

Programme Specification

Finance (2020- 21)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	3
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Bachelor of Science with Honours (BSc (Hons))
Name of Award	Finance
Interim Exit awards	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
FHEQ level of final award	Level 6
UCAS code	
Programme Code	8286
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	
Programme Lead	Larisa Yarovaya
Pathway Lead	

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

This BSc Finance degree will provide you with the skills and knowledge that are needed to be successful in the financial industry. The programme places considerable emphasis on the key quantitative and analytical skills required as well as emphasising the importance of corporate finance and its subsequent governance, that remains at the cornerstone of modern finance debate and regulatory reform. The programme will prepare you for a career in the financial environment by providing a technical curriculum to strengthen the link between academia and practice. The ever-increasing importance of corporate finance and its subsequent governance remains a vital part of modern finance debate and regulatory reform.

This programme has 6 distinctive attributes:

- 1) it provides the opportunity to study finance in-depth while also providing a broad understanding of the business environment with real world applications.
- 2) it is broad in scope, covering all strands of Finance such as Personal Finance, Islamic Finance and Financial Economics.
- 3) you will have some classes in the Bloomberg suite, where Bloomberg terminals are located, so recreating the excitement of investing and provide you with real-life experience in a dynamic investment environment.
- 4) the study of and access to various computer programmes, such as EViews and STATA will enable you to gather the valuable skills needed to analyse financial data and forecast.
- 5) access to world-class databases such as Bloomberg, Datastream and WRDS will enable you to study and research up-to-date financial data.
- 6) The high level of quantitative methods (that runs throughout the programme) will provide you with the relevant tools to adapt to ever-advancing technology of the finance world upon graduation. Not only will the programme deliver a quantitative focus, it will also provide understanding and real-world application of relevant theories that underpin finance.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

The aim of the BSc Finance degree is to provide you with the knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to the main subjects you are studying, together with a capacity for critical and evaluative thinking. To achieve this we aim to offer a stimulating, challenging, but supportive learning environment for you, and to encourage your autonomous learning. On successful completion of your degree, you should be able to demonstrate that these aims have been fulfilled and that you are also proficient in relevant key skills, including problem-solving, communication and teamwork.

Assessment

Assessment methods are determined by the specific requirements and intended learning outcomes of each module being assessed and hence they vary. Specifically, assessment is based on examinations, individual assignments, group assignments, individual presentations, group presentations and in-class tests. Finally, the final year dissertation will allow you to demonstrate your ability to select, synthesise and analyse different papers, financial data and other sources, and to apply various methods in order to examine research hypotheses and current financial concepts.

Special Features of the programme

The BSc Finance at the University of Southampton is one of only a few programmes in the UK that focuses purely on finance and prepares students for careers in this sector. The programme provides coverage of all aspects of traditional finance but also incorporates modules in new and exciting areas of finance such as Islamic Banking and Finance as well as Alternative Investments. The BSc Finance is highly quantitative in that students will learn to use statistical software such as EViews and STATA which will enable them analyse and forecast financial data, which they can download from world-class databases such as Bloomberg, Datastream and WRDS.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's [programme validation process](#) which is described in the University's [Quality handbook](#).

Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme is of modular structure, consistent with other undergraduate degrees within the Southampton Business School. You will study eight modules in each of the three years of the degree, divided equally between the semesters. Core modules run throughout the programme, but with an increasing ability as you progress to select optional modules of your choice but from an approved list, culminating in the final year of the programme when you will submit a double-weighted project that gives you scope for investigating, in depth, an accounting, finance or management topic (broadly defined) of personal interest. Core modules set the scene for the whole programme, ensuring that you have the essential skills and understandings to progress with the programme. Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Specially, in year 1 you will take four core modules (Personal Finance, Foundations of Finance, Introduction to Economics for Non-Economists and Statistical Methods for Finance), as they lay the foundations of studying any aspect of finance, and for the rest of the programme. Also in year 1 you will complete 4 compulsory modules (Financial Accounting 1, Introduction to Management, Management Accounting 1 and Managerial Decisions) to gather skills in other aspects of Business. These modules are core and compulsory to enable you to have a foundation in which we will build on years 2 and 3.

In year 2 you will again take four core modules (Financial Econometrics 1, Financial Econometrics 2, Financial Management and Portfolio Theory and Financial Markets). The two Financial Econometrics modules are

imperative to be able to collect and correctly analyse financial data, which will be key during the dissertation and in the job market search. Financial Management provides the foundations of corporate finance where you will learn how firms operate and strike the key balance between debt and equity. Portfolio Theory and Financial Markets introduces you to financial markets and traditional portfolio theory, where you will learn how to price various financial assets, understand the importance of risk as well as how to create their optimal portfolio. In year 2, there are also two compulsory modules (Business Research and Principles of Audit and Taxation). Business Research will prepare you for your dissertation in the following year while Principles of Audit and Taxation will provide you with an overview of the importance of audit and how firms manage their tax obligations. Also in year 2, you get to choose from a number of optional modules to steer your degree in a certain direction that suits your interest and skills. The optional modules include Financial Accounting 1, Human Resource Management, Islamic Banking and Finance, Management Ethics and Principles and Practice of Management Science.

In the final year, you have compulsory modules in Alternative Investments and Behavioural Finance. These two modules showcase the ever-changing world of finance by examining new alternative investments, as well as examining the importance of investor psychology in financial markets. These modules are essential for any students entering the finance workplace as they both are increasingly important areas. The dissertation module is a compulsory module that runs year-long in the final year. You also have core modules in Options and Futures, as well as International Finance. Options and futures introduces you to financial derivatives, how to price them and use them in hedging activities, which again is very important for any investment bank. International Finance delves into the world of trading across borders and currencies, and you will also study how to hedge currency risk, enabling you to understand the importance of financial globalisation. Also, you can choose a range of optional modules to tailor the final year to your interests. Optional modules include Auditing, Corporate Governance, Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Business, International Banking as well as Risk Management.

The aim of the programme is to:

1. Provide you with an excellent understanding on the main stands and concepts of finance
2. Give you the essential foundations in finance, as well as an understanding on accounting and management
3. Allow you to develop a high level of numeracy and a capacity for reasoned thought and analysis
4. Promote your capacity for critical evaluation thinking within a stimulating and supportive environment
5. Offer you the opportunity to pursue areas of personal interest via the range of optional subjects available
6. Equip you with appropriate skills to undertake a career in any area of finance

Generally, the programme develops your capacity for independent inquiry, your written and oral communication skills, your use of IT, your ability to handle both quantitative and qualitative information and your ability to work co-operatively with your peers.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. the theory and practice of investment and finance, including traditional, alternative and international financial markets
- A2. the interpretation of financial and managerial information.
- A3. the theory of financial econometrics
- A4. a range of theoretical and methodological perspectives adopted within financial econometrics
- A5. analysing financial time series
- A6. how to value assets such as stocks, bonds, alternative investments and derivatives and why diversification matters
- A7. a range statistical software packages such as E-views, STATA and Excel

Teaching and Learning Methods

The programme offers mixed teaching and learning methods due to the diverse learning needs of our students. The modules will be taught by a mixture of methods ranging from guided background reading, lectures, seminars, group work and the exploration of case studies. Lecturers will draw upon market developments current at the time of the module.

Lecturers will introduce the theoretical concepts, and participants will have the opportunity to practice and apply the methods discussed during the seminars. The learning activities reflect mixed teaching and learning methods, which combine independent learning, group activities, online teaching/learning (i.e. blended learning) and more traditional lectures.

Learning activities include

Exercises in class and/or empirical applications with financial data (e.g., case studies, problem sets, E-views statistical package, Excel modelling).

- Presentation of findings in class;
- Traditional lectures;
- Tutorials;
- Independent learning (e.g., exercises, case studies, guided reading);
- Use of Blackboard (e.g., exercises, group discussions).

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- B1. apply core techniques to value financial assets
- B2. produce reasoned arguments and reach logical conclusions, and support both by reference to relevant theoretical frameworks and supporting evidence, including the appropriate literature.
- B3. synthesise theoretical and practical understanding in problem-solving
- B4. Demonstrate how new concepts are applicable to an international business environment.
- B5. Demonstrate practices that are ethical, responsible and sustainable.

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- C1. solve complex problems
- C2. manage your time and resources effectively
- C3. communicate ideas and arguments orally and through formal presentations
- C4. communicate ideas and arguments in an effective written format
- C5. collect and critically evaluate qualitative and/or quantitative information

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Where optional modules have been specified, the following is an indicative list of available optional modules, which are subject to change each academic year. Please note in some instances modules have limited spaces available.

Pathway

Part 1 (Year 1)

Part 1 (Year 1) Compulsory (must take) Semester 1

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG1003	Introduction to Management	7.5	Compulsory

Part 1 (Year 1) Compulsory (must take) Semester 2

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG1002	Management Accounting 1	7.5	Compulsory
MANG1008	Managerial Decisions	7.5	Compulsory

Part 1 (Year 1) Core (must take and pass) Semester 1

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG1001	Financial Accounting 1	7.5	Core
MANG1026	Foundations of Finance	7.5	Core
MANG1027	Personal Finance	7.5	Core

Part 1 (Year 1) Core (must take and pass) Semester 2

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ECON1009	Introduction to Economics For Non-Economists	7.5	Core
MANG1028	Statistical Methods for Finance	7.5	Core

Part II (Year 2)

Part II (Year 2) Compulsory (must take) Semester 2

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG2064	Business Research	7.5	Compulsory
MANG2066	Principles of Audit and Taxation	7.5	Compulsory

Part II (Year 2) Core (must take and pass) Semester 1

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG2074	Financial Econometrics 1	7.5	Core
MANG2015	Financial Management	7.5	Core

Part II (Year 2) Core (must take and pass) Semester 2

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG2004	Portfolio Theory and Financial Markets	7.5	Core
MANG2075	Financial Econometrics 2	7.5	Optional

Part II (Year 2) Optional Semester 1

You must choose TWO Option Modules 15 ECTS/30 CATS in Semester 1.

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG2003	Financial Accounting 2	7.5	Optional
MANG2011	Human Resource Management	7.5	Optional
MANG2076	Islamic Banking and Finance	7.5	Optional
MANG2041	Management Ethics	7.5	Optional
MANG2006	Principles and Practice of Management Science	7.5	Optional

Part III (Year 3)

Part III (Year 3) Compulsory (must take) Full Year

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG3025	Dissertation	15	Compulsory

Part III (Year 3) Compulsory (must take) Semester 1

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG3081	Alternative Investments	7.5	Compulsory
MANG3082	Behavioural Finance	7.5	Compulsory

Part III (Year 3) Core (must take and pass) Semester 2

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG3020	Futures and Options	7.5	Core
MANG3080	International Finance	7.5	Core

Part III (Year 3) Optional Semester 1

You must choose ONE module 7.5 ECTS/15 CATS from this group

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG3076	Advanced Taxation	7.5	Optional
MANG3003	Financial Accounting 3	7.5	Optional

Part III (Year 3) Optional Semester 2

You must choose ONE module 7.5 ECTS/15 CATS from this group

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG3015	Auditing	7.5	Optional
MANG3021	Corporate Governance	7.5	Optional
MANG3029	Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Business	7.5	Optional
MANG3009	International Banking	7.5	Optional
MANG3032	Risk Management	7.5	Optional

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes](#) or [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes](#). Any exemptions or variations to the University regulations, approved by AQSC are located in [section VI of the University Calendar](#).

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia)
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV.
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community (18.00-08.00).
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme.
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff/Student Liaison Committees, School Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation.
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [*Quality handbook*](#).

Career Opportunities

At Southampton Business School, we recognise the importance of career development and have integrated this programme with vital modules and techniques employed in the Finance sector, thereby providing our students with a tool kit to help them achieve their career aspirations. Our graduates will enter the market with knowledge and skills to enable them to gain excellent careers in areas such as sales and trading, asset management, operations, treasurers, fund management, forecasting, corporate finance, investment banking and risk management.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Dr Elisabetta Barone – Brunel University

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Approved Calculators	Candidates may use calculators in the examination room only as specified by the University and as permitted by the rubric of individual examination papers. The University approved models are Casio FX-570 and Casio FX-85GT Plus. These may be purchased from any source and no longer need to carry the University logo.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	<p>In most cases, written coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations are submitted online and by hard copy. The costs of printing a hard copy for submission of such coursework will be the responsibility of the student.</p> <p>The cost of photocopying will also be the responsibility of the student. https://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing-for-students.page</p>
Stationery	Students will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationary items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	<p>Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source.</p> <p>Some modules suggest reading texts as additional reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.</p>

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.