

**1. Programme Title(s):**

MSc Accounting and Finance

Postgraduate Diploma Accounting and Finance \*

Postgraduate Certificate Accounting and Finance \*

\*Approved as exit awards only

**2. Awarding body or institution:**

University of Leicester

**3. a) Mode of study**

Full time or part time

**b) Type of study**

Campus based

**4. Registration periods:**

Full time: The normal period of registration is 12 months, the maximum period of registration is 24 months.

Part time: The normal period of registration is 24 months, the maximum period of registration is 36 months.

**5. Typical entry requirements:**

A good second class honours degree or equivalent from a recognised university, or a relevant graduate level professional qualification; or a demonstration of considerable relevant practical experience and evidence of the ability to cope with the demands of the course. Standard University English Language requirements apply.

**6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:**

None

**7. Programme aims:**

The Accounting and Finance degree programme is a specialist career entry programme, which aims to:

- Provide students with a thorough grasp of the main theories, tools, methods and techniques of accounting and finance within an international context. This includes the development of an understanding of the advantages, limitations and typical applications of each major method or technique in practice.
- analyse and evaluate problems and issues in accounting and finance, including contexts in which organizations operate
- Promote an appreciation of the role of information within a knowledge-based economy. This will include an identification of approaches to data generation, data manipulation, data assessment, analysis and dissemination.
- Expose students to the current debates in the accounting and financial professional and academic literatures.
- Enable course members to integrate and apply the knowledge, approaches and methods they have learned to a variety of accounting and financial decisions and their own management and work experiences.

- enable students to develop a range of transferrable and interpersonal skills, which will allow them to identify problems, evaluate and analyse situations and typical business scenarios, consider alternative solutions, make choices through critically appraising evidence and hence to implement solutions
- Equip students with the necessary skills to undertake independent research work in either accounting or finance, which is supporting through the completion of a dissertation

#### 8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

- QAA Benchmarking Statement for Economics and Business and Management
- [University of Leicester Learning Strategy](#)
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiner's Reports
- CFA Investment Foundations Program specification
- Student Feedback (formally through questionnaires and Staff-Student Committees; informally, for example, through student contact with module tutors, personal tutors, and programme leaders)
- The requirements of the UK Race Relations Act 2000
- The requirements of the UK Special Education Needs and Disability Act 2001
- The University of Leicester's Widening Participation Strategy
- The University's Equal Opportunities Statement
- University of Leicester Senate Regulations

#### 9. Programme Outcomes:

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<b>(a) Subject and Professional skills</b>			
<b>Knowledge</b>			
PGCert	Discuss key theories and models used across a range of finance and accounting subjects.	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGDip	In addition to the above, possess a deeper knowledge of the key theories and models, as well as demonstrating some evaluation of their usefulness in business decision-making scenarios.	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
MSc	In addition to the above, students should be able to critically evaluate key theories and models, including their usefulness in both practical (and organisational) settings and in a research context. Integrate and synthesise knowledge across subjects	In addition to the above: the dissertation and independent research	In addition to the above: dissertation
<b>Concepts</b>			
PGCert	Explain key principles and concepts of accounting and finance and their inter-relationship.	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGDip	Demonstrate an analysis of principles and core concepts, models and theories of finance and accounting	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.

	<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>	<b>How Demonstrated?</b>
MSc	In addition to the above, students should be able to critically analyse the development of finance and accounting theories, concepts and models and explain and critique the methodologies used in finance and accounting research.	In addition to the above: the dissertation and independent research	In addition to the above: dissertation
<b>Techniques</b>			
PGCert	Describe and apply core theories, models and concepts; evaluate the usefulness of theories and models in business scenarios.	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGDip	Describe and apply of core theories, models and concepts; evaluate the usefulness of theories and models in business scenarios.	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
MSc	In addition to the above, students should be able to undertake qualitative, numerical and statistical evaluation as a means to develop an analysis of a finance or accounting problem.	In addition to the above: the dissertation and independent research	In addition to the above, the dissertation
<b>Critical analysis</b>			
PGCert	Describe core financial and accounting concepts and techniques. Reflect critically on the disciplines of accounting and finance and upon the context bound nature of the generation and application of its concepts and techniques.	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGDip	Describe core financial and accounting concepts and techniques. Reflect critically on the disciplines of accounting and finance and upon the context bound nature of the generation and application of its concepts and techniques.	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
MSc	Describe core financial and accounting concepts and techniques. Reflect critically on the disciplines of accounting and finance and upon the context bound nature of the generation and application of its concepts and techniques.	In addition to the above: the dissertation and independent research	In addition to the above, the dissertation
<b>Presentation</b>			
PGCert	Distinguish between relevant and non-relevant materials;  Communicate results of independent research and problem solution in both oral and written form.	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.

	<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>	<b>How Demonstrated?</b>
PGDip	Distinguish between relevant and non-relevant materials;  Communicate results of independent research and problem solution in both oral and written form.	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
MSc	Distinguish between relevant and non-relevant materials;  Communicate results of independent research and problem solution in both oral and written form.	In addition to the above: the dissertation and independent research	In addition to the above, the dissertation
<b>Appraisal of evidence</b>			
PGCert	Ability to analyse and assess a variety of complex accounting and financial issues. Locate, organise and assess data from a range of different primary and literature sources Analyse a range of accounting and finance concepts and understand and criticise arguments.	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Essays assignments, examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGDip	Ability to analyse and assess a variety of complex accounting and financial issues. Locate, organise and assess data from a range of different primary and literature sources Analyse a range of accounting and finance concepts and understand and criticise arguments..	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Essays assignments, examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework. .
MSc	In addition, demonstrate the ability to sustain an independent level of inquiry at an advanced level	In addition to the above: the dissertation and independent research	In addition to the above, the dissertation
<b>(b) Transferable skills</b>			
<b>Research skills</b>			
PGCert	Demonstrate intellectual independence, through identifying and evaluating relevant evidence for essay assignments, as well as developing time management skills; Demonstrate an ability to write structured and coherent written work	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Essays assignments, examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGDip	Demonstrate intellectual independence, through identifying and evaluating relevant evidence for essay assignments, as well as developing time management skills; Demonstrate an ability to write structured and coherent written work	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Essays assignments, examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
MSc	In addition to the above, students will plan an independent research project based on focused research questions.	In addition to the above: the dissertation and independent research	In addition to the above, the dissertation

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<b>Communication skills</b>			
PGCert	Communicate effectively through both written and oral channels to a variety of audiences.	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGDip	Communicate effectively through both written and oral channels to a variety of audiences.	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
MSc	In addition, students will produce a dissertation that is coherently structured and written	In addition to the above, the dissertation	In addition to the above: research proposal and dissertation
<b>Data presentation</b>			
PGCert	Presentation of financial data and the results of analysis in both oral and written form.	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGDip	Presentation of financial data and the results of analysis in both oral and written form.	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
MSc	Presentation of financial data and the results of analysis in both oral and written form.	In addition to the above, the dissertation	In addition to the above: research proposal and dissertation
<b>Information technology</b>			
PGCert	Construct and present quantitative data, including accounts, effectively using IT resources where appropriate.  Use specialist packages for statistical analysis.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes.	Projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGDip	Construct and present quantitative data, including accounts, effectively using IT resources where appropriate.  Use specialist packages for statistical analysis.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes.	Projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
MSc	In addition use data analysis software and statistical databases that are relevant to the dissertation	In addition to the above, the dissertation	In addition to the above: research proposal and dissertation
<b>Problem solving</b>			
PGCert	Demonstrate problem formulation and solution.	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGDip	Demonstrate problem formulation and solution.	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
MSc	Demonstrate problem formulation and solution.	In addition to the above: the dissertation (and supervision process) and independent research	In addition to the above: research proposal and dissertation
<b>Working relationships</b>			
PGCert	Demonstrate ability to work with others and contribute to group discussions.	Independent and group coursework.	Group projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGCert	Demonstrate ability to work with others and contribute to group discussions.	Independent and group coursework.	Group projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
MSc	Demonstrate ability to work with others and contribute to group discussions.	Independent and group coursework.	Group projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
<b>Managing learning</b>			
PGCert	Plan and construct responses to exercises and essay assignments. Self-direct study to ensure completion of essay assignment tasks and to manage the programme workload	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGDip	Plan and construct responses to exercises and essay assignments. Self-direct study to ensure completion of essay assignment tasks and to manage the programme workload	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
MSc	In addition: identify and complete an independent research project – this also includes the necessary time management to conduct independent research	In addition to the above: the dissertation (and supervision process) and independent research	Successful completion of the dissertation
<b>Career management</b>			
PGCert	Assess potential career pathways and employers.	Teaching methods provide the relevant knowledge and context to encourage self-reflection on personal development. Personal Tutor system, and self-reflection on essay assignment feedback	Essay assignment feedback and personal development planning
PGDip	Assess potential career pathways and employers.	Teaching methods provide the relevant knowledge and context to encourage self-reflection on personal development. Personal Tutor system, and self-reflection on essay assignment feedback	Essay assignment feedback and personal development planning
MSc	Assess potential career pathways and employers.	In addition: The dissertation supervision process	Dissertation

#### 10. Special features:

This program features a 30 credit dissertation rather than the more traditional 60 credits. This will better align students' learning, skills and goals with those provided on the program. A typical 30 credit dissertation might involve a student writing an investment report on a company. This type of dissertation would be well aligned with a typical task a graduate may have to perform in

employment. At the same time it would allow students to apply the skills learnt during their course (potentially from any and all modules) in a focussed project. The dissertation would involve a great deal of independent research along with analysis, critical thinking and the application of techniques. This type of project, however, is not possible in the current 60 credit format as it is too small to represent 60 credits worth of work.

The table below gives details of how we expect the skills previously assessed in the 60 credit dissertation to be assessed under the 30 dissertation format (listed below as Dissertation).

Skill	Courses
Literature review	<b>Management Accounting, Accounting, Representation and Control</b>
Define appropriate research questions	<b>Dissertation</b> , Financial Modelling
Identify the steps necessary to answer questions	<b>Dissertation, Corporate Finance</b> , Financial Modelling, Financial Analysis and Investment
Develop research skills	<b>Dissertation</b> , Corporate Finance
Select and apply appropriate analytical techniques	<b>Dissertation</b> , Financial Statements: Theory, Practice and Critique, <b>Corporate Finance</b> , Financial Analysis and Investment
Evaluate work and identify possible improvements	<b>Dissertation, Financial Statements: Theory, Practice and Critique</b> , Management Accounting
Present results concisely and appropriately	<b>Dissertation</b> , Financial modelling
Structure and develop arguments	<b>Dissertation, Accounting, Representation and Control</b>
Write a formal document (including appropriate referencing)	<b>Dissertation, Accounting, Representation and Control</b>

Those listed in bold the skill will be a significant part of assessment.

This change will result in better alignment between the master's degree and the intended learning outcomes. It will enhance the skill levels and knowledge of our graduates. In particular this will enhance our graduates in the key areas set out by the QAA. We believe the wider range of assessments, multiple projects, and more focused dissertation will improve our students' abilities. It will allow us to better meet our accreditation requirements and make our students more attractive to employers.

The program structure has, on the face of it, an unusual feature: an imbalance of assessed credits between the first two semesters, 45 in the first and 75 in the second. The first term has three 15 credit courses. These will be taught in the second part of the first term. The first part of the first term will be dedicated to the zero credit module – "Professional Skills in Finance". Central to this certificate is the CFA Investment Foundations program. Students will study this certificate during this period. They will gain an overall appreciation of the finance industry and the language to discuss and understand it along with the possibility to take the professional qualification enhancing their employment prospects. At the same time students will learn to use a financial information system such as Bloomberg. After completing these aspects students will be equipped to tackle the credit bearing modules. Taking into account this zero credit module we expected the teaching and study hours within the two terms to be approximately equal.

The modules "Professional Skills in Finance" also incorporates a program of workshops and events featuring professionals from the finance industry aimed at developing students career prospects.

A large number of modules on this course are assessed predominantly by examination as due to the mathematical nature of this course this is the most appropriate assessment method to ensure fair and consistent assessment of financial and economic related content.

**11. Indications of programme quality:**

- University Academic Review
- External examiners' reports
- Accreditation for Investment for Foundations Programme.

**12. Scheme of Assessment**

As defined in Senate Regulation 6: Regulations governing Taught Postgraduate Programmes of Study (see [Senate Regulations](#))

**13. Progression points**

As defined in Senate Regulation 6: Regulations governing Taught Postgraduate Programmes of Study (see [Senate Regulations](#))

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Examiners for an intermediate award where appropriate.

**14. Rules relating to re-sits or re-submissions:**

As defined in Senate Regulation 6: Regulations governing Taught Postgraduate Programmes of Study (see [Senate Regulations](#))

**15. External Examiners reports**

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports can be found [here](#).

**16. Additional information** [e.g. timetable for admissions]

N/A

**Appendix 1: Programme structure** (programme regulations)

Term 1

EC7121 Professional Skills in Finance (0 Credits)

(and optionally)

EC7122 Foundations of Mathematics for Finance (0 Credits)

MN7023 Financial Analysis and Investment (15 credits)

MN7387 Financial Modelling (15 credits)

MN7391 Financial Statements: Theory, Practice and Critique (15 credits)

Term 2 (Compulsory):

MN7262 Accountability, Representation and Control (15 credits)

MN7032 Corporate Finance (15 credits)

Options – 45 Credits

EC7075 International Money and Finance (15 credits)

EC7076 Financial Derivatives (15 Credits)

EC7090 Macroeconomic Environment (15 credits)

EC7097 Financial Risk Management (15 Credits)

EC7098 Fixed Income Securities (15 credits)

EC7104 Market Microstructure and Trading (15 credits)

EC7112 Financial Accounting and Audit (15 Credits)

MN7028 Public Finance (15 Credits)

MN7037 Social and Environmental Accounting (15 Credits)



MN7038 Empirical Finance (15 Credits)  
MN7320 Contemporary Issues in International Financial Reporting (15 Credits)  
MN7321 Corporate Social Responsibility (15 credits)  
MN7265 Finance, Markets and Organisations (15 Credits)

Term 3:

MN7035 Management Accounting (15 credits)  
MN7244 Accounting Analysis and Valuation (15 credits)

EC7110 Dissertation (July-September) (30 credits)

## **Appendix 2: Module Specifications**

See module specification database <http://www.le.ac.uk/sas/courses/documentation>