Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

Date amended: 30 November 2018, for students entering in 2018/19

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

   MSc Business Analysis and Finance
   Postgraduate Diploma Business Analysis and Finance*
   Postgraduate Certificate Business Analysis 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 with some mathematical or statistical content. Standard University English Language requirements apply.

6. **Accreditation of Prior Learning:**

   None

7. **Programme aims:**

   This degree uses the analytical approach of Economics to develop the methods used in modern banking and finance and an assessment of their impact on business firms. The course offers a comprehensive training in the principles of banking and finance to provide a foundation for a wide range of professional activities.

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
   - 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

- CFA Investment Foundations Programme specification

9. Programme Outcomes:

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(a) Subject and Professional skills			
	Knowledge		
MSc	Discuss and critique major areas of Financial and Business Analysis. Ability to explain how these concepts relate to real world problems.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes and coursework feedback.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework, dissertation.
PGDip	Discuss and critique major areas of Financial and Business Analysis. Ability to explain how these concepts relate to real world problems.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes and coursework feedback.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGCert	Discuss major areas of Financial and Business Analysis. Ability to explain how these concepts relate to real world problems.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes and coursework feedback.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
	Concepts		
MSc	Explain and discuss key concepts of Finance and Business Analysis.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes and coursework feedback.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework, dissertation.
PGDip	Explain and discuss key concepts of Finance and Business Analysis.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes and coursework feedback.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGCert	Explain key concepts of Finance and Business Analysis.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes and coursework feedback.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
	Techniques		
MSc	Describe and apply the techniques central to modern financial economics. Explain how and when the key techniques may be applied.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes and coursework feedback.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework, dissertation.
PGDip	Describe and apply the techniques central to modern financial economics. Explain how the key techniques may be applied.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes and coursework feedback.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGCert	Describe the techniques central to modern financial economics. Explain how the key techniques may be applied.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes and coursework feedback.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
	Critical analysis		
MSc	Critically evaluate financial and business analysis theories and arguments and apply them to current situations.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes and presentations.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework, dissertation.
PGDip	Critically evaluate financial and business analysis theories and arguments and apply them to current situations.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes and presentations.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGCert	Describe financial and business analysis theories and arguments and apply them to current situations.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes and presentations.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
	Presentation		
MSc	Produce clear and concise analysis and results for financial economic problems. Communicate results of independent research and problem solution in both oral and written form.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes and coursework feedback.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework, dissertation.
PGDip	Produce clear and concise analysis and results for financial economic problems. Communicate results of independent research and problem solution in both oral and written form.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes and coursework feedback.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGCert	Produce clear and concise analysis and results for financial economic problems. Communicate results of independent research and problem solution in both oral and written form.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes and coursework feedback.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
	Appraisal of evidence		
MSc	Analyse and draw appropriate conclusions from financial data. Assess problems and apply appropriate techniques associated with financial and economic analysis. Critically appraise relevant economic and financial research.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes and coursework feedback.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework, dissertation.
PGDip	Analyse and draw conclusions from financial data. Assess problems and apply appropriate techniques associated with financial and economic analysis. Critically appraise relevant economic and financial research.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes and coursework feedback.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGCert	Analyse financial data. Assess problems and apply appropriate techniques associated with financial and economic analysis. Describe relevant economic and financial research.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes and coursework feedback.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
(b) Transferable skills			
	Research skills		
MSc	Ability to formulate problems, collect and analyse data, estimate relationships and test hypothesis.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework, dissertation.
PGDip	Ability to formulate problems, collect and analyse data, estimate relationships and test hypothesis.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGCert	Ability to formulate problems, collect data, estimate relationships and test hypothesis.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
	Communication skills		
MSc	Communicate effectively through both written and oral channels to a variety of audiences.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework, dissertation.
PGDip	Communicate effectively through both written and oral channels to a variety of audiences.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGCert	Communicate effectively through both written and oral channels to a variety of audiences.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
	Data presentation		
MSc	Presentation of financial data and the results of analysis in both oral and written form.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes, presentations.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework, dissertation.
PGDip	Presentation of financial data and the results of analysis in both oral and written form.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes, presentations.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGCert	Presentation of financial data and the results of analysis in both oral and written form.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes, presentations.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
	Information technology		
MSc	Use word processing in the preparation of written work. Use the internet to access appropriate information. Use spreadsheets for data presentation and analysis. Use specialist packages for statistical analysis.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes.	Projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework, dissertation.
PGDip	Use word processing in the preparation of written work. Use the internet to access appropriate information. Use spreadsheets for data presentation and analysis. Use specialist packages for statistical analysis.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes.	Projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGCert	Use word processing in the preparation of written work. Use the internet to access appropriate information. Use spreadsheets for data presentation and analysis. Use specialist packages for statistical analysis.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes.	Projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.

	Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
	Problem solving		
MSc	Demonstrate problem formulation and solution.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes, independent and group work.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework, dissertation.
PGDip	Demonstrate problem formulation and solution.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes, independent and group work.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGCert	Demonstrate problem formulation and solution.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes, independent and group work.	Examinations, projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
	Working relationships		
MSc	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.
PGDip	Demonstrate ability to work with others and contribute to group discussions.	Independent and group coursework.	Group projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
	Managing learning		
MSc	Identify a credible research project and plan and carry this out under light supervision. Ability to carry out coursework on time.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes, independent and group work.	Projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework, dissertation.
PGDip	Ability to carry out coursework on time.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes, independent and group work.	Projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGCert	Ability to carry out coursework on time.	Lectures, seminars, problem classes, computer classes, independent and group work.	Projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
	Career management		
MSc	Assess potential career pathways and employers.	Lectures, seminars, and presentations by appropriate individuals.	Projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework, dissertation.
PGDip	Assess potential career pathways and employers.	Lectures, seminars, and presentations by appropriate individuals.	Projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.
PGCert	Assess potential career pathways and employers.	Lectures, seminars, and presentations by appropriate individuals.	Projects, problem classes, formative and summative coursework.

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	**Financial Derivatives, Management Accounting**
Define appropriate research questions	**Dissertation**, **Business and Financial Forecasting**
Identify the steps necessary to answer questions	**Dissertation, Corporate Finance,** Financial Risk Management, Financial Statement Analysis, Financial Analysis and Investment
Develop research skills	**Dissertation**, **Business and Financial Forecasting**, Corporate Finance, Financial Derivatives**,** Financial Risk Management
Select and apply appropriate analytical techniques	**Dissertation**, Financial Statement Analysis, **Corporate Finance,** Financial Risk Management, Financial Analysis and Investment
Evaluate work and identify possible improvements	**Dissertation**, **Business and Financial Forecasting**
Present results concisely and appropriately	**Dissertation**, **Business and Financial Forecasting,** Financial Risk Management
Structure and develop arguments	**Dissertation**, **Economics of Organisations,** Business and Financial Forecasting**,** Financial Risk Management
Write a formal document (including appropriate referencing)	**Dissertation**, **Business and Financial Forecasting,** Financial Risk Management

Those listed in bold the skill will be a significant part of assessment. Additionally the 60 credit dissertation allowed a greater application of econometric techniques – this, however, has not been lost in the 30 credit format with the addition of a module on Business and Financial Forecasting featuring a substantial practical project.

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 baring 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 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)

Semester 1
EC7121 Professional Skills in Finance (0 Credits)
EC7122 Foundations of Mathematics for Finance (0 Credits)

MN7022 Financial Analysis and Investment (15 credits)
MN7024 Financial Modelling (15 credits)
MN7241 Financial Statement Analysis (15 credits)

Semester 2 (Compulsory):
EC7071 Economics of Organisations (15 credits)
EC7061 Corporate Finance (15 credits)
EC7112 Financial Accounting and Audit (15 Credits)

Options – 30 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)
MN7028 Public Finance (15 Credits)
MN7038 Empirical Finance (15 Credits)
MN7262 Accountability, Representation and Control (15 Credits)

MN7365 Finance, Markets and Organisations (15 Credits)
EC7162 Mergers and Acquisitions (15 Credits)

Term 3:
MN7035 Management Accounting (15 credits)
EC7105 Business and Financial Forecasting (15 credits)

EC7110 Dissertation (July-September) (30 credits)

Appendix 2: Module Specifications

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