

MSc Accounting and Finance

Definitive Programme Document



Contents

- [Contents](#)
- [Overview](#)
- [Exemptions](#)
- [Programme Overview](#)
- [Programme Aims](#)
- [Programme Intended Learning Outcomes \(ILOs\)](#)
- [Intermediate Awards](#)
- [Programme Content](#)
- [Assessment Methods](#)
- [Work Experience and Placement Opportunities](#)
- [Graduate Attributes](#)
- [Modifications](#)
- [Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram – MSc Accounting and Finance](#)
- [Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes](#)
- [Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module](#)
- [Appendix 4 - Module Descriptors](#)

Overview

Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University

School	Bath Business School
Main campus	Newton Park
Other sites of delivery	N/A
Other Schools involved in delivery	N/A
Name of award(s)	MSc Accounting and Finance
Qualification (final award)	MSc
Intermediate awards available	PgCert, PgDip
Routes available	Single
Professional Placement Year	N/A
Duration of award	1 year full-time / 2 years part-time
Modes of delivery offered	Campus based
Regulatory Scheme[1]	Taught Postgraduate Framework
Exemptions from regulations/framework[2]	N/A
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	N/A
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	N/A
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	N/A
UCAS code	N/A
Route code (SITS)	
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	<u>Master's Degrees in Business and Management March 2023</u> <u>Subject Benchmark Statement Accounting November 2019</u> <u>Subject Benchmark Statement Finance October 2019</u>
Date of most recent approval	November 2024
Date specification last updated	November 2024

[1] This should also be read in conjunction with the University's Qualifications Framework

[2] See section on 'Exemptions'

Exemptions

There are no exemptions

Programme Overview

The MSc in Accounting and Finance is a comprehensive master's course for graduates and professionals wanting to deepen their understanding of accounting and finance. While the Programme starts with core accounting and financial principles, you can later pick a subject area to focus on in the final trimester of the programme.

We have a range of research-led and practice-informed modules for you to choose from accounting theory, financial management, investment management, social and environment accounting.

Aligned to the professional qualifications ACCA and CIMA, this programme will significantly enhance graduates' employability and provides a step into the accounting and finance professions, whilst remaining a robust academic Master's-level course; furthering intellectual and cognitive development.

You without relevant experience in accounting and finance or business and management are welcome to join the programme.

Programme Aims

- To equip you with a systematic, critical understanding of specialist and general theory across the broad spectrum of accounting and finance disciplines;
- To facilitate a critical awareness of contemporary issues and insights from the field of accounting and finance, and the impact these have on organisations;
- To develop astute researchers; able to evaluate and select methodologies and combine these, through a practical understanding of established research techniques, to interpret and generate knowledge and hypotheses;
- To create ethically aware, critical thinkers able to systematically manage complex issues, make creative, professional decisions and autonomously implement tasks;
- To empower learners to use a range of tools to communicate and collaborate; understanding and applying digital technologies and developing professional networks;
- To promote ~~Engender~~ self-accountability and initiative in professional practice and continuing professional development.

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

A Subject-Specific Skills and Knowledge

- A1 Synthesise informed by a critical awareness of a broad spectrum of current issues, problems, insights derived from contemporary research and advanced scholarship;
- A2 Evaluate an increased likelihood to accurately and critically anticipate current and future issues and insights in the field;
- A3 Apply a broad range of sophisticated research methodologies and techniques relevant to the discipline, and one's own research.
- A4 Apply advanced accounting and finance knowledge and skills in practical, real-world contexts, while adhering to professional ethics, regulatory standards, and responsible decision-making that consider both financial and societal impacts.

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

- B1 Synthesize complex data and make decision on analysis and evaluation of a wide range of accounting data and financial information, including in novel situations;
- B2 Solve problems effectively within a substantial number of critically considered frameworks and strategies;
- B3 Evaluate personal strengths and weaknesses, self-direct efforts, and plan responsibly to meet professional and personal needs.;
- B4 Conduct substantial and sustained independent research, combining originality in the application of knowledge with a practical understanding of established techniques of research and enquiry in accounting and finance

C Skills for Life and Work

- C1 Autonomously learning (including time management) that demonstrates the exercise of initiative, personal responsibility, and decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations, and the independent learning ability for continuing professional development.;
- C2 Team working skills necessary to succeed in the global workplace, with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively, as well as the ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level;
- C3 Communication skills that show the ability to communicate clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences' knowledge at, or informed by, the forefront of the academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice, and the conclusions drawn from dealing with complex issues systematically;
- C4 IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate the ability to develop new skills to a high level and to approach complex issues systematically and creatively.

Intermediate Awards

PgCert Intended Learning Outcomes

A1, A2, A3

B1, B2, B3

C Skills for Life and Work

C1, C2, C3, C4

PgDip Intended Learning Outcomes

A Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge

A1, A2, A3

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

B1, B2, B3

C Skills for Life and Work

C1, C2, C3, C4

Programme Content

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Compulsory = R

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

MSc Accounting and Finance	Status
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Level	Code	Title	Credit	Single	Joint
7	BM7013-15	Financial and Management Accounting	15	C	
7	BM7204-15	Governance and Risk Management	15	C	
7	New BM7049-15	Financial Statement Analysis	15	C	
7	New BM7050-15	Organisational Accounting Strategy	15	C	
7	New BM7051-15	Advanced Corporate Reporting	15	C	
7	New BM7052-15	Quantitative Methods for Accounting and Finance	15	C	
7	New BM7054-60	Dissertation/Consultancy Project	60	C	
7	New BM7053-15	Financial Intermediaries and Banking	15	C	
7	BM7206-15	Corporate Financial Management	15	C	

Assessment Methods

A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in which modules.

You will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Work Experience and Placement Opportunities

The course makes significant use of simulated work experience strategies that require you to operate as if in a real-World work environment. This includes substantial

opportunities for team-working and individual tasks, report-writing, presentations, project work and decision-making.

The curriculum is enriched wherever possible by links with industry; for instance, assessments may be formed around real-life briefs provided by local, national or international organisations, who will work collaboratively with you to develop solutions to existing business problems or needs.

The programme provides for the opportunity to swap the dissertation with a 'Consultancy Project', whereby you will work with an existing or nascent business to undertake research related to an issue posed by the business; providing ideas, information and management advice. This will naturally further practical, work engagement skills alongside traditional academic, research skills.

Enhancing these opportunities are the offerings of the University's Careers and Employability team, who provide support sourcing and securing work experience opportunities throughout and after your studies at Bath Spa University.

Graduate Attributes

Graduate Attribute	While at Bath Spa, I will develop my ability to:	This programme will help me to do this through:
Confidently Self-Aware	Reflect on and recognise my unique skills, strengths, and values and be able to apply and articulate them in a range of different contexts.	Develop the ability to reflect on personal strengths and areas for improvement in relation to accounting and finance competencies, and to articulate these in professional settings. Engage in reflective exercises and real-time business cases to identify and articulate strengths.
Emotionally Attuned	Be mindful of how my actions and emotions impact those around me so I can better navigate difficult situations and build effective interpersonal relationships.	Develop the ability to manage emotions and navigate complex interpersonal relationships in high-stakes financial and accounting environments. Case studies and group projects include ethical dilemmas and interpersonal challenges requiring collaboration and emotional awareness. Opportunities to engage in role-playing scenarios and teamwork exercises.
Inclusive Collaborator	Contribute independently to collaborative projects while working effectively with others, valuing diversity and respecting individual differences.	Engage in group projects and multicultural team activities that are integral to the curriculum, promoting inclusivity. Participate in international case competitions and cross-disciplinary projects.
Adaptable Innovator	Embrace challenges, taking risks where needed and applying individual and collective problem solving.	Adapt to emerging trends in accounting and finance, such as technological advancements and changing regulations. Gain hands-on experience with industry-standard software.
Critical Thinker	Keep an open mind, ask curious questions and think creatively to	Develop the ability to analyse complex financial problems critically and develop evidence-based

	gain a deeper and broader understanding of global perspectives and the world around me.	solutions. Engage in real-world problem-solving scenarios, including case study analysis.
Forward Thinker	Set goals, plan and utilise resources to support my personal ambitions and achieve my own version of success.	Anticipate future trends in accounting and finance, set clear goals, and plan strategically for professional and personal growth. Evaluate current and emerging challenges in accounting and finance and propose strategic solutions. Engage in analysis and evaluation of market forecasting, and future trends, supported by career development workshops.
Ethical Leader	Act with empathy, making decisions grounded in ethical principles while advocating for sustainability and positive social change.	Develop the ability to make ethical decisions in financial management and accounting while advocating for corporate social responsibility and sustainability. Ethical dilemmas and case studies are embedded in coursework and discussions, encouraging students to practice ethical decision-making.
Responsible Self-Starter	Be accountable for my actions and decisions while demonstrating creativity, proactivity, and a focus on solutions.	Develop the ability to take initiative in managing one's learning and career development, proactively seeking opportunities for growth. Success in accounting and finance requires self-motivation to stay updated on evolving industry practices and regulations. Independent research projects and self-directed assignments promoting self-discipline and accountability.
Compassionately Resilient	Respond to setbacks with a reflective and positive attitude, flexibility and a self-caring approach.	Develop the ability to adapt to challenges in the financial sector with a reflective and positive mindset, maintaining professional composure under pressure. Engage in Practical problem-solving exercises and peer feedback sessions.
Digitally Resourceful	Utilise and responsibly leverage existing and emerging technologies to solve problems and communicate.	Utilize digital tools and emerging technologies to solve financial problems and enhance communication. Engage in workshops on financial software and complete assessments using digital tools like Excel, EViews, or PowerBI.

Modifications

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

Attached as Appendices

1. Programme structure diagram
2. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
3. Map of Summative Tasks by Module
4. Module descriptors

Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram – MSc Accounting and Finance

Level 7 (Full Time – One year)		
Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
Core Modules		
BM7013-15 Financial and Management Accounting	New BM7051-15 Advanced Corporate Reporting	New BM7054-60 Dissertation/Consultancy Project
BM7204-15 Governance and Risk Management	New BM7052-15 Quantitative Methods for Accounting and Finance	
New BM7049-15- Financial Statement Analysis	New BM7053-15 Financial Intermediaries and Banking	
BM7206-15 Corporate Financial Management	New BM7050-15 Organisational Accounting Strategy	
Rule Notes: N/A		

Level 7 (Part Time – Two years)**YEAR 1**

Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
New BM7049-15-15 Financial Statement Analysis	New BM7051-15 Advanced Corporate Reporting	New BM7054-60 Dissertation/Consultancy Project
BM7206-15 Corporate Financial Management	New BM7052-15 Quantitative Methods for Accounting and Finance	

YEAR 2

Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
BM7013-15 Financial and Management Accounting	New BM7053-15 Financial Intermediaries and Banking	New BM7054-60 Dissertation/Consultancy Project
BM7204-15 Governance and Risk Management	New BM7050-15 Organisational Accounting Strategy	

