

Programme Title: BSc Accountancy



## Programme Specification (UG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and programme title:	BSc Accountancy
Name of interim award(s):	n/a
Duration of study / period of registration:	4 years
QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):	UBSF-QMBUSB1
QAA Benchmark Group:	Accounting
FHEQ Level of Award :	Level 6
Programme accredited by:	The ICAEW
Date Programme Specification approved:	15 Aug 2022
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Business & Management

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

N/A

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

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and The Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales (ICAEW)

### Programme outline

BSc Accountancy degree is an exciting and challenging 4-year programme which offers a unique learning experience at the School of Business and Management to fast tracking a career to become an ICAEW Chartered Accountant. The programme is also known as the Flying Start degree programme because it gives students a flying start towards becoming an ICAEW Chartered Accountant.

The programme is based at the School of Business and Management, Queen Mary University of London, and has been developed in partnership with PwC, which is the UK's leading professional service organisation, and the ICAEW. Together, the programme offers an exceptional blend of academic excellence, professional accreditation, and real external audits – which will help students towards a great career in accountancy.

While students are studying at the School of Business and Management, they will learn technical and theoretical accounting skills, with academic specialists who are experts in their field and experienced practicing accountants. Built into the course is a series of paid work placements with PwC where students will have the opportunity to put the theory they've been learning in the classroom into practice in the office.

Students will complete three paid work placements with PwC in years 2, 3 and 4. The placements in years 2 and 3 runs from

## Programme Title: BSc Accountancy

December to March (16 weeks each placement). The placement in year 4 is slightly longer and run from December to May (19 weeks). Students are likely to be based in an office with several other students from the programme, so they will build very strong networks and make lasting friendships as part of a wider group. The students will work with inspiring people, learn from them and, in turn, share their own insights – all contributing to the growth and success of their career and the organisation. The students will also receive an attractive salary, with paid holiday during the placement.

Students will be continually learning and developing through real external audits over the four years. Students will get to work as part of PwC's Assurance team and develop new skills and gain a broad knowledge of business issues. PwC's Assurance team will spend some time putting students through PwC's professional services technical training. The expert guidance, strategy, and advice they offer their clients are all down to the people who work there.

While they are with PwC, students might secure a permanent job with PwC but for those who take a different pathway, the programme will give them a valuable competitive edge.

### Aims of the programme

The proposed BSc Accountancy programme aims to provide an innovative route to fast-track into a career in chartered accountancy, with integrated paid work placements at PwC. The three work placements add up to approximately 250 days of the approved technical work experience required by ICAEW to qualify as a chartered accountant. The student will benefit from both paid work experience and the technical training with PwC while they are studying at Queen Mary University of London.

During the 4 years, students will learn relevant and current accounting and business skills from lecturers who are experts in their field. The modules studied will exempt students from 12 of the 15 ICAEW professional exams. In addition, paid work placements in PwC's assurance practice are built into the programme, which means students will get to apply their knowledge in the workplace and continually develop through practical work experience over the four years. If the students were to be offered a graduate position following graduation, it is likely that they will sit the remaining three exams for the Advanced Stage with PwC in that same year.

### What will you be expected to achieve?

The new proposed programme (BSc Accountancy 4 year degree) is one of the fastest degree routes to becoming an ICAEW Chartered Accountant in the UK. Aside from gaining extensive business knowledge and practical experience, you can expect to leave university with: A degree in Accountancy from Queen Mary University of London, Associated Chartered Accountant (ACA) qualification well under way and a full-time job offer with PwC, if you impress.

You'll get a fantastic university experience as a full-time student for four years, making new friends, having new experiences, and generally enjoying university life. You'll also benefit from paid work experience and training with PwC. You will be supported every step of the way by a network of staff from both the School of Business and Management and PwC. PwC is one of the best places to start career as a trainee ICAEW Chartered Accountant.

Equally this unique programme expects to remove barriers for you to have access to Higher Education and to prestigious career routes. To create a truly inclusive environment, building on Queen Mary's cherished cultural diversity, where you will be able to flourish and reach your full potential.

**Please note that the following information is only applicable to students who commenced their Level 4 studies in 2017/18, or 2018/19**

In each year of undergraduate study, students are required to study modules to the value of at least 10 credits, which align to one or more of the following themes:

- networking
- multi- and inter-disciplinarity
- international perspectives
- enterprising perspectives.

These modules will be identified through the Module Directory, and / or by your School or Institute as your studies progress.

Academic Content:	
A 1	Understanding the key technical and regulatory aspects (IAS/IFRS) that determines the process of recording financial transactions, publishing and interpretation of the financial information (data) published in Company Annual Reports.
A 2	Gain subject- and sector-specific knowledge.
A 3	Enhance the ability to use technical knowledge in real-life scenarios.
A 4	Develop a critical understanding of complex business issues which challenges students' ability to problem solve, identify the ethical implications and provide an effective solution.

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	Understand a business or accounting situation, prioritise by determining key drivers, issues and requirements and identify any relevant information.
B 2	Structure information from various sources into suitable formats for analysis and provide creative and pragmatic solutions in a business environment.
B 3	Apply professional scepticism and critical thinking to identify faults, gaps, inconsistencies and interactions from a range of relevant information sources and relate issues to a business environment.
B 4	Apply technical knowledge, skills and experience to support reasoning and conclusion and formulate opinions, advice, plans, solutions, options and reservations based on valid evidence and communicate clearer in a manner suitable for the recipient.

Attributes:	
C 1	Apply analytical skills to investigate problems, use numbers confidently and competently, identify information needs appropriate to different situations whilst also grasping theoretical principles and practices in the field of accounting and financial management.

## Programme Title: BSc Accountancy

C 2	Develop knowledge and analytical skills that are transferable into employment. Conduct qualitative and quantitative analyses which are grounded in evidence by utilising technologies to access and interpret information effectively and critically evaluate the reliability of different sources of information.
C 3	Acquire new learning in a range of ways, both individually and in collaboration, and possess the skills to influence negotiations and respond appropriately to criticism.
C 4	Build the technical knowledge, professional skills and practical experience needed to become an ICAEW Chartered Accountant.

### How will you learn?

The School promotes active learning within a context of clear learning objectives. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning. Most modules have a weekly course element (1 to 2 hours of lectures plus a 1 to 2 hours seminar) and in some this will require collaborative group work. We expect informal work groups to emerge particularly in the more numerically based subjects. Clear guidance on basic and supplementary reading is given. Some of the modules in the programme will be taught with students from other UG accountancy programmes.

Where relevant the ICAEW learning materials will be used by students, to support their studies with materials being updated annually. For the four strategic credit bearing exams (BPT, FAR, TC and AA) it is mandatory for ICAEW learning materials to be used by each student. New versions are available in early September for the following calendar year. All ICAEW materials are digital; students can use their ACA student logins to access their materials.

We recognise the value of independent work at final year level for undergraduates. We consider it important to develop the critical and evaluative abilities of students to be able to undertake basic research, through both practical and theoretical means and to develop the ability to write sustained, coherent narratives.

In order to enable students to develop their skills, we will offer modules that require independent work using written and presentation skills.

### How will you be assessed?

The School of Business and Management will use a variety of assessment methods based on the suitability for testing the students' learning outcomes and academic skills for each module delivered in the programme across the 4 years. Modules are assessed by a combination of coursework, presentations, and final examinations. Clear guidance on the coursework requirements is given in module handbooks and/or QMPlus, which emphasises approaches to coursework of various types.

Students are made aware at induction, within the Flying Start student handbook and from the Programme Director, together with rules and procedures. Examinations are typically 2 hours papers, with professional papers between 2.5 - 3 hours undertaken at the end of each semester or during the ICAEW examination schedule. Examination papers set by QM are reviewed by an Internal Moderator and then by External Examiners as required in the academic regulations. Some of the ICAEW exams are run via computer-based assessments, which may differ from university procedure however, all exams are robust and fully invigilated and secure.

All accounting exemption modules have non-standard pass marks (and the assessments within those modules) for reasons of professional accreditation exemptions. The pass marks in use are 40.0, 50.0, and 55.0. Programme specific rules and facts will specify which pass mark applies to each module.

### 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.

BSc Accountancy Programme is a full-time 4 year degree, taught within the University's modular system.

- Prior to the start date of the programme all students will be expected to attend an early induction activity and the main idea will be to introduce basic accounting concepts to help students to know some of the accounting technical terminology. It is an

**Programme Title:** BSc Accountancy

excellent opportunity to gain and improve knowledge and experience (lay foundations for the first year and the more technical financial accounting modules) in working within a small group of peers before starting the programme and get to know each other before the welcome week activities commence.

- Academic year 1 comprised of 8 x 15 and 1 x 0-credit modules, each of which run in either Semester 1 or Semester 2 and are normally assessed by a combination of coursework and/or an examination in January (Semester 1) or May (Semester 2)

- Academic year 2 comprised of 4 x 20-credit modules per year, each of which run in either Semester 1 or Semester 3 and are normally assessed by a combination of the School of Business and Management assessments (coursework and/or an examination in December) and the examinations held by the ICAEW which are December and June. Semester 2 is comprised of an industry placement, which is normally assessed by an industry placement report, worth 40 credits (these are non-academic credits).

- Academic year 3 is comprised 2 x 30 and 1 x 20-credit modules, each of which run in either Semester 1 or Semester 3 and are normally assessed by a combination of the School of Business and Management assessments (coursework and/or an examination in December) and the examinations held by the ICAEW which are December and June. Semester 2 is comprised of an industry placement, which is normally assessed by an industry placement report, worth 40 credits (these are non-academic credits).

- Academic year 4 is comprised 3 x 15-credit modules, each of which run in Semester 1 and is normally assessed by the School of Business and management assessments (coursework and/or an examination in January). Semester 2 is comprised of an industry placement, which is normally assessed by an industry experience report. Semester 3 is comprised of a FTSE 100 company study, worth 35 academic credits.

**Academic Year of Study**    FT - Year 4

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Introduction to Financial Accounting	BUS139F	15	4	Core	1	Semester 1
Foundations of Finance	BUS149F	15	4	Core	1	Semester 1
Introduction to Economics	BUS163	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Principles of Taxation	BUS167F	15	4	Core	1	Semester 1
Introduction to Management Accounting	BUS140F	15	4	Core	1	Semester 2
Quantitative Methods	BUS164	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Law for Accounting	BUS166F	15	4	Core	1	Semester 2
Foundations of Assurance	BUS165F	15	4	Core	1	Semester 2

Programme Title: BSc Accountancy

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Academic and Professional Awareness	BUS168	0	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Financial Reporting for Business	BUS2XXF	20	5	Compulsory	2	Semester 1
Audit and Assurance Services	BUS2XXF	20	5	Core	2	Semester 1
Tax Compliance	BUS2XXF	20	5	Core	2	Semester 3
Business Strategy and Technology	BUS2XXF	20	5	Core	2	Semester 3
Business Planning: Taxation	BUS3XXF	30	6	Core	3	Semester 1
Advanced Financial Management	BUS3XXF	20	6	Core	3	Semester 1
Advanced Financial Accounting and Reporting	BUS3XXF	30	6	Core	3	Semester 3
Social and Environmental Accounting	BUS363	15	6	Compulsory	4	Semester 1
Corporate Governance and Accountability	BUS334	15	6	Compulsory	4	Semester 1
Contemporary Issues in Accounting and Ethics	BUS365	15	6	Compulsory	4	Semester 1
FTSE 100 Company Study	BUS4XXF	35	6	Core	4	Semester 3
PwC Placement 1 (P1)	BUS2XXF	40	5	Core	2	Semester 2
PwC Placement 2 (P2)	BUS3XXF	40	6	Core	3	Semester 2
PwC Placement 3 (P3)	BUS4XXF	40	6	Core	4	Semester 2

### What are the entry requirements?

Typical A/L offer: Grades AAA at A-Level. Excludes General Studies, Critical Thinking and Use of Mathematics.

Please follow the link for more general entry requirements: <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate/coursefinder/courses/2022/accountancy/>

Additional Information for the selection process:

## Programme Title: BSc Accountancy

Applying for this degree involves some additional assessments due to the nature of the degree and the partnership with PwC.

Students will be invited to complete PwC's selection process. Students will be asked to complete a short application form, and following completion of this, they will then receive an invitation to take part in PwC's online assessments. The first stage is Career Unlocked (a Behaviour Based Assessment). If they are successful, students will then be asked to complete Career Conversation (a Video Interview). If students have met the criteria for the Video Interview, they will then be invited to a final online Assessment Event, which will include an assessed group exercise.

The PwC Virtual Assessment Events will be held between Monday 28th February and Friday 18th March 2022 (working days only), and students will be able to choose a specific date and time slot closer to the time.

Students will have to complete all of the assessments by the following deadlines:

Careers Unlocked (Behaviour Based Assessment) - Friday 4th February 2022

Career Conversation (Video Interview) - Friday 11th February 2022

Assessment Event will be held from the week commencing 28th February 2022

Students will receive their outcome from the selection process by Friday 25th March 2022

Students are advised you to complete the career unlocked and career conversation as soon as possible so that if they are successful PwC can get them booked onto an assessment event.

### Offer Holder Events

Successful applicants will then be invited to an Offer Holder event on Monday 4th April 11 am - 4pm, which will give them the chance to find out more about the university programme, meet the university and PwC team and current students on the programme.

### Hints and Tips

PwC will be running Hints & Tips sessions (programme director represents Queen Mary at these sessions) up until the end of December which will provide students with advice on how to best prepare and succeed at each stage of the process.

### PwC's Flying Start Financial Bursary

PwC's Flying Start financial bursary is aimed at supporting students with the day-to-day costs of university life. If students meet the eligibility, and they join the Flying Start Accounting programmes in autumn 2022, a £10,000 bursary will be awarded to students split across the four years of the degree. Visit our programme website for more information and the eligibility criteria.

If a student wish to apply for the bursary then they complete a short form which will enable us to check that students meet the specified criteria. They need to read the Terms & Conditions at the top of the google form sent out before filling it out. One of the criteria is that students demonstrate a commitment to a career in Audit at PwC, this will be assessed as part of the recruitment process and if they get offered a role students will have demonstrated this.

If a student is made an offer for a place on our Flying Start programme QMUL will confirm that they will receive the bursary subject to the criteria listed.

### Professional Standards Requirement

QMUL would like to draw students attention to the Professional Standards Requirements for PwC and ICAEW in relation to the work placements for this degree programme. Ahead of the Assessment event PwC will ask students to confirm that they have read, understood and can comply with the policy.

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

The operational management of the Flying Start programmes will be overseen and coordinated by a dedicated Programme Director, Undergraduate Programmes Team and the Teaching and Learning Committee. Processes will be reviewed by the Programme Director on an ongoing basis to ensure lessons learned from previous cycles and adoption of best practice from

## Programme Title: BSc Accountancy

across the University. Matters pertaining to the educational aspects of the programmes will be escalated to the relevant teaching and learning committee as and when appropriate.

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. The UG Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year. The report from the UG SSLC is sent to the School of Business and Management's Teaching and Learning Committee, the Programme Directors and Heads of Departments.

Students are also encouraged to fill in module surveys and this information is also summarized and presented to the School of Business and Management's Teaching and Learning Committee. Student representatives on the UG SSLC are informed of actions taken.

Quality assurance of the programme is undertaken by the Schools' Teaching and Learning Committee and actions taken by the Associate Dean for Education.

### What academic support is available?

The induction week before the start of Semester A provides introductory talks on all the services and support mechanisms available within the school and QMUL. The plasma screens within the school also update on timetabling, events and support services within the school. Module talks are held at the start of the module selection process to enable students make informed choices when selecting their electives for the following academic year.

The school also provides support services through a student advisor for non-academic matters and from our Undergraduate Director and Deputy Undergraduate Director. The School of Business and Management allocates all students a professional advisor. Professional advisors are able to support students through their studies. If students encounter any difficulties of a personal nature which are having an impact on their studies, they can meet with their professional advisor.

#### Office Hours

All academics have dedicated office hours published on the website so students may visit them to discuss any aspect of their learning on specific modules.

#### QMplus

The QMPlus virtual learning environment has information on different modules. Students are also advised on the support services available in the Language and Learning Unit.

### 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,
- 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),
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.



## Programme-specific rules and facts

In the BSc Accountancy 4-year programme there are six modules at the ACA certificate level equivalent taken at level 4 that introduce the fundamentals of accountancy. Students will be eligible for credits prior to learning (CPL) for all certificate level exams in the programme on successful completion of Year 1.

Next six modules at the ACA professional level are equivalent to three modules at level 5 and three modules at level 6 which build on the fundamentals and ability to use technical knowledge in real life scenarios. The examinations for four of those professional level papers as well as the resit papers can be taken in March, June, July, September and December of each calendar year. Two modules from levels five and six; Audit and Assurance, Business Planning Tax and Tax Compliance and Advanced Financial Accounting and Reporting, are known as the four 'golden papers' in this programme, delivered across years two and three and will be assessed by the ICAEW Online examinations.

### Special Regulations Regarding Marking Scheme

Non-standard pass marks apply to certain modules (and the assessments within those modules) for reasons of professional accreditation exemptions. Modules with non-standard pass marks are shown below.

BUS139F Introduction to Financial Accounting 50%  
BUS149F Foundations of Finance 50%  
BUS167F Principles of Taxation 50%  
BUS140F Introduction to Management Accounting 50%  
BUS166F Law for Accounting 50%  
BUS165F Foundations of Assurance 50%  
BUS2xxF Audit and Assurance Services 55%  
BUS2xxF PwC Placement 1 (P1) Pass/Fail  
BUS2xxF Tax Compliance 55%  
BUS2xxF Business Strategy and Technology 50%  
BUS3xxF Business Planning: Taxation 55%  
BUS3xxF Advanced Financial Management 50%  
BUS3xxF PwC Placement 2 (P2) Pass/Fail  
BUS3xxF Advanced Financial Accounting and Reporting 55%  
BUS4xxF PwC Placement 3 (P3) Pass/Fail

NOTE: The non-standard pass-mark is for each element of assessment within a module as well as the overall module mark.

The non-standard progression and award rules;

If a student failed to meet the non-standard pass mark of 50% at level 4 (in total six modules) they will be advised to transfer to the BSc Accounting and Management programme and continue from level 5 studies in the 3- year degree programme. If a student failed to meet the non-standard pass mark of 50% -55% at level 5 and level 6 (in total six modules) they will be awarded an alternative award, where the requirements for an alternative award have been met.

For further details on the non-standard progression and award rules, please refer to the Academic Regulations at <https://arcs.qmul.ac.uk/policy/> and the student handbook.

### The Timing of Examinations for the four Golden Papers at Professional Level

Four of the professional level ICAEW examinations (four golden papers) will follow the ICAEW examination timetable and resit periods may fall during the PwC placement. Students will be required to plan for study leave with their industrial placement supervisor to take the attempt at the next available opportunity. The School of Business and Management will be responsible for arranging the ACA professional level assessments in line with the ICAEW examination guidelines.

In addition to the above special regulations, the BSc Accountancy Handbook will inform students of the following:

- The details of the assessment methods and conditions that will be used;
- The guidance to assist those students who might transfer to the regular ICAEW route;
- The status of the student within the ICAEW and the entitlements that such status;

Programme Title: BSc Accountancy

- The named contacts at The University, PwC and the ICAEW; and  
- information about complaints, grievance, and appeals procedures.

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

Graduates from this programme will have developed a range of cognitive and practical skills together which will be applicable to different contexts beyond academia.

During their time at PwC students will develop adaptability and flexibility skills, problem-solving ability, commercial awareness and effective communication skills, which are highly valued by employers.

---

## Programme Specification Approval

---

**Person completing Programme Specification:**

Stuart Cadby

**Person responsible for management of programme:**

Dr Ishani Chandrasekara

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

12 Aug 2022

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

15 Aug 2022