



Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2025/26

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1. Programme title(s) and code(s):

MSc Accounting and Finance

Postgraduate Diploma Accounting and Finance *

Postgraduate Certificate Accounting and Finance *

Notes

* An award marked with an asterisk is only available as an exit award and is not available for students to register onto

a) [HECOS Code](#)

HECOS Code	%
100105	50%
100107	50%

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study Full-time

b) Type of study Campus-based

4. Registration periods:

The normal period of registration for the MSc Accounting and Finance is 12 months.

The maximum period of registration for the MSc Accounting and Finance is 24 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

N/A

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.

- Provide students with an experience in analysing and evaluating problems and issues in accounting and finance, including context 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, accounting policies, financial markets, within other 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 analytical skills and an opportunity to demonstrate a systematic understanding of their field of study by undertaking independent research work in either accounting or finance, which is supporting through the completion of a dissertation.

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

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.

Students should be able to undertake qualitative, numerical and statistical evaluation as a means to develop an analysis of a finance or accounting problem.

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

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 below, demonstrate the ability to sustain an independent level of inquiry at an advanced level.

Use data analysis software and statistical databases that are relevant to the dissertation. Demonstrate problem formulation and solution.

Identify and complete an independent research project – this also includes the necessary time management to conduct independent research.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification

- QAA Benchmarking Statement
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- [University Education Strategy](#)
- [University Assessment Strategy](#) [Login required]
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)
- United Nations Education for Sustainable Development Goals
- Student Destinations Data
- CFA Investment Foundations Program specification

9. Programme Outcomes

Unless otherwise stated, programme outcomes apply to all awards specified in 1. Programme title(s). To ensure students meet the programme specific learning outcomes, the following competencies are mapped to the programme learning outcomes as described in 7.

a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies

i) Knowledge

Intended learning Outcome	Teaching methods	Learning Activities	Assessment Type
MSc PA: 1,2,3,4,7 Students should be able achieve the following learning outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Understand key theories and models used across a range of finance and accounting subjects.- Apply and critically evaluate key theories and models.- Demonstrate how key theories and models are applied in both practical and organizational settings within research context that illustrates the usefulness of these models in the current economic conditions.- Integrate and synthesise knowledge across subjects	Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises	Self-directed private study, seminar exercises, the dissertation and independent research	Individual or group essay, examinations, group or individual projects, tests, problem classes, formative and summative coursework and assessments, and the dissertation.

- Demonstrate a deeper knowledge of the key theories and models, as well as illustrate the effectiveness of these models in evaluating business decision-making scenarios.			
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ii) Concepts

Intended learning Outcome	Teaching methods	Learning Activities	Assessment Type
<p>MSc PA 1,2, and 4</p> <p>Successful students should achieve the following learning outcomes.</p> <p>Explain key principles and concepts of accounting and finance and their inter-relationship</p> <p>Demonstrate an analysis of principles and core concepts, models and theories of finance and accounting</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises</p>	<p>Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.</p>	<p>[Personal reflection, Coursework, Test and Examination]</p>

iii) Techniques

Intended learning Outcome	Teaching methods	Learning Activities	Assessment Type
<p>MSc</p> <p>PA 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7</p> <p>Successful students should achieve the following learning outcomes.</p> <p>Sufficiently, describe and apply core theories, models and concepts;</p> <p>Evaluate the usefulness of theories and models in business scenarios.</p> <p>Demonstrate efficiency in applying qualitative, numerical and statistical evaluation as a means to develop an analysis of a finance or accounting problem.</p>	<p>Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises</p>	<p>Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.</p>	<p>[Coursework, Test and Examination]</p>

iv) Critical Analysis

Intended learning Outcome	Teaching methods	Learning Activities	Assessment Type
<p>MSc</p> <p>PA 1, 2, 3,4, 5, and 7</p> <p>Successful students should achieve the following learning outcomes.</p> <p>Demonstrate a critical understanding of the disciplines of accounting and finance and upon the context bound</p>	<p>Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises</p>	<p>Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.</p>	<p>[Group work, Coursework, Test and Examination]</p>

<p>nature of the generation and application of its concepts and techniques.</p> <p>Sufficiently, describe core financial and accounting concepts and techniques.</p>			
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v) Presentation

Intended learning Outcome	Teaching methods	Learning Activities	Assessment Type
<p>MSc</p> <p>PA 5, 6 and 8</p> <p>Successful students should achieve the following learning outcomes.</p> <p>Communicate results of independent research and problem solution in both oral and written form.</p> <p>Distinguish between relevant and non-relevant materials</p>	<p>Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises</p>	<p>In addition to the below, the dissertation</p> <p>Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.</p>	<p>[Group work, Case study coursework and Coursework]</p>

vi) Appraisal of evidence

Intended learning Outcome	Teaching methods	Learning Activities	Assessment Type
<p>MSc</p> <p>PA 5, 6, 7, and 8</p>	<p>In addition to the below: the dissertation and independent research</p>	<p>In addition to the below, the dissertation</p>	<p>Group work, Case study coursework and Coursework</p>

<p>Successful students should achieve the following learning outcomes.</p> <p>Demonstrate the ability to sustain an independent level of inquiry at an advanced level</p> <p>Locate, organise and assess data from a range of different primary and literature sources</p> <p>Ability to analyse and assess a variety of complex accounting and financial issues.</p> <p>Analyse a range of accounting and finance concepts and understand and criticise arguments.</p>	<p>Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises</p>	<p>Essays assignments, examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.</p>	
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b) Transferable Skills

i) Research Skills

Intended learning Outcome	Teaching methods	Learning Activities	Assessment Type
<p>MSc</p> <p>PA 5, 6, 7 and 8</p> <p>Successful students should achieve the following learning outcomes.</p>	<p>In addition to the below: the dissertation and independent research</p> <p>lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises</p>	<p>In addition to the below, the dissertation.</p> <p>Essays assignments, examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.</p>	<p>Group work, Case study coursework and Coursework</p>

<p>Demonstrate efficiency in planning an independent research project based on focused research questions.</p> <p>Demonstrate intellectual independence, through identifying and evaluating relevant evidence for essay assignments, as well as developing time management skills;</p> <p>Demonstrate an ability to write structured and coherent written work</p>			
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ii) Communication skills

Intended learning Outcome	Teaching methods	Learning Activities	Assessment Type
<p>MSc</p> <p>PA 1,2,3,4, 5, 6, 7 and 8</p> <p>Successful students should achieve the following learning outcomes.</p> <p>Produce a dissertation that is coherently structured and written</p> <p>Communicate effectively through both written and oral channels to a variety of audiences</p>	<p>In addition to the below, the dissertation</p> <p>Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises</p>	<p>In addition to the below: research proposal and dissertation</p> <p>Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.</p>	<p>Group work, Case study coursework and Coursework</p>

iii) Data Presentation

Intended learning Outcome	Teaching methods	Learning Activities	Assessment Type
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<p>MSc</p> <p>PA 1, 2,3,5,6, 7 and 8</p> <p>Successful students should achieve the following learning outcomes.</p> <p>Presentation of financial data and the results of analysis in both oral and written form.</p>	<p>In addition to the below, the dissertation</p> <p>Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises</p>	<p>In addition to the below: research proposal and dissertation</p> <p>Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.</p>	<p>[Group work, Case study coursework and Coursework]</p>
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iv) Information Technology

Intended learning Outcome	Teaching methods	Learning Activities	Assessment Type
<p>MSc</p> <p>PA 3,4, 6, and 7</p> <p>Successful students should achieve the following learning outcomes.</p> <p>Use data analysis software and statistical databases that are relevant to the dissertation</p> <p>Use specialist packages for statistical analysis.</p> <p>Construct and present quantitative data, including accounts, effectively using IT resources where appropriate</p>	<p>In addition to the below, the dissertation</p> <p>Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes.</p>	<p>In addition to the below: research proposal and dissertation.</p> <p>Projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.</p>	<p>[Group work, Case study coursework and Coursework]</p>

v) Problem Solving

Intended learning Outcome	Teaching methods	Learning Activities	Assessment Type
<p>MSc</p> <p>PA 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8</p> <p>Successful students should achieve the following learning outcomes.</p> <p>Demonstrate problem formulation and solution.</p>	<p>In addition to the below: the dissertation (and supervision process) and independent research</p> <p>Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises</p>	<p>In addition to the below: research proposal and dissertation</p> <p>Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.</p>	<p>[Group work, Case study coursework, Coursework, Test and Examination]</p>

vi) Working relationships

Intended learning Outcome	Teaching methods	Learning Activities	Assessment Type
<p>MSc:</p> <p>PA 2, 3, and 5</p> <p>Successful students should achieve the following learning outcomes.</p> <p>Demonstrate ability to work with others and contribute to group discussions</p>	<p>Independent and group coursework.</p>	<p>Group projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.</p>	<p>[Group Coursework]</p>

vii) Managing learning

Intended learning Outcome	Teaching methods	Learning Activities	Assessment Type
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<p>MSc: PA 3, 6, 7 and 8</p> <p>Successful students should achieve the following learning outcomes.</p> <p>Identify and complete an independent research project – this also includes the necessary time management to conduct independent research</p> <p>Plan and construct responses to exercises and essay assignments.</p> <p>Self-direct study to ensure completion of essay assignment tasks and to manage the programme workload</p>	<p>In addition to the below: the dissertation (and supervision process) and independent research</p> <p>Lectures, seminar-facilitated group discussion, directed reading, self-directed private study and seminar exercises</p>	<p>Successful completion of the dissertation</p> <p>Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.</p>	<p>[Essay, case study analysis, and Coursework]</p>
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viii) Career Management

Intended learning Outcome	Teaching methods	Learning Activities	Assessment Type
<p>MSc PA 7</p> <p>Successful students should achieve the following learning outcomes.</p> <p>Assess potential career pathways and employers.</p>	<p>In addition to the below: The dissertation supervision process</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Dissertation</p> <p>Essay assignment feedback and personal development planning</p>	<p>[Optional – Preparation for a BMC certificate]</p>

10. Progression points

This programme follows the standard Scheme of Progression set out in [Senate Regulations](#) – see the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing postgraduate programmes* relevant to the year of entry.

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course.

a) Course transfers

b) Year in Industry

[For the Year in Industry variant the additional progression points apply](#)

11. Criteria for award and classification

This programme follows the standard scheme of postgraduate award and classification set out in [Senate Regulations](#) – see the version of *Senate Regulation governing postgraduate programmes* relevant to the year of entry.

12. Special features

The first term has two zero credit bearing modules which will be taught in the first part of the first term. The first of these modules, "Foundations of Mathematics for Finance", will introduce students to the fundamental notions and results of mathematics and statistics that are needed during the programme. The second of these modules is "Professional Skills in Finance". Central to this module is the CFA Investment Foundations program and the corresponding certificate, whose content will be studied in this module. The students 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. After completing these aspects students will be equipped to tackle the credit bearing modules.

Upon completion the degree offers exemptions from CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants).

12a. Research-inspired Education

Students on this programme will advance through the four quadrants of the University of Leicester Research-inspired Education Framework as follows:

RiE Quadrant	Narrative
	The Accounting and Finance programme provides a thorough understanding of the role of accounting and finance within the corporate sector. It provides students with the ability to think critically, problem solve and appraise potential solutions to real-world issues. It provides understanding on how the main theories, models, frameworks and techniques of management are used within strategic decision making. It draws on global accounting standards and international expectations ensuring that the knowledge and skills acquired by graduates align with the expectations of the corporate sector.

<p>Research-briefed</p> <p>Bringing staff research content into the curriculum.</p>	<p>Research briefed – From the first week of the course students will be exposed to both research processes and outputs from active research staff members, as well as, third party researchers and members of the professional community.</p>
<p>Research-based</p> <p>Framed enquiry for exploring existing knowledge.</p>	<p>Research based – Taught sessions are based on real world situations and/or contemporary issues impacting management, finance and accounting. Teaching staff on the programme are engaged in research and professional activities which are integrated into the course content and teaching sessions.</p>
<p>Research-oriented</p> <p>Students critique published research content and process.</p>	<p>Research orientated – students are required to critically evaluate both their own data and data provided by third parties in the form of a dissertation, to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and competencies acquired over the taught elements of the programme.</p>
<p>Research-apprenticed</p> <p>Experiencing the research process and methods; building new knowledge.</p>	<p>Research apprenticed – training and practice will be provided for all students on writing for a variety of audiences, collaborative working, oral presentation skills and academic literacy.</p>

As part of studying at a research-intensive university, students on this programme have the following extra or co-curricular opportunities available to them to gain exposure to research culture:

Research seminars and workshops are timetabled on a weekly basis across the College of Business and are accessible to all students within the College. These sessions focus not only on potential research outputs and working papers from academic staff within the College but also on the processes underpinning research and associated funding and dissemination of work.

Teaching on this programme will be research-informed (it draws consciously on systematic inquiry into the teaching and learning process itself) in the following way:

The School supports all staff involved in teaching to gain an accredited Higher Education teaching qualification, in which they demonstrate their use of teaching theory to support their own practice and reflect on their current teaching and continuing professional development.

All module leaders and teaching focused staff and members are not only their subject specific research group but also the College's Academy of Education. The college Academy of Education runs regular sessions including external speakers and workshops for recognition of external

awards for teaching excellence. The Academy also facilitates a journal paper book group which provides an informal environment to discuss contemporary pedagogic issues related to Business education.

The Academy underpins a teaching and learning research culture which provides staff with a clear platform to share and evaluate current and potential practice-based activities within the pedagogic sphere.

13. Indications of programme quality

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

14. External Examiner(s) reports

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports for this programme can be found at exampapers@Leicester [log-in required].

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

The University regularly reviews its programmes and modules to ensure that they reflect the current status of the discipline and offer the best learning experience to students. On occasion, it may be necessary to alter particular aspects of a course or module.

MSc Accounting and Finance

Level 7/Year 1 Delivery Year 2025/26 Intake Month September Mode of Study Full Time Structure

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2	Other delivery period
Core taught	n/a	60 credits	60 credits	30 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dissertation/project	n/a	n/a	n/a	30 credits

120 credits in total

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	ADEC721	Professional Skills in Finance	n/a
Semester 1	ADEC722	Foundations of Mathematics for Finance	n/a
Semester 1	AF7097	Financial Risk Management	15 credits
Semester 1	AF7022	Financial Analysis and Investment	15 credits
Semester 1	AF7387	Financial Modelling	15 credits
Semester 1	AF7391	Financial Statements: Theory, Practice and Critique	15 credits
Semester 2	AF7061	Corporate Finance	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	EC7075	International Money and Finance	15 credits
Semester 2	AF7037	Social and Environmental Accounting	15 credits
Semester 2	AF7262	Accountability, Representation and Control	15 credits
Term 3	EC7110	Dissertation (July-September)	30 credits
Term 3	AF7035	Management Accounting	15 credits
Term 3	AF7244	Accounting Analysis and Valuation: Private and Public Sectors	15 credits

Appendix 2: Module specifications

See postgraduate [module specification database](#) (Note - modules are organized by year of delivery) [login-required]