

**Programme Specification for Postgraduate Programme
Leading to:
MSc Finance and Accounting
MSc Finance and Accounting (with Professional Practice)**



Applicable for all postgraduate students starting on or after 1st September 2018

<u>Version No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Notes – QA USE ONLY</u>	<u>QA</u>
1	October 2018	Programme specification created for 2018/19	SMu

Postgraduate Taught Programme	
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 Professional Practice) – FHEQ Level 7
7. Programme title	MSc Finance and Accounting MSc Finance and Accounting (with Professional Practice)
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 Professional Practice)
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	None
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 FHEQ7 Postgraduate Diploma in Finance and Accounting FHEQ7
15. UCAS Code	N/A
16. JACS Code	N300, N400
17. Route Code	N400PFINACC
18. Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external and internal reference points used to inform programme design	QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications Brunel 2030 Brunel Placement Learning Policy, as published under the 'Placements' section of the ' Managing Higher Education Provision with Others ' page.
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 satisfactory supervision, guidance and support for students embarking on the placement. The department has developed an established academic process for the supervision of students on placement through the experience at UG level and further information is provided in a separate document.

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 Professional Practice).

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:

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)
5						
5	K	An advanced knowledge of accounting theory.				EC5601, EC5608 and EC5600
5	K	An advanced knowledge of financial theory.				EC5510 and, EC5604
5	K	A systematic understanding of the workings of accounting systems and financial markets.				All compulsory modules
5	K	A systematic understanding of risk management in both theory and practice.				All compulsory modules
5	K	Awareness of the relationships between academic studies and the professional/business context in which the placement takes place; awareness of the 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)				EC5616
5	C	Understand different ways to model phenomena relevant to the processes of accountancy and its linkage with finance.				EC5500 EC5608
5	C	Create reasoned arguments supported by relevant and appropriate evidence.				All

5	C	Plan, deliver and communicate research by drawing on a variety of methodologies relevant to Finance and Accountancy.	MSc only			EC5500
5	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
5	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
5	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)				EC5616
5	S	Apply financial and accounting techniques in a pragmatic setting				EC5500 EC5600, EC5604 and EC5609
5	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
5	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)				EC5616

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 Professional Practice, adapt to an employment environment, meet organisational expectation and successfully engage in informal and self-directed learning are achieved through work placement learning.

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 Professional Practice the adaptation and engagement in an employment environment are assessed through a presentation on the 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.

Level 5	
Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credit	Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits
Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume EC5701 Essentials of Mathematics and Statistics (0 credit) Students on the 'with Professional practice' route will additionally take: EC5702 MSc Pre-Placement Preparation (0 credits)	Optional Study block codes, titles and credit volume
Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits All modules are 15 credits unless otherwise specified EC5510 Financial Theory EC5600 Financial Reporting in Capital Markets EC5601 International Accounting Standards and Policy EC5604 Investment Valuation Models EC5608 Company Valuation EC5610 Quantitative Methods for Finance and Economics EC5500 Dissertation (60 credits) Students on the 'with Professional practice' route will additionally take: EC5616 MSc Placement (30 credits) Core: Block	Optional modular block codes, titles and credits All modules are 15 credits unless otherwise specified Students are required to select a 15 credit module per term from Autumn Term EC5528 Derivative Securities EC5605 International Finance Spring Term EC5530 Business Finance Workshop EC5609 Global Financial Markets
Level 5 Progression and Award Requirements	
<p>As per Senate Regulation 3</p> <p>Students pursuing the MSc Finance and Accounting (with Professional Practice) are required to attend the EC5702 MSc Pre-Placement Preparation module prior to taking the EC5616 MSc Placement module in order to obtain the 'with Professional Practice' award.</p> <p>The minimum time period that each student should be on work placement is 6 weeks, maximum is 12 weeks, to end the day before Presentation Day at the latest.</p> <p>Boards are allowed to award an MSc to a student who has failed the placement option (perhaps didn't complete) but otherwise meet the criteria.</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.