

## Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and programme title:	Master of Science in Accounting and Finance
Name of interim award(s):	N/A
Duration of study / period of registration:	12 Months (Full-time)
Queen Mary programme code(s):	PSAAF/N1S4
QAA Benchmark Group:	N100 Business Studies
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	N/A
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Business & Management

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

School of Economics and Finance (SEF)

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

N/A

### Programme outline

The MSc Accounting and Finance is a taught postgraduate programme that is offered jointly by the School of Business and Management (SBM) and the School of Economics and Finance (SEF).

This Programme offers specialised, practical and theoretical education in an environment of academic excellence. It is designed for students who aim to pursue a career in the financial services industry, accounting practice, banking and asset management. The Programme is also opened to professionals who wish to improve their theoretical and practical knowledge of financial markets and accountancy.

The programme consists of five compulsory taught modules in Semester A (3 from SEF and 2 from SBM) and two compulsory modules in Semester B and the choice of two optional taught modules in the second semester followed by a 7,000 word dissertation which is submitted in August. There are also Pre-Sessional Modules in Mathematics and Statistics which are run by SEF and provide a good opportunity for students to refresh their knowledge in these areas.

The programme is also accredited by CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants). The programme allows the students to gain a professional accountancy qualification by sitting an exam set and marked by CIMA. As part of the programme the students will be eligible for the CIMA Masters Gateway – a fast track route to enter CIMA at the Management Case Study by bypassing 11 exams. In partnership with CIMA, students can sit this exam alongside their masters and achieve the globally

recognised "CIMA Advanced Diploma in Management Accounting" – graduating with dual awards (MSc and CIMA Advanced Diploma). Note that the CIMA is the world-renowned professional qualification recognized across the world

Summative assessment uses conventional academic coursework, mid-semester tests and final exams. Formative assessment takes place using short class presentations, debates, computer-based exercises, group work and online tests.

### Aims of the programme

The MSc Accounting and Finance aims to provide its students with the knowledge, professional and transferrable skills to help them achieve their intellectual potential and to maximise their career and further postgraduate study opportunities. It delivers a business-based programme within a diverse and culturally rich environment which promotes cultural understanding and flexibility, so that its graduates can act effectively and efficiently with integrity in a global environment. In summary, our students will:

1. Collect data from multiple sources and analyse them using appropriate quantitative techniques;
2. Communicate effectively to an audience using a wide range of delivery methods;
3. Solve complex problems in a clear and systematic manner, using a range of relevant knowledge, tools and quantitative techniques;
4. Have knowledge and understanding of the key concepts and debates in the field of accountancy and finance
5. Understand practices and tools of accounting and finance

These aims point to a enhance analytical and problem-solving skills but also develop skills which are related to decision-making team working and communication.

### What will you be expected to achieve?

Upon completion of the MSc Accounting and Finance students will have acquired a depth of knowledge and understanding of key theories, approaches and issues in the fields of Accounting and Finance. Moreover, the student will be able to evaluate the appropriateness of the use of mainly quantitative research methods in particular contexts. In addition, the students will develop a range of personal skills including presentation skills, argumentation, evaluation, problem solving, interactive and group skills, self-appraisal, and autonomy in planning and management of learning. The programme aims at enhancing the career prospects by an understanding of the complexity of policies and practices in Accounting and Finance and their similarities and differences in different jurisdictions, together with the development of cognitive and personal transferable skills.

#### Academic Content:

A 1	Theories and empirical evidence with regard to the operation of financial markets within institutional frameworks, financial management and risk.
A 2	Conduct research and submitting assignments into accounting and finance by synthesizing theoretical arguments, evaluating the existing empirical evidence, citing and communicating contemporary theory, collecting data, analysing data, formulating hypotheses and communicating the outcomes using scientific methods.
A 3	Contemporary theoretical tools, practices and language of accounting (including relevant accounting standards) and finance (such as portfolio theory, CAPM and financial mathematics), and an understanding of their respective relevance and an ability to apply those to practical problems .

#### Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	Make use of relevant and varied secondary data (such as found in databases) in addressing the question at hand with clear justification and with a view to supporting argument
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B 2	Demonstrate the ability to conduct a literature review, critically debate the literature, and evaluate contrasting viewpoints.
B 3	Present findings as well-constructed argument that flows smoothly [applies to written work and oral presentations].
B 4	Use relevant information technologies to present results from empirical analysis (such as graphical representations, statistical analyses, and regression analyses).
B 5	Identify issues in national and international business setting and apply effective decision making techniques based on the available information
B 6	Use software tools for business analysis and decision making

<b>Attributes:</b>	
C 1	Develop a range of personal skills including presentation skills, argumentation, evaluation, problem solving, interactive and group skills, self-appraisal, and autonomy in planning and management of learning
C 2	Acquire knowledge and a critical understanding
C 3	Locate, extract and analyse data from multiple sources, including acknowledgement and referencing of sources
C 4	Develop analytical skills, through the use of relevant information technology
C 5	Enhanced his/her career prospects by an understanding of the complexity of policies and practices in Accounting and Finance and their similarities and differences in different jurisdictions, together with the development of cognitive and personal transferable skills

### How will you learn?

Teaching will be by research-oriented staff (complemented where appropriate by visiting lecturers with professional expertise), who will combine professional knowledge of their subject with a critical attitude to its delivery. Students therefore work in a challenging, supportive environment.

#### Learning:

The School promotes active learning within a context of clear learning objectives, and students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning. Modules have regular coursework elements and in some this may require collaborative group work. The creation of informal work groups is generally encouraged. Clear guidance on basic supplementary reading is given.

Stress is placed on fostering the capacity of students to undertake basic research through both practical and theoretical means, culminating in the Dissertation, which develops the ability to write a sustained coherent narrative.

### How will you be assessed?

Taught modules are assessed by a combination of coursework and examinations.

Modules are typically assessed by a combination of coursework and a final (two hour) examination. But there is considerable variation across modules, and some are wholly examined by coursework (such as the BUSM143).

Clear guidance on coursework requirements is given emphasising approaches to coursework of various types and the avoidance of plagiarism. Standard Queen Mary procedures are followed in the setting and marking of examinations and in the determination of overall results.

## How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

### TEACHING

Each module has an outline description, giving the aims, expected learning outcomes, assessment methods, outline syllabus and indication of primary reading. This information is available online on the Postgraduate webpages of the respective Schools. Students typically have 3 contact hours per week in each module. Within these three hours, each module has its own pattern of lectures, seminars/classes and other activities. Lectures emphasise dissemination of information, explaining the key ideas and determining the sequence and pace of learning. Seminars/classes make for a more active learning experience by facilitating student interaction in discussion, exercises, problem sets, case studies and presentations (as appropriate).

### MODULES

Before Semester A commences, attendance is mandatory to the pre-sessional mathematics and statistics support lectures and classes.

#### SEMESTER A

All students will take the following five 15 credit Compulsory modules across both Schools:

- > ECOM050 Investment Management - School of Economics and Finance (SEF)
- > ECOM053 Quantitative Methods for Finance - SEF
- > ECOM118 Practical Valuation - SEF
- > BUSM030 Corporate Finance for Managers - School of Business and Management (SBM)
- > BUSM054 Financial Reporting - School of Business and Management (SBM)

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#### SEMESTER B:

All students will take the following two 15 credit Compulsory modules:

- > BUSM067 Advanced Management Accounting - SBM
- > BUSM060 Corporate Governance - SBM

The elective choices in Semester B depends on the students' choices regarding Dissertation. The students can choose to carry out their Dissertation either with SBM or SEF. The students initially choose with which School (SBM or SEF) are willing to carry out their Dissertation at the start of Semester A (September/October). The students finalise their Dissertation preferences in January as specified by the ARCS deadlines. All the students are expected to choose their Dissertation (and their electives) through the University System

>> Students choosing the SBM Dissertation (BUSM184) must also take the following co-requisite module:  
BUSM143 Research Methods for Accounting - SBM

>> Students choosing the SBM Dissertation (BUSM184) must choose a SEF-based module as an elective in order to end up with at least 60 credits from SEF.

>> For students choosing SBM Dissertation (BUSM184) the Module Diet will be as follows:

Semester A: ECOM050, ECOM053, ECOM118, BUSM030, BUSM054(SEF: 45 Credits / SBM: 30 Credits)

Semester B: BUSM060, BUSM067, BUSM143 + SEF Elective (SEF: 15 Credits / SBM: 45 Credits)

Semester C: BUSM184 (Dissertation): (SBM: 45 Credits)

>> Students choosing the SEF Dissertation (ECOM107) can choose any electives from both Schools in Semester B (apart from BUSM143 Research Methods for Accounting)

>> For students choosing SEF Dissertation (ECOM107) the Module Diet will be as follows:

Semester A: ECOM050, ECOM053, ECOM118, BUSM030, BUSM054 (SEF: 45 Credits / SBM: 30 Credits)

Semester B: BUSM060, BUSM067 + any 2 electives either from SBM or SEF (SBM: 30 Credits)

Semester C: ECOM107 (45 Credits)

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ELECTIVE LIST:

BUSM059 International Accounting -SBM  
 BUSM061 Contemporary Issues in Accounting -SBM  
 BUSM071 Accounting and Value Management-SBM  
 BUSM085 Behavioural Finance and Decision Making - SBM  
 BUSM115 International Finance - SBM  
 BUSMXXX Financial Technology  
 ECOM026 Financial Derivatives -SEF  
 ECOM055 Risk Management for Banking-SEF  
 ECOM057 Asset Management-SEF  
 ECOM122 Applied Finance with Eviews-SEF  
 ECOM146 Empirical Finance-SEF

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Pre-sessional mathematics and statistics support lectures and classes	ECOMxxx	0	7	Study only	1	Semester 1
Corporate Finance for Managers	BUSM030	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Financial Reporting	BUSM054	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Investment Management	ECOM050	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Quantitative Methods for Finance	ECOM053	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Practical Valuation	ECOM118	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Corporate Governance	BUSM060	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Advanced Management Accounting	BUSM067	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
International Accounting	BUSM059	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Contemporary Issues in Accounting	BUSM061	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Accounting and Value Management	BUSM071	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Behavioural Finance and Decision Making	BUSM085	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Finance	BUSM115	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Financial Technology	BUSMXXX	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Financial Derivatives	ECOM026	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Risk Management for Banking	ECOM055	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Asset Management	ECOM057	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Applied Finance with Eviews	ECOM122	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Empirical Finance	ECOM146	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Dissertation for Accounting and Finance (School of Business Management)	BUSM184	45	7	Core	1	Semesters 2 & 3
Dissertation for Accounting and Finance (School of Economics and Finance)	ECOM107	45	7	Core	1	Semester 2 or 3

### What are the entry requirements?

A good upper second class (2:1) honours degree or equivalent in any subject. Some basic quantitative skills and some elementary prior knowledge of accounting would be an advantage.  
IELTS 7.0 (writing 6.0) or equivalent

### How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

There are both formal and informal channels of feedback within the School.

Each PGT programme has a dedicated Programme Director who also acts in most instances as the Academic Advisor for students in that programme. Students are introduced to their Programme Director during the induction week and are encouraged to approach them for academic advice or to discuss issues and/or concerns during their time of study.

Students may also speak with or write to the Director of Postgraduate Taught Programmes about their issues and concerns or to provide feedback.

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee (SSLC) provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The Committee consists of student representatives from each programme in the School together with

appropriate representation from staff within the school. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. The School's Staff-Student Liaison Committee meets formally once each semester. The minutes of the meetings are published to the School and the action points for these are noted and responded to accordingly.

Feedback from SSLC meetings, module evaluations and the PTES results are also considered by the School's Teaching and Learning Committee which has oversight on matters relating to the delivery and quality of taught programmes at School level.

Students are encouraged to see the Academic Writing Tutor, book one-to-one appointments and follow classes and sessions. A dedicated Full-Time SBM-based academic provides a range of courses and tutorials to support students at the School of Business and Management with their written academic work and provides 1-2-1 and group tutorials for support with specific problems in students' written academic work.

Students are encouraged to see the Quantitative Skills Tutor, book one-to-one appointments and follow classes and sessions. A dedicated Full-Time SBM-based academic runs Research Methods and Data Analysis workshops for students and provides 1-2-1 and drop in quantitative support sessions with PG students.

The School operates a structure to address complaints raised by students and students can directly approach the Head of School if they deem every other channel as not having served their purpose. This information is available to students via the Student handbook, the Virtual Learning Environment and the School's website.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review (APR) of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the PTES and module evaluations.

### **What academic support is available?**

Students will have timetabled lectures and seminars and will have weekly office hour support.

The induction week prior to the start of Semester A provides introductory talks on all of the services and support mechanisms available within the School and College.

Students on this programme will be supported by the individual staff members running modules on this program in terms of immediate advice on a specific module: course content, assignments and exam structure. Students are also assigned an Academic Advisor whom they are encouraged to consult for academic related support and a dedicated supervisor for their core dissertation module. Beyond this, the administrative staff also provide support services for non-academic matters.

The School uses various channels of communication to provide updates on teaching timetables, module information, events and support services (e.g. Plasma Screens where available, notice boards, Virtual Learning Environment).

Both Programme Directors run a session on Dissertation choice and how the Dissertation choice impacts on Elective Modules. The session will normally take place in November (either side of the Reading Week)

### **Programme-specific rules and facts**

Attendance at the pre-sessional Maths & Statistics support classes is compulsory. Students are expected to sit pre-sessional mathematics and statistics examinations following the intensive pre-sessional module.

### How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations and guidance for examiners
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one study skills tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Access to specialist mentoring support for students with mental health issues and Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

### Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

The School works closely with the Careers Service to locate possible work placements/ internships and to prepare students for the recruitment process (e.g. assistance in creating effective CVs to reach potential employers, interview skills).

There are informal links with a number of employers in the financial services sector e.g. Barclays, Bloomberg and KPMG.

The qualities and skills a graduate from this programme might be expected to have include a range of cognitive and intellectual skills together with techniques specific to business and management, and relevant personal and interpersonal skills. These include:

- The ability to think critically and creatively: organise thoughts, analyse, synthesise and critically appraise. This includes the capability to identify assumptions, evaluate statements in terms of evidence, detect false logic or reasoning, identify implicit values, define terms adequately and generalise appropriately.
- The ability to conduct research into issues in the fields of accounting and finance either individually or as a part of a team through research design, data collection, analysis, synthesis and reporting.
- The ability to recognise and address ethical dilemmas and corporate social responsibility issues, applying ethical and organisational values to situations and choices

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## Programme Specification Approval

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**Person completing Programme Specification:**

Jenny Murphy

**Person responsible for management of programme:**

Nick Tsitsianis

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:**

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board:**