

Programme Specification for Postgraduate Programme



Leading to:

MSc Finance and Accounting

MSc Finance and Accounting (with Internship) (with Placement)

Applicable for all postgraduate students starting on or after 1st September 2021

| Version No. | Date | Notes – QA USE ONLY | QA |
|-------------|-------------|--|-----|
| 1 | August 2021 | Programme specification for 2021-22 created. | WEA |

| Postgraduate Taught Programme | |
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| 1. Awarding institution | Brunel University London |
| 2. Teaching institution(s) | Brunel University London |
| 3. Home college/department/division | College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences/Department of Economics and Finance/Division of Accountancy and Finance |
| 4. Contributing college/department/division/associated institution | N/A |
| 5. Programme accredited by | Accredited by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) for the purpose of exemption from some professional examinations through the Accredited degree accelerated route. Accredited by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) |
| 6. Final award(s) and FHEQ Level of Award | MSc Finance and Accounting - FHEQ7 MSc Finance and Accounting (with Internship) (with Placement) – FHEQ Level 7 |
| 7. Programme title | MSc Finance and Accounting |
| 8. Programme type (Single honours/joint) | N/A |
| 9. Normal length of programme (in months) for each mode of study | 12 months; up to 16 months (MSc with Internship) or 12 months FT up to 24 months (MSc with Placement) January start – 12 months. Up to 16 months (MSc with Internship) Or 24 months (MSc with Placement) |
| 10. Maximum period of registration for each mode of study | Normal length of programme plus two years up to a maximum of five years |
| 11. Variation(s) to September start | January 2021 only |
| 12. Modes of study | Full Time |
| 13. Modes of delivery | Standard |
| 14. Intermediate awards and titles and FHEQ Level of Award | Postgraduate Certificate in Finance and Accounting FHEQ Level 7 Postgraduate Certificate in Finance and Accounting with Internship/with Placement - FHEQ Level 7 Postgraduate Diploma in Finance and Accounting FHEQ Level 7 Postgraduate Diploma in Finance and Accounting with Internship/with Placement FHEQ Level 7 |
| 15. UCAS Code | N/A |
| 16. HECOS | 100450 |
| 17. Route Code | N400PFINACC |
| 18. Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external and internal reference points used to inform programme design | UK Quality Code for Higher Education Brunel 2030 Brunel Placement Learning Policy, as published under the 'Placements' section of the ' Managing Higher Education Provision with Others' page. |

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| 19. Admission Requirements | Details of entry requirements are provided on the University's and College website. Levels of English for non-native speakers are outlined on Brunel International's language requirements pages. |
| 20. Other relevant information (e.g. study abroad, additional information on placements) | There will be supervision, guidance and support for students embarking on the placement. Further information is provided in a separate document. The placement is not guaranteed. Students who cannot secure a placement by end of May the following year after they start their course, will be reverted to the full time programme. |
| 21. Programme regulations not specified in Senate Regulation 3. Any departure from regulations specified in Senate Regulation 3 must be stated here and approved by Senate. | N/A |
| 22. Further information about the programme is available from the College website. | http://www.brunel.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/finance-and-accounting-msc |

23. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

1. The operation and validation of financial accounting and corporate governance systems.
2. The operation and design of financial systems, risk, financial structures, and financial instruments.
3. To produce graduates with an advanced knowledge and understanding of financial accountancy, company and investment valuation, financial markets, financial institutions and the management of risk.
4. Key transferable research skills to proceed to PhD study
5. Key transferable skills to further professional development and career opportunities in the workplace

To offer to participants the opportunity to apply and examine accounting and financial theories, frameworks and tools in the actual business environment / "on the job", test themselves against the employment challenges of the financial sector (for MSc with Internship/Placement).

24. PROGRAMME AND INTERMEDIATE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding (K) cognitive (thinking) skills (C) and other skills and attributes (S) in the following areas:

| FHEQ Level | Category (K = knowledge and understanding, C = cognitive (thinking) skills, S = other skills and attributes) | Learning Outcome | Masters Award Only | Associated Assessment Blocks Code(s) | Associated Study Blocks Code(s) | Associated Modular Blocks Code(s) |
|------------|--|--|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 7 | | | | | | |
| | K | An advanced knowledge of accounting theory. | | | | EC5601, EC5608 and EC5600 |
| | K | An advanced knowledge of financial theory. | | | | EC5510 and, EC5604 |
| | K | A systematic understanding of the workings of accounting systems and financial markets. | | | | All compulsory modules |
| | K | A systematic understanding of risk management in both theory and practice. | | | | All compulsory modules |
| | K | Awareness of the relationships between academic studies and the professional/business context in which the placement takes place; awareness of the | | | | EC5617 |

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| | | organisation of the placement provider viewed in the context of its business sector. (NB note this LO is for a programme with a placement only) | | | | |
| | C | Understand different ways to model phenomena relevant to the processes of accountancy and its linkage with finance. | | | | EC5500 EC5608 |
| | C | Create reasoned arguments supported by relevant and appropriate evidence. | | | | All |
| | C | Plan, deliver and communicate research by drawing on a variety of methodologies relevant to Finance and Accountancy. | MSc only | | | EC5500 |
| | C | Demonstrate self-direction and originality in formulating and testing key hypotheses in Finance and/or Accountancy and act autonomously in planning and implementing research. | | | | All |
| | C | Critically analyse concepts such as financial crisis, financial reporting standards, accounting analysis, and investment valuation. (NB note this LO is for a programme with a placement only) | | | | EC5600, EC5608, EC5604 and EC5609 |
| | C | Ability to analyse issues encountered in an employment context from an academic perspective and vice versa. (NB note this LO is for a programme with a placement only) | | | | EC5617 |
| | S | Apply financial and accounting techniques in a pragmatic setting | | | | EC5500 EC5600, EC5604 and EC5609 |
| | S | The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: (i) the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility, (ii) ability to ask relevant questions, (iii) the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development (PG Dip). | | | | All |
| | S | Ability to adapt to a workplace and learn from it; planning, organisation and time management in the context of ability to work independently and as part of a team. (NB note this LO is for a programme with a placement only) | | | | EC5617 EC5618 |
| | K | To demonstrate and reflect on the obtainment, development and | | | | EC5617 EC5618 |

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| | | enhancement of personal and professional business skills. . (NB note this LO is for a programme with a placement only) | | | | |
| | K | To reflect on the application and relevance of theory and knowledge taught on the MSc programme to the practical work environment. . (NB note this LO is for a programme with a placement only) | | | | EC5617 EC5618 |

Learning/teaching strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be achieved, including formative assessments

Compulsory knowledge and understanding of Category K learning outcomes above) are acquired by means of lectures, seminars, computer aided labs (where applicable), and guided independent study resulting in a dissertation, all of which encourage and develop active learning.

Cognitive skills - Category C learning outcomes above - are developed concurrently with knowledge and understanding, through the medium of the teaching and learning programme. Each module, however taught and assessed, entails the deployment of a full range of the skills identified. Seminars and feedback on coursework (for which there is a standard pro-forma) provide formal mechanisms for students to reflect on their own learning and intellectual development, and make use of constructive feedback.

The final cognitive skill (Category C above) is developed through supervised work on the dissertation, which also further enhances the other Category C learning outcomes (above).

The Category S learning outcome (above) would be nurtured in all forms of interaction between the instructors and students, e.g., lectures, feedback on coursework, and dissertation supervision.

For the MSc with Internship/Placement, adapt to an employment environment, meet organisational expectation and successfully engage in informal and self-directed learning are achieved through work placement learning. Students who undertake the Extended period of placement would be expected to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the business and acquire a higher level of skills to be reflected in the Placement Report.

Summative assessment strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be demonstrated.

Systematic knowledge and understanding of Category K learning outcomes (above) are tested by means of a range of assessment methods including seen and unseen written examinations, formative coursework and a dissertation.

The range of assessment methods utilised Category C learning outcomes (above) through a shared emphasis on approaching a task or problem via a process of individual study and research, analysis and interpretation. All require clear, well-evidenced argumentation, and all call upon a degree of creative thought, imagination and independence of mind. The Category S learning outcome (above) is assessed through the dissertation.

The first three Category K learning outcomes (above) are fundamental to programme in Finance and Accountancy and are directly assessed in all modules. In particular the first Category K learning outcome (above) is, similarly, an element essential to successful performance across the programme, and would be reflected in the performance of the students in all forms of assessment. The second Category K learning outcome (above) is developed through the compulsory modules and is necessary to pursue and pass the dissertation satisfactorily.

For the MSc with Internship, the adaptation and engagement in an employment environment are assessed through a presentation on the placement or a report of 2,500 words for those undertaking MSc with Placement

25. Programme Structure, progression and award requirements

Programme structures and features: levels, assessment blocks, credit and progression and award requirements

- **Compulsory block:** one which all students registered for the award are required to take as part of their programme of

study. These will be listed in the left hand column;

- **Optional block:** one which students choose from an ‘option range’. These will be listed in the right hand column;
- A **core assessment** is an assessment identified within an assessment block or modular block (either compulsory or optional) which must be passed (at grade C- or better) in order to be eligible to progress and to be eligible for the final award. All core assessments must be specified on the programme specification next to the appropriate assessment or modular block:

Where students are expected to pass the block at C- or better, but not necessarily all elements, then the block itself is core.
e.g. AB5500 Project (40)

Core: Block

Where only some elements of assessments are required to be passed at C- or better, these will be identified by listing each element that is core

e.g. ABXXX1 Title (XX credits)

Core: 1 & 4

Where students are expected to pass all assessments in a block then this will be identified. By setting the assessment this way, students are also required to pass the block by default. This will be identified thus:

e.g. ABXXXX Title (XX credits)

Core: All, Block

- A **non-core assessment** does not have to be passed at grade C- or better, but must D- or better in order to be eligible for the final award.

| FHEQ Level 7 | |
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| Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credit | Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits |
| <p>Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume</p> <p>EC5701 Essentials of Mathematics and Statistics (0 credit)</p> <p>Students on the ‘with Internship/with Placement’ routes will additionally take: EC5702 MSc Pre-Placement Preparation (0 credits)</p> | Optional Study block codes, titles and credit volume |

| Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits | Optional modular block codes, titles and credits |
|--|---|
| <p>All modules are 15 credits unless otherwise specified</p> <p>EC5510 Financial Theory</p> <p>EC5600 Financial Reporting in Capital Markets</p> <p>EC5601 International Accounting Standards and Policy</p> <p>EC5604 Investment Valuation Models</p> <p>EC5608 Company Valuation</p> <p>EC5606 Quantitative Methods for Business Finance</p> <p>EC5500 Dissertation (60 credits)</p> <p>Students on the 'with Internship route will additionally take: EC5617 MSc Placement 6-12 weeks (0 credits) Core: Block Which will take place after completion of the taught part of the programme</p> <p>Students on the 'with Placement; route will additionally take: EC5618 MSc Placement (12 months) (0 Credits) Core: Block Which will normally commence after submission of the dissertation</p> | <p>All modules are 15 credits unless otherwise specified</p> <p>Students are required to select a 15 credit module per term from</p> <p>Autumn Term</p> <p>EC5528 Derivative Securities EC5605 International Finance</p> <p>Spring Term</p> <p>EC5530 Business Finance Workshop EC5609 Global Financial Markets</p> |
| <p>FHEQ Level 7 Progression and Award Requirements</p> <p>As per Senate Regulation 3</p> <p>Students pursuing the MSc Finance and Accounting (with Internship) or (with Placement) are required to attend the EC5702 MSc Pre-Placement Preparation module prior to taking the EC5617 or EC5618 MSc Placement module in order to obtain the 'with Internship' or 'with Placement' award.</p> <p>PGDip may not be awarded by substitution of the dissertation EC5500 for modular/assessment blocks in the taught part of the programme.</p> | |

Please note: this specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods can be found in the modular block, assessment and study block outlines and other programme and block information. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University from time to time and whenever a modification occurs.