



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

M.Sc./Postgraduate Diploma\*/Postgraduate Certificate\* in Finance

**\* Approved as exit awards only**

**2. Awarding body or institution:**

University of Leicester

**3. a) Mode of study**

Part-Time

**b) Type of study**

Distance Learning

**4. Registration periods:**

The normal period of registration is 30 months.

The maximum period of registration is 48 months

**5. Typical entry requirements:**

Entrance is open to those who hold a first or second-class honours degree or an equivalent professional qualification or 3 years or more suitable professional experience.

Applicants who do not meet the standard academic requirement but have at least 3 years of relevant work experience may be considered upon providing a 500-1000 words statement detailing their relevant work experience and suitability for the course and a copy of their CV.

When English is not the first language of the candidate, the successful applicant must have either IELTS 6.5, TOEFL (paper) 575 with TWE 4.0, 90 (IBT), or the University of Leicester English Language Test or meet the University's English regulations by other means as stated in Senate Regulation 1.

**6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:**

There is no accreditation of prior learning.

**7. Programme aims:**

The Masters/Diploma/Certificate in Finance course is a generalist career entry programme which aims to:

1. Give course members a thorough grasp of the main theories, tools, methods and techniques of financial management 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.
2. Encourage in course members the need for critical analysis and evaluation of financial management problems and issues.

3. 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 and analysis.
4. Give course members an analytical appreciation of the organisational contexts of financial management.
5. Expose course members to the current debates in the financial professional and academic literatures.
6. Enable course members to integrate and apply the knowledge, approaches and methods they have learned to a variety of financial decisions and their own management and work experiences.
7. Encourage course members to develop a number of interpersonal, communication and decision and problem solving skills, and to use these in an imaginative way that will enable them to identify problems, consider alternative solutions, evaluate and analyse situations, make choices and implement solutions.
8. Equip Masters students with the necessary skills to undertake independent research work in the broad area of finance, as evidenced in the successful production of a dissertation.

#### **For the PGCert**

Programme Aim 1

Programme Aim 2

Programme Aim 3

#### **For the PGDip – in addition to those above**

Programme Aim 4

Programme Aim 5

Programme Aim 6

Programme Aim 7

#### **For the MSC – in addition to those above**

Programme Aim 8

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

- University of Leicester Senate Regulations:  
<http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/regulations/general-regulations-for-taught-programmes>
- University of Leicester Learning & Teaching Strategy :  
<http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/quality/learnteach>
- QAA Benchmarking Statement for Business and Management:  
[https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-business-and-management-15.pdf?sfvrsn=1997f681\\_16](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-business-and-management-15.pdf?sfvrsn=1997f681_16)
- QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- Annual Developmental Review
- Periodic Developmental Review

- External Examiners' 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

## 9. Programme Outcomes:

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods <sup>1</sup>	How Demonstrated?
<b>(a) Subject and Professional skills</b>		
<b>Knowledge</b>		
<b>Certificate</b> Graduates will possess knowledge of a range of finance subjects.	<b>Certificate</b> Residential schools, directed reading and exercises, self-directed private study, assignment feedback: formative and summative.	<b>Certificate</b> Essay assignments (formative and summative), practical reports, written examinations.
<b>Diploma</b> In addition to the above, graduates should have a sound knowledge of finance theories and the existing empirical evidence. Integration of knowledge across subjects.	<b>Diploma</b> As above.	<b>Diploma</b> As above.
<b>Masters</b> In addition to the above, students should have an advanced knowledge of the qualitative and quantitative methodologies used when pursuing research in finance.	<b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: research methods module, dissertation supervision, independent research.	<b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: research proposal, dissertation.

<sup>1</sup> In the distance learning mode of delivery extensive use will be made of the Blackboard virtual learning environment (comprising Learning Materials, Discussion Forums and E-tivities), Blackboard chatrooms. This online support will be supplemented by residential schools.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods <sup>1</sup>	How Demonstrated?
<b>Concepts</b>		
<p><b>Certificate</b> Students will acquire an enhanced grasp of principles of finance and its relationship to general financial management.</p> <p><b>Diploma</b> In addition to the above, graduates will be able to explain the contextual nature of the development of financial theory and the finance discipline.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Residential schools, directed reading and exercises, self-directed private study, assignment feedback: formative and summative.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Essay assignments (formative and summative), practical reports, written examinations.</p>
<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above, students will be able to explain and critique theories as well as qualitative and quantitative methodologies used in research in finance.</p>	<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: research methods module, dissertation supervision, independent research.</p>	<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: research proposal, dissertation.</p>
<b>Techniques</b>		
<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> The students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the most important theories and concepts in finance; be able to identify relevant material from the academic literature and write using academic conventions and bibliographic techniques</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Assignment feedback: formative and summative; directed reading, self-directed private study.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Essay assignments (formative and summative), practical reports, written examinations, problem-solving exercises.</p>
<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above, graduates will be able to demonstrate competence in research methods and be able to undertake qualitative, numerical and statistical evaluation as a means to develop an analysis of finance questions.</p>	<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: research methods module, dissertation supervision, independent research.</p>	<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: research proposal, dissertation.</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods <sup>1</sup>	How Demonstrated?
<b>Critical analysis</b>		
<p><b>Certificate, Diploma,</b> Ability to identify and apply relevant concepts and techniques with independence, rigour and self-reflexivity.</p> <p>Ability to reflect critically on the discipline of finance and upon the context-bound nature of the generation and application of its concepts and techniques.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Residential school, directed reading and exercises, self-directed private study, assignment feedback: formative and summative.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Essay assignments (formative and summative), practical reports, written examinations, problem-solving exercises.</p>
<p><b>Masters</b> As above</p>	<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: research methods module, independent research.</p>	<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: research proposal, dissertation.</p>
<b>Presentation</b>		
<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> The student will be able to distinguish between relevant and non-relevant materials; to write up and deliver reports on findings to a professional standard with clarity, fluency and coherency.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Assignment feedback (formative and summative), seminars (full-time students), residential schools, directed reading and exercises, self-directed private study.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Essay assignments (formative and summative), practical reports, written examinations.</p>
<p><b>Masters</b> Ability to organise research material in a manner appropriate to the type of assessment.</p>	<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: dissertation supervision, independent research.</p>	<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: research proposal, dissertation.</p>
<b>Appraisal of evidence</b>		
<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Ability to analyse and assess a variety of financial issues.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Residential schools, assignment feedback (formative and summative), directed reading and exercises, self-directed private study.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Essay assignments (formative and summative), practical reports, written examinations.</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods <sup>1</sup>	How Demonstrated?
<p><b>Masters</b> Ability to mount and sustain an independent level of inquiry at an advanced level.</p>	<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: dissertation supervision, independent research.</p>	<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: research proposal, dissertation.</p>
<b>(b) Transferable skills</b>		
<b>Research skills</b>		
<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> The graduate will be able to identify, select and organise relevant literature and evidence for assignments; will demonstrate an ability to produce well structured, focused, clearly written essays and reports.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Residential school (distance-learning students), assignment feedback (formative and summative); directed reading; self-directed study.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Essay assignments (formative and summative), examinations.</p>
<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: demonstrating intellectual independence, through identifying a credible research project, drawing up a realistic time-table, performing the relevant analysis, reflecting on and 'writing up' results</p>	<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: research methodology module, dissertation supervision, independent research.</p>	<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: research proposal and dissertation.</p>
<b>Communication skills</b>		
<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Demonstrate ability to critically discuss relevant information. Clarity, fluency and coherence in writing essays in response to given questions. Expression of finance issues and debates in an appropriate manner for the required audience. Develop and sustain financial arguments in differing formats.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Residential schools, assignment feedback (formative and summative); directed reading; self-directed study.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Assignments (formative and summative), examinations.</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods <sup>1</sup>	How Demonstrated?
<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: Ability to work collaboratively and responsibly in groups. Knowing how and when to draw on the knowledge and expertise of others; ability to contribute &amp; comment on ideas in group discussions. Produce a dissertation with a logical structure written with clarity and precision.</p>	<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: research methodology module, dissertation supervision process, independent research</p>	<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: research proposal and dissertation.</p>
<b>Data presentation</b>		
<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Ability to locate and organise evidence, synthesise data into coherent and informed written arguments.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Residential school (distance-learning), assignment feedback (formative and summative); lectures, directed reading; self-directed study.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Assignments, examinations.</p>
<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: the students should be able to collect relevant data, present data summaries, perform data manipulation and analysis, and competently present their findings.</p>	<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: research methodology module, dissertation supervision process, independent research.</p>	<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: research proposal and dissertation.</p>
<b>Information technology</b>		
<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Ability to retrieve and present information using appropriate information technology, for example subject specific databases.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Dissemination of software and software manual, Blackboard resources</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Assignments</p>
<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above to use, if necessary, data analysis software that is relevant to their dissertation (e.g. SPSS, E-Views, Excel or R)</p>	<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: dissertation research process.</p>	<p><b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: dissertation</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods <sup>1</sup>	How Demonstrated?
<b>Problem solving</b>		
<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b></p> <p>Ability to identify, locate, and analyse relevant data and source material. Ability to investigate and advocate solutions to problems.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b></p> <p>Residential schools, assignment feedback (formative and summative); lectures, directed reading; self-directed study.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b></p> <p>Assignments, examinations.</p>
<p><b>Masters</b></p> <p>In addition to the above: Ability to refine problems into researchable questions and hypotheses.</p>	<p><b>Masters</b></p> <p>In addition to the above: dissertation supervision process, independent research.</p>	<p><b>Masters</b></p> <p>In addition to the above: research proposal and dissertation.</p>
<b>Working relationships</b>		
<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b></p> <p>Ability to work collaboratively and responsibly in groups. Ability to contribute &amp; comment on ideas in group discussion forums.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b></p> <p>Blackboard discussion forums.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b></p> <p>Feedback on group oral presentations for full time students; feedback provided by the Blackboard tutor to the distance learning students on the discussion forums</p>
<p><b>Masters</b></p> <p>Knowing how and when to draw on the knowledge and expertise of others</p>	<p><b>Masters</b></p> <p>In addition to the above: the establishment of a working relationship with the dissertation supervisor (or the resolution of any problems through consultation with the Personal Tutor and the Programme Leader)</p>	<p><b>Masters</b></p> <p>In addition to the above: interaction with the dissertation supervisor</p>
<b>Managing learning</b>		
<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b></p> <p>Management of an extensive literature and familiarisation with subject-relevant debates and concepts. To timetable self-directed study to ensure the completion of assessment tasks and manage the related study work-load.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b></p> <p>Knowledge about managing learning is included in the induction module Foundations of Knowledge; self-directed private-study; self-reflection on assignment feedback; formative and summative.</p>	<p><b>Certificate and Diploma</b></p> <p>Assignments, examinations.</p>



<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Teaching and Learning Methods<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>How Demonstrated?</b>
<b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: Identify a credible research project; construct a feasible research timetable; carry out independent research	<b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: the dissertation supervision process	<b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: research proposal and dissertation.
<b>Career management</b>		
<b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Ability to take charge of progress and development; to reflect on strengths, interests, motivation and skills; recognition of achievements	<b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Personal Tutor System Self-reflection on assignment feedback Career sessions and access to the Professional Development Resource (distance learning)	<b>Certificate and Diploma</b> Discussions with personal tutor Support of the Careers Office
<b>Masters</b> In addition to the above: if appropriate, to research an area which may be relevant to the student' career preferences	<b>Masters</b> In addition to the above; the dissertation supervision process	<b>Masters</b> Selection of a specific dissertation topic

#### 10. Special features:

#### 11. Indications of programme quality:

External Examiners reports

#### 12. Scheme of Assessment

As defined in [Senate Regulation 6](#): Regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes of study.

#### 13. Progression points

##### Distance learning students

Distance learning students are required to demonstrate satisfactory progress on their programme of study by a series of progression points as follows:

##### *Progression point 1*

This progression point corresponds to the progression from the Postgraduate Certificate level modules to the Postgraduate Diploma level modules. A student's progress will be reviewed at the completion of the four Postgraduate Certificate level modules. Students are given an opportunity to resubmit in the session following receipt of module results. For those who do not resubmit, a period of academic suspense may be recommended based on the progression rules below. The Postgraduate Certificate level modules are identified in Appendix 1.

##### *Progression point 2*

This progression point corresponds to the progression from the Postgraduate Diploma level modules to the dissertation project. A student's progress will be reviewed at the completion of the taught component of the programme.

### *Progression point 3*

This progression point corresponds to the progression from Part 1 of the dissertation project to Part 2 of the dissertation project.

The dissertation project comprises of two parts. Part 1 consists of the research methods training and culminates in the submission of the dissertation project proposal for the Research Ethics Approval. Part 2 entails the dissertation project itself and culminates in the submission of the dissertation.

The students are not allowed to progress to Part 2 of the dissertation project until they have received a written permission from the School to do so. The permission is given on obtaining the Research Ethics Approval.

The student must commence the dissertation project at least eight months prior to the end of the registration period.

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

See 12 above.

The programme conforms with the scheme set out in the Senate regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes

Candidates may be required to re-submit a failing research proposal. A passing research proposal, either at first or second submission may be required to progress to the dissertation.

#### **15. External Examiners:**

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

## Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

**Curriculum:** In addition to the taught modules candidates for the Masters degree also undertake a dissertation or project on an approved topic.

In addition to the core modules, candidates must also study one 'finance related' optional module from the list marked ^ and one other module from the optional module list.

Notes:

- (i) *The list of optional modules available on individual programmes may be subject to change during the academic year.*

Notes:

- (i) *Candidates may only be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate or the Postgraduate Diploma or the Masters degree. No candidate may be awarded more than one of the above qualifications.*

### Curriculum:

- (i) All candidates will take the following core modules:

Module Code	Module Title	Core/Option	Credit Rating
MN7560	Foundations of Knowledge and Professional Skills	C	0*
MN7561	Foundations of Financial Analysis and Investment	C	15
MN7540	Financial Statements: Theory, Practice and Critique	C	15
MN7541	Strategic Financial Management	C	15
MN7542	Financial Modelling	C	15
MN7527	Financial Risk Management	C	15
MN7532	Corporate Finance	C	15
<b>Options</b>			
Two options to be chosen (see (ii) below)			
<b>Research and Dissertation</b>			
MN7507	Dissertation	C**	60
MN7508	Research Methodology	C***	0

\* *This non-credit bearing module will comprise formative assessment.*

\*\* *Compulsory only for candidates for the degree of Master of Science.*

\*\*\* *This non-credit bearing research skills course supports the dissertation. Progression to the dissertation is dependent upon satisfactory completion of a research proposal.*

- (ii) All candidates will also take two modules from the following list of options:

Module Code	Module Title	Core/Option	Credit Rating
MN7512^	Public Finance	O	15
MN7574^	International Finance and Globalisation	O	15
MN7517	Business-to-Business Marketing and Supply Chain Management	O	15
MN7584	Leadership	O	15

## Appendix 2: Module Specifications

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