrate a finance and accounting perspective on business activities;
5. Synthesise and critically appraise emerging information and knowledge using quantitative and qualitative techniques to generate creative solutions to a range of business problems;
6. Develop solutions to complex business problems through the application of appropriate theoretical models, frameworks and decision support techniques;
7. Develop original solutions to complex problems, and to work cooperatively with others providing ethical leadership in effecting change;
8. Develop the knowledge and skills required to practice as a professional manager through critical self-awareness and reflective practice skills;
9. To understand and critically evaluate the use of analytics in finance and accounting for effective financial decision-making.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Degree of Master at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

10. Design, conduct and manage research into a range of business and management issues/activities to inform the development of business strategies.

Academic Student Journey

Students entering the full-time programme in September or January will study modules in a different order to each other as follows:

Full-time September Start (12 months)

Study Period	Programme Structure
Semester 1 (Autumn) October – December	Semester 1 Modules. <i>Coursework submission</i>
Semester 2 (Spring) January – April	Semester 2 Modules. Supervisor allocated and start work on the Dissertation. <i>Coursework submission & Exam period</i>
Semester 3 (Summer) June – September	International Master's Summer School (10-credit option module or attendance only) Continuation of Dissertation. <i>Submission of Dissertation September 2023</i>

Full-time January Start (15 months)

Study Period	Programme Structure
Semester 2 (Spring) January – April	Semester 2 Modules. <i>Coursework submission</i>
Semester 3 (Summer) June – September	International Master's Summer School (10-credit option module or attendance only) Supervisor allocated and start work on the Dissertation.
Semester 1 (Autumn) October – December	Semester 1 Modules. <i>Coursework submission & Exam period</i>
Semester 2 (Spring) January – April	Continuation of Dissertation <i>Submission of Dissertation March 2024</i>

Part-time Delivery

The model part-time student journey is based on a half-day attendance per week per module over 2 years, with the following planned sequence (depending on timetabling and subject to the University's programme approval, monitoring, and review procedures):

Study Period	Programme Structure
Year 1, Semester 1	Two Core Modules
Year 1, Semester 2	One Core Module + One Option Module
Year 2, Semester 1	Two Core Modules
Year 2, Semester 2	One Core Module + One Option Module
Year 2, full year	Dissertation

Curriculum

The Master's degree in Finance, Accounting and Management is built on a foundation of general management modules and financial accounting modules. This programme also provides the opportunity for granular personalised learning and specialism where students can take one option in Semester 2. Students will take the following compulsory taught modules plus the Dissertation:

- Strategic Management
- Analytics in Finance and Accounting
- Operations Management
- Business Economics
- Contemporary issues in Accounting and Finance
- Strategic Management Accounting

The curriculum may change, subject to the University's programme approval, monitoring and review procedures.

Semester 1 Modules

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Credit	Module Code
7	Strategic Management	Core	20	SIB7501-B
7	Analytics in Finance and Accounting	Core	20	AFE7528-A
7	Operations Management	Core	10	OIM7503-A
7	Business Economics	Core	10	AFE7504-A

Semester 2 Modules

Students select 20 credits of options from the below list.

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Credit	Module Code
7	Contemporary Issues in Accounting and Finance ‡	Core	20	AFE7505-B
7	Strategic Management Accounting ‡	Core	20	AFE7506-B
7	International Finance ‡	Option	10	AFE7508-A
7	Corporate Finance ‡	Option	10	AFE7513-A
7	Accounting and Finance	Option	10	AFE7511-A
7	Corporate Social Responsibility	Option	10	SIB7505-A
7	International Master's Summer School attendance non-credit *	Option	0	SIB7507-Z
7	International Master's Summer School *	Option	10	SIB7506-A

* The Summer School is available as a credit-bearing assessed module or as an additional experience for participation, both in Semester 3.

‡ These modules contribute towards exemptions from the professional qualification of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Postgraduate Certificate: Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Certificate if they have successfully completed 60 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Postgraduate Diploma: Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Diploma if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Dissertation

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Credit	Module Code
7	Dissertation	Core	60	MAL7502-E

Degree of Master: Students will be eligible for the award of Degree of Master if they have successfully completed at least 180 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

The curriculum may change, subject to the University's programme approval, monitoring and review procedures.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

Generally, 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 puts 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 group tasks and discussions, simulations, personal research and guided self-study, tutorials (a blend of online and face-to-face), seminars (a blend of online and face-to-face) and directed reading. Sessions may be delivered weekly or in blocks.

Small group sessions will use case studies and seminars/ tutorials 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 and use of lab sessions, as necessary.

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.

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 a very 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, both off and on-campus. Please note that such off-campus learning activities may involve an extra cost to the student.

University wide there is support available for students for academic skills, information literacy and programming language learning.

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.

Summative 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, 2 and 3 are focused on knowledge of finance, accounting and management. They are assessed by a mixture of closed book examinations and individual pieces of coursework and group work, including [multimedia] presentations.

Learning outcomes 4, 5 and 6 are focused on subject specific skills aimed to equip students with the practical ability to contribute to any operational role within the management of finance- and accounting-related functions. They are assessed by a mixture of closed book examinations and individual pieces of coursework and group work, including [multimedia] presentations.

Learning Outcomes 7, 8 and 9 are focused on the transferable skills that are so important to employability, such as communication, practical creativity and self-awareness. They are assessed by a mixture of individual coursework, group coursework, individual and group presentations (including multi-media), examination and individual coursework.

The dissertation is a capstone module assessing all learning outcomes. The dissertation involves carrying out an extended piece of written work involving an original and in-depth investigation of a programme-specific issue.

Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Postgraduate Assessment Regulations which are available at the link: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations/>

However, there is one waiver exception to these regulations: On completion of the taught element of the programme and at the Interim Exam Board, a student who has 50 credits or more requiring supplementary assessment will not be permitted to proceed to the dissertation stage of the programme. The decision to allow progression will only be reconsidered at the Supplementary Exam Board.

Study Abroad

This programme is not designed to include a study abroad component. However, students are welcome to explore available opportunities for a Study Abroad Semester that may be viable for them via our International Opportunities team.

This option can be available **ONLY** if the modules offered by the host institution allow the student to meet the learning outcomes of the Bradford Programme during Semester 1 **OR** Semester 2.

Any student wishing to study abroad for a semester should first contact the International Opportunities Team to explore the opportunities and funding in place and, secondly, the Faculty Exchange Coordinator to check if the available options and relevant modules are in line with the University requirements. Following these checks, the International

Opportunities Team and the Faculty Exchange Coordinator will liaise with the relevant Programme Leader to validate the modules and the semester exchange.

The semester exchange requires students to study only modules suitable to the Bradford programme when abroad. Therefore, all modules selected for the exchange will have to be mapped to the Bradford programme learning outcomes and be approved by the Programme Leader and the Director of Studies in Bradford in advance of the exchange. During the exchange, if the student needs to change the modules, this can only be done after approval of the Programme Leader and Director of Programmes.

If the student fails a module abroad, the student must:

- a) inform immediately the International Opportunities Team and the Faculty Exchange Coordinator
- b) explore the possibility of re-taking any exams at the host institution.

During the exchange, students will have support from the relevant University services. All credit successfully obtained whilst on study abroad semester will count towards the student's final degree. Our International Opportunities team can advise students about the available funding to support their study or work experience abroad.

The list of exchange partners and network of Universities available for Study Abroad Semester, as well as further information about international opportunities can be found online at www.bradford.ac.uk/exchanges/current-students.

Please note: Some institutions are only available to undergraduate or postgraduate students. Any potential exchange is dependent on student eligibility, student finance, and the appropriate modules required to fulfil the requirements of the programme being available at either institution.
