

Programme Title: MSc Accounting and Finance



## Programme Specification

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Awarding Body/Institution                  | Queen Mary, University of London  |
| Teaching Institution                       | Queen Mary, University of London  |
| Name of Final Award and Programme Title    | MSc Accounting and Finance        |
| Name of Interim Award(s)                   |                                   |
| Duration of Study / Period of Registration | 12 month academic year            |
| QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)           | N1S4                              |
| QAA Benchmark Group                        |                                   |
| FHEQ Level of Award                        | Level 7                           |
| Programme Accredited by                    | N/A                               |
| Date Programme Specification Approved      | 9 Sep 2013                        |
| Responsible School / Institute             | School of Business and Management |

Schools which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme

School of Business and Management (SBM)

School of Economics and Finance (SEF)

Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

n/a

### Programme Outline

The MSc Accounting and Finance is a new taught postgraduate programme that is offered jointly by the School of Business and Management and the School of Economics and Finance.

This programme offers specialised, practical and theoretical education in an environment of academic excellence. It is designed for students who aim to pursue a career in the financial services industry and professionals who wish to improve their theoretical and practical knowledge of financial markets and accountancy.

The programme consists of four compulsory taught modules in the first semester, two compulsory taught modules and two optional taught modules in the second semester followed by a 10,000 word dissertation. There are also pre-sessional modules in maths and statistics, providing a good opportunity for students to refresh their knowledge of these areas.

## Aims of the Programme

1. Provide a critical programme of study which provides a depth of knowledge in the fields of Accounting and Finance.
2. Provide a programme of contemporary relevance to students seeking to work in accounting, financial services and related areas.
3. Provide a range of cognitive and transferable skills both generic and specific to the field of study of business.

## What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

Having successfully completed the programme a student will have:

1. Acquired a depth of knowledge and understanding of key theories, approaches and issues in the fields of Accounting and Finance.
2. Demonstrated transferable cognitive skills in relation to the analysis, synthesis and evaluation of the knowledge of Accounting and Finance
3. The ability to appraise critically complex areas of knowledge in relevant subjects.
4. The ability to evaluate the appropriateness of the use of qualitative and quantitative research methods in particular contexts.
5. Developed a range of personal skills including presentation skills, argumentation, evaluation, problem solving, interactive and group skills, self-appraisal, and autonomy in planning and management of learning.
6. Enhanced his/her career prospects by an understanding of the complexity of policies and practices in Accounting and Finance and their similarities and differences in different jurisdictions, together with the development of cognitive and personal transferable skills.

### Academic Content:

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| A 1 | Acquired a depth of knowledge and understanding of key theories, approaches and issues in the fields of Accounting and Finance.             |
| A 2 | Demonstrated transferable cognitive skills in relation to the analysis, synthesis and evaluation of the knowledge of Accounting and Finance |
| A 3 | The ability to appraise critically complex areas of knowledge in relevant subjects.   |

### Disciplinary Skills - able to:

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| B 1 | Provide a critical programme of study which provides a depth of knowledge in the fields of Accounting and Finance.             |
| B 2 | Provide a programme of contemporary relevance to students seeking to work in accounting, financial services and related areas. |
| B 3 | Provide a range of cognitive and transferable skills both generic and specific to the field of study of business.              |

### Attributes:

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| C 1 | Developed a range of personal skills including presentation skills, argumentation, evaluation, problem solving, interactive and group skills, self-appraisal, and autonomy in planning and management of learning.  |
| C 2 | Enhanced his/her career prospects by an understanding of the complexity of policies and practices in Accounting and Finance and their similarities and differences in different jurisdictions, together with the development of cognitive and personal transferable skills. |

### How Will You Learn?

Teaching will be by research-oriented staff (complemented where appropriate by visiting lecturers with professional expertise), who will combine professional knowledge of their subject with a critical attitude to its delivery. Students therefore work in a challenging, supportive environment.

#### Learning:

The School promotes active learning within a context of clear learning objectives, and students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning. Modules have regular coursework elements and in some this may require collaborative group work. The creation of informal work groups is generally encouraged. Clear guidance on basic supplementary reading is given.

Stress is placed on fostering the capacity of students to undertake basic research through both practical and theoretical means, culminating in the dissertation, which develops the ability to write a sustained coherent narrative.

### How Will You Be Assessed?

Taught modules are assessed by a combination of coursework (25-40% of the total mark) and final (2 hr or 2½ hr) examinations. Clear guidance on coursework requirements is given emphasising approaches to coursework of various types and the avoidance of plagiarism. Standard Queen Mary procedures are followed in the setting and marking of examinations and in the determination of overall results.

### How is the Programme Structured?

#### Teaching:

Each module has an outline description, giving the aims, expected learning outcomes, assessment methods, outline syllabus and indication of primary reading. This information is available online on the Postgraduate webpages of the respective Schools. Students typically have 3 contact hours per week in each module. Within these three hours, each module has its own pattern of lectures, seminars/classes and other activities. Lectures emphasise dissemination of information, explaining the key ideas and determining the sequence and pace of learning. Seminars/classes make for a more active learning experience by facilitating student interaction in discussion, exercises, problem sets, case studies and presentations (as appropriate).

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| Module Title                            | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester       |
|---|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Financial Reporting                     | BUSM054     | 15      | 7     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 1     |
| Quantitative Methods for Finance        | ECOM053     | 15      | 7     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 1     |
| Investment Management                   | ECOM050     | 15      | 7     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 1     |
| Business Finance                        | ECOM051     | 15      | 7     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 1     |
| Advanced Management Accounting          | BUSM067     | 15      | 7     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 2     |
| Corporate Governance                    | BUSM060     | 15      | 7     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 2     |
| Contemporary Issues                     | BUSM061     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2     |
| Risk Management for Banking             | ECOM055     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2     |
| Asset Management                        | ECOM057     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2     |
| Financial Derivatives                   | ECOM026     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2     |
| Dissertation                            | BUSM066     | 60      | 7     | Core                    | 1                      | Semester 2 & 3 |
| Behavioural Finance and Decision Making | BUSM085     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2     |

### What Are the Entry Requirements?

A lower-second class honours degree, or equivalent, in economics, accounting, finance or a related subject. Students are expected to sit pre-sessional mathematics and statistics examinations following an intensive pre-sessional module. For non-native English speakers, IELTS 6.5 or equivalent is required.

### How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

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Each school/institute operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

### Academic Support

Students will have timetabled lectures and seminars and will have weekly office hour support.

### Programme-specific Rules and Facts

This programme is joint with SBM and SEF.

### Specific Support for Disabled Students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

### Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

There are informal links only with a number of employers in the financial services sector e.g. Barclays, Bloomberg and KPMG.

The qualities and skills a graduate from this programme might be expected to have include a range of cognitive and intellectual skills together with techniques specific to business and management, and relevant personal and interpersonal skills. These include:

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- The ability to think critically and creatively: organise thoughts, analyse, synthesise and critically appraise. This includes the capability to identify assumptions, evaluate statements in terms of evidence, detect false logic or reasoning, identify implicit values, define terms adequately and generalise appropriately.
- The ability to conduct research into issues in the fields of accounting and finance either individually or as a part of a team through research design, data collection, analysis, synthesis and reporting.
- The ability to recognise and address ethical dilemmas and corporate social responsibility issues, applying ethical and organisational values to situations and choices.

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## Programme Specification Approval

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**Person completing Programme Specification**

Dr Suki Sian

**Person responsible for management of programme**

Dr Suki Sian

**Date Programme Specification produced/amended  
by School Learning and Teaching Committee**

9 Sep 2013

**Date Programme Specification approved by  
Taught Programmes Board**

9 Sep 2013