

Programme Specification

Accounting and 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	1
Accreditation details	Association of International Accountants (AIA) Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)
Final award	Master of Science (MSc)
Name of Award	Accounting and Finance
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme Code	3656
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Master's Degrees In Business And Management 2007
Programme Lead	Oliver Marnet
Pathway Lead	

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The MSc in Accounting and Finance programme aims to provide students with the knowledge and understanding of accounting and finance at an advanced level and therefore will build on their prior knowledge and/or experience in the subject area. The programme content will provide a blend of theoretical, research and practice led content that will enable students to develop deeper conceptual and theoretically-informed perspectives of accounting and financial practices in organisations and in the wider contexts in which these practices operate. The programme reflects the general educational aims of the Business School, according to which all programmes of study enable students to become competent and reflective practitioners in their chosen field, promote critical and evaluative thinking, and develop an understanding of the risks and uncertainties characterising the contemporary business environment.

The programme is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), which is an internationally recognised award of excellence in business education.

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

Students will gain an understanding of theoretical ideas and technical methods through a combination of lectures, discussion classes and seminars, individual and group practical exercises, case studies and directed reading.

These different methods ensure that knowledge and understanding is achieved at the level expected of a Masters' graduate

Assessment

A range of individual and team assessments is used in the programme, e.g. individual written examination, class tests, essays, group activities, presentations, to ensure that participants meet the different learning outcomes.

Special Features of the programme

N/A

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 aims of the programme are to:

- Enable you to contribute effectively to the improvement of financial information systems by giving you an appreciation and critical understanding of the broad accounting and financial issues involved.
- Equip you with an adequate knowledge of the techniques required to enable you to evaluate and make informed managerial decisions on accounting and financial issues.
- Enable you to critically evaluate ideas and techniques in accounting and finance.
- Develop your generic skills and help to prepare you for your future and/or current career.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

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

- A1. knowledge and conceptual understanding of the basic theoretical approaches and contemporary issues in financial accounting, management accounting and finance;
- A2. the ability to evaluate and apply the core technical methods of accounting and finance in practical situations;
- A3. a critical understanding of the principal current research issues in financial accounting, management accounting, and finance;
- A4. the ability to apply knowledge and critical understanding by undertaking an original research project in the area of accounting or finance.

Teaching and Learning Methods

You will gain an understanding of theoretical ideas and technical methods through a combination of lectures, discussion classes and seminars, individual and group practical exercises, case studies and directed reading. Course content is kept up to date as members of teaching staff maintain a range of links with the accounting profession, external organisations and academia, and the programme content is regularly reviewed and updated. If you successfully complete the taught part of the programme, you are required for the award of the Master's degree to undertake an individual research project under the supervision of an appropriate member of academic staff. As part of the research project, you will write a dissertation of about 15,000 words putting your research into the context of the existing literature in the area of your project and setting out the results of your research.

Assessment Methods

Your learning will be assessed through a combination of coursework, some of which is undertaken on an individual basis and some in groups, and examinations. Coursework may take the form of essays, analysis of practical problems and cases, discussion of readings, objective (multiple-choice) tests, computer-based assessment and other forms. Some coursework (in particular individual and group class presentations) may be partly assessed by your fellow students. You will receive structured feedback in respect of coursework. Your research project, which is required for the MSc award, is assessed entirely on the basis of the dissertation.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

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

- B1. analyse and evaluate company accounts and the uses to which these are put;
- B2. evaluate the use of accounting information for making business decisions and for planning and control purposes;
- B3. think analytically, reflectively, creatively and logically, drawing on useful approaches developed in the core disciplines of accounting and finance;
- B4. apply the principles of finance to evaluate investment and financing decisions;
- B5. think analytically, reflectively, creatively and logically, drawing on useful approaches developed in the core disciplines of accounting and finance and (depending on the choice of options) various cognate disciplines such as taxation and corporate governance.

Teaching and Learning Methods

You will develop your analytical, reflective, logical and creative intellectual skills in modules through written assignments and class presentations, some of which will be based around practical problems requiring the application of both quantitative and qualitative tools of analysis, while others will address more theoretical issues. You will be expected to apply practical methods of accounting and finance, including relevant research methods, and to demonstrate your ability to analyse an issue in a critical, logical and reflective manner as part of your research project.

Assessment Methods

Your ability to apply the skills you have developed is assessed through examinations and coursework and as well as through the research project.

Transferable and Generic Skills

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

- C1. collect and critically evaluate qualitative and quantitative information;
- C2. communicate ideas and arguments fluently and effectively in a variety of written formats;
- C3. communicate ideas and arguments orally and through formal presentations;
- C4. work effectively in groups and recognise problems associated with group working;
- C5. manage your time effectively;
- C6. use computing and IT resources effectively;
- C7. use library and other resources effectively, and apply bibliographical skills.

Teaching and Learning Methods

You will develop some or all of the above skills on all taught modules. Research skills relevant to the research project are developed on the MANG6322 module "Foundations of Research in Accounting & Finance", and also through the process of supervision as you undertake your research project.

Assessment Methods

Your ability to work effectively as a member of a group will be assessed through the output of group work (usually a presentation but in some cases a written report). Both examinations and written coursework require you to produce concise and well-structured analysis of theoretical and practical issues and problems. Your oral communication skills will be assessed by fellow students as well as by teachers. Your ability to obtain and analyse information, in particular using library and IT resources, as part of your research project will be reflected in the quality of your dissertation.

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 I

Typical course content

The programme content is covered in eight 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS) taught modules spread over two semesters. Seven of the modules are either core or compulsory. In the first semester, you can select one module from a choice of four Option modules. In the second semester, the research methods module will be closely associated to the development of the research proposal, which will typically form the basis of your dissertation in the summer period.

Programme details

The programme is taken full-time over a period of twelve months. In the first nine months, divided into two semesters of 15 weeks, you will follow 52.5 ECTS (105 CATS) Core/Compulsory taught modules. In addition you will select an Option module to the value of 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS) from the following list (Semester 1). These Option modules enable you to be exposed to a more focused area of accounting or finance and may assist you in terms of thinking about a potential dissertation topic.

In the latter part of the second semester you will study for your research project leading to the dissertation submission (MANG6095).

A flexible and inclusive approach to learning and teaching will enable any student who meets the entry requirements to access the curriculum and demonstrate achievement of all the intended learning outcomes.

Part I Compulsory (must take) Semester 1

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG6029	Equity Markets	7.5	Compulsory

Part I Compulsory (must take) Semester 2

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG6028	Corporate Finance	7.5	Compulsory
MANG6031	Financial Accounting 2	7.5	Compulsory
MANG6027	Management Accounting 2	7.5	Compulsory

Part I Core (must take and pass) Semester 1

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG6030	Financial Accounting 1	7.5	Core
MANG6026	Management Accounting 1	7.5	Core

Part I Core (must take and pass) Semester 2

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG6095	Dissertation	30	Core
MANG6322	Foundations of Research in Accounting and Finance	7.5	Core

Part I Optional Semester 1

You must choose ONE option module 7.5 ECTS (15CATS)

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MANG6223	Financial Reporting and Markets	7.5	Optional
MANG6025	International Accounting and Taxation	7.5	Optional
MANG6319	International Corporate Governance	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

The typical career destinations for holders of the MSc Accounting and Finance will be in the private sector including banks, financial institutions and accounting/consulting firms.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Prof Jia Liu – University of Portsmouth

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.
Fieldwork: logistical costs	Any costs related to the dissertation research are covered by the student.
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. A list of the University printing costs can be found here: https://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing</p>
Stationery	You 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 optional background 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.