

Programme Specification

Finance and Economics (2019-20)

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	None
Final award	Master of Science in the Social Sciences (MSc SocSci)
Name of Award	Finance and Economics
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme Code	4585
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Economics 2015, Master's Degree Characteristics 2016
Programme Lead	Antonella Ianni (ianni)
Pathway Lead	

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The programme is full time and lasts for 12 months, with nine months of taught modules between October and June of the academic year, followed by three months of research and preparation of a masters dissertation, to be completed by the end of September.

The topic for the dissertation is chosen with the advice and guidance of members of the academic staff. MSc students usually form a lively and cohesive group which plays an active role in the academic and social life of the Department.

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

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Learning and teaching

- Modules are taught using a variety of methods, including lectures, seminars, group or project work.
- Each module involves one or two sessions each week, spread over the semester. Depending on the different modules, students will be expected to go through assigned problem sets or directed projects, to write essays (or equivalent), to make presentations and contribute to seminar discussions.
- Lectures offer an overview of a topic, an explanation of difficult concepts or a discussion of key issues. Lectures presume a certain amount of additional reading, so it is often a good idea to read references in advance of the corresponding lecture.
- Seminars provide a forum for a closer examination of particular aspects of each module and are an

important part of the learning process. Usually it is only by discussing and questioning aspects of a subject that their full implications can be understood. Students prepare papers or problem sets and may be asked to lead discussions or debates, and so develop their written and presentational skills.

- A particular feature of the learning environment in the Economics Department is the research-led teaching. Academic staff research in areas of important contemporary significance and bring to their teaching modules their experience of working in the wider world.
- The increasing use of web-based, video-based and PowerPoint-based teaching methods demonstrates our commitment to the effective use of available equipment and resources.

Assessment

Some modules are assessed by essays, others by exams and some by a mix of these methods. Exams are held at the end of each semester.

Special Features of the programme

- This programme is a part of the cognate group of Masters Programmes including also MSc Economics, MSc Finance and Econometrics. Students may transfer to any programme within first weeks of Semester 1, subject to approval. The Department of Economics will provide advice and approve requests, following the results of the ECON6001 Preliminary Mathematics and Statistics and a further discussion with student's academic tutor.
- This programme offers access to Bloomberg terminals and DataStream as a part of standalone training, teaching of Finance, and research associated with MSc Dissertations.
- This programme includes access for students to a portfolio of enrichment activities that aim at fostering the employability of students. These include lectures and presentation, skill development sessions and the provision of support in approaching the labour market. This set of achievements, understandings and personal attributes make individuals more likely to gain employment and to be successful in their chosen occupations. These activities are made available through a bespoke Blackboard site, offered by the University Employability office and overseen by a dedicated academic member of staff in the Economics Department.

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 designed both to equip students to undertake independent research in finance and economics, and to provide the training necessary to undertake a career as an economist or finance specialist in the public or private sector or in financial institutions.

The aims of the programme are to provide you with

- A rigorous understanding of the theoretical foundations of economic and financial analysis;
- The ability to formulate, manipulate and draw conclusions from an economic model;
- The ability to apply economic and financial analysis in the context of financial markets;
- The ability to interpret and critically evaluate economic ideas and research findings;
- The ability to test and evaluate economic models using a variety of research methodologies, data and techniques of analysis;
- In-depth knowledge of the operation of financial markets;
- The ability to design, implement and manage independent research in finance and economics;
- The ability to present ideas, arguments and research findings effectively.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

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

- A1. Mathematical and statistical tools for economic and financial analysis;
- A2. The theoretical foundations of microeconomics and finance;
- A3. The process of model formulation, analysis and validation in economic and financial theory;
- A4. The application of economic and financial theory and reasoning to a range of topics, including the analysis of financial markets;
- A5. Qualitative and quantitative economic and financial data, and the appropriate methods for structuring and analysing such data;
- A6. Econometric methods for the estimation, testing and evaluation of models using economic and financial data of differing types;
- A7. Alternative approaches to quantitative modelling in economics and economics;
- A8. Theoretical and empirical developments at the research frontiers of the analysis of financial markets.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures, seminars, problem classes, independent research.

Assessment Methods

Written examinations, problem sets, project-based coursework and Master's dissertation.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

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

- B1. The ability to abstract the essential features of complex data and to formalise and construct a model for the critical analysis and evaluation of a theoretical model, of its application and of its policy implications;
- B2. A critical understanding of the application of inductive reasoning to assumption based models;
- B3. The ability to empirically validate economic and financial models through a process of estimation and testing, using a range of statistical methods applied to a variety of economic and financial data;
- B4. The ability to evaluate the applicability of a range of research methodologies used to conduct research in economics and finance;
- B5. The ability to formulate research questions in economics, finance and/or econometrics and translate these into appropriate research designs.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures, seminars, problem classes, independent research.

Assessment Methods

Written examinations, problem sets, project-based coursework, Master's dissertation. For example, the formative and summative assessment of ECON6006 (Economic Analysis) tests your understanding of the application of inductive reasoning to assumption-based models (B2) through problem-solving exercises that are part of the formative assessment for the module.

Transferable and Generic Skills

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

- C1. Communicate complex economic arguments in both written and oral form;
- C2. Make effective use of a range of ICT including the Internet, word-processing, databases and spreadsheets;
- C3. Identify, select and access a range of sources of printed, electronic and other material as means to the development and presentation of arguments and evidence;
- C4. Demonstrate awareness and understanding of the ethical and legal issues associated with the conduct of research in the social sciences;
- C5. Design, implement and manage a piece of research.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Seminars, problem classes, independent research.

Assessment Methods

Project-based coursework and Master's dissertation. For example, the design, implementation and management of a piece of research (C5) is a central part of the successful completion of the dissertation.

Subject Specific Practical Skills

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

- D1. The ability to make informed judgements on the design and effective implementation of policies to address a range of economic problems;
- D2. An extensive knowledge of the principal sources of economic information and data;
- D3. Mastery of a range of statistical software for the organisation, presentation and analysis of economic and financial data.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Seminars, individual projects, independent research.

Assessment Methods

Project-based coursework and Master's level dissertation. For example, the Quantitative Methods module (ECON6004) is an opportunity for you to show mastery of statistical software for the

organisation, presentation and analysis of economic and financial data (D3) as part of the formative and summative assessment.

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
Programme details

The structure of the programme and the modules currently offered are set out below. Of the modules shown against each part of your programme, some are compulsory (i.e., enrolment is automatic) and others are optional. Against each part, you are directed to which modules are compulsory and which are optional. The optional modules listed constitute an indicative list. There will always be choice but the options might vary between years. A list of optional modules will be available to you via the Student Record Self-Service system once you enrol at the University.

The programme is normally studied over 12 months full-time. The taught component of the programme consists of 30 study weeks divided into two semesters during which time students study six modules (60 ECTS/120 CATS). Students who complete the taught component undertake a three-month period of supervised research for a Master's dissertation at a value of 30 ECTS/60 CATS.

Option modules will be chosen during Semester 1, with advice from the programme team. The modules which will run will be based on student demand.

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ECON6015	Finance	5	Compulsory
ECON6001	Preliminary Mathematics and Statistics	0	Compulsory
ECON6044	Principles of Corporate Finance	5	Compulsory

Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ECON6020	Dissertation	30	Core
ECON6006	Economic Analysis	10	Core
ECON6029	Financial Economics and Asset Pricing	10	Core
ECON6004	Quantitative Methods	10	Core

Part I Optional

Select a total of 40 credits from the following:-

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ECON6017	Economic Policy in Development	5	Optional
ECON6042	Financial Derivatives	5	Optional
ECON6043	Financial Econometrics	5	Optional
ECON6008	Industrial Economics	5	Optional
ECON6016	International Trade	5	Optional
ECON6007	Labour Economics	5	Optional
ECON6040	Panel Data and Microeconometrics	5	Optional
ECON6041	Time Series Econometrics	5	Optional

Part II

Part II Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ECON6020	Dissertation	30	Core

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes*](#) and [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes*](#) as set out in the University Calendar: <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html>

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.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

- Module co-ordinators support. Module co-ordinators will be available at designated times during the week to discuss issues related to the particular modules you are studying at the time. This will be in addition to class contact time.
- Academic/personal tutor. As soon as you register on this programme, you will be allocated a personal tutor. S/he is a member of the academic team and will be available to discuss general academic issues related to the programme as well as offer advice and support on any personal issues which may affect your studies.
- Module handbooks/outlines. These will be available at the start of each module (often in online format). The Handbook includes the aims and learning outcomes of the module, the methods of assessment, relevant background material to the module and typically a session-by-session breakdown of the module together with appropriate reading lists.
- Within the Faculty, administrative support is provided by your Student Office which deals with student records and related issues and with queries related to your specific degree programme.

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 surveys for each module of the programme
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff: Student Liaison Committees, Faculty 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

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty
- Programme validation, normally every five years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report
- A national Research Excellence Framework (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience)
- Institutional Review by the Quality Assurance Agency

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

Career Opportunities

The MSc Finance and Economics is designed to equip students with the specialist skills and knowledge necessary to pursue a career at a high level in the financial sector. In addition, the programme provides the necessary training to undertake research in the area of finance at a leading university.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Dr Patrick W Marsh - University of Nottingham

Name: Professor Dieter Balkenborg - University of Exeter

Name: Dr Panayiotis Pourpourides - University of Cardiff

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 s/he takes 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
Software Licenses	Publicly available software in public workstations and some available via iSolutions, but otherwise purchase.
Hardware	Publicly available workstations and some available via iSolutions, but otherwise purchase.
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationery 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	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. 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.
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 model is Casio FX-570 This may be purchased from any source and no longer needs to carry the University logo.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	In the majority of cases, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. A list of the University printing costs can be found here: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing-for-students.page

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.