

Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	MRes Finance and Econometrics
Name of Interim Award(s)	
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	One calendar year
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	
QAA Benchmark Group	Finance
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	N/A
Date Programme Specification Approved	2 Feb 2018
Responsible School / Institute	School of Economics and Finance

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

School of Business & Management

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

QMUL/KCL/Imperial Doctoral Training Partnership

Programme Outline

The MRes Finance and Econometrics replicates the MRes Finance degree in such a way as to meet the requirements for ESRC 1 +3 funding via the Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) between QMUL, KCL, and Imperial.

The MRes Finance and Econometrics is a research-oriented postgraduate programme for students who already hold an MSc-level qualification in economics or a related field, and who may wish to progress to doctoral study at QMUL or elsewhere. Students build on their postgraduate training by completing advanced module sequences in financial economics and one of econometrics, macroeconomics or microeconomics. Students also conduct original research to fulfill the substantial dissertation component of the degree, which can form the basis of later doctoral work.

Aims of the Programme

The primary goal of SEF's MRes degrees is to bridge the gap between the training in a good MSc programme and the research frontier. Successful completion of the MRes Finance and Econometrics will equip students to conduct publishable research in one or more areas of economics or finance, and in particular to write a high-quality doctoral dissertation.

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What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

Students who successfully complete the programme will be able to...

Academic Content:

A 1	construct, analyse, and apply advanced theoretical models similar to those used in contemporary published research.
A 2	select and correctly use advanced empirical techniques, including identification of data sources, choice of research design, and interpretation of results.
A 3	show knowledge and understanding of specific areas of economics and/or finance at the level of the research frontier.

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	synthesise and critically evaluate the published research in particular areas of economics and/or finance.
B 2	work within and compare a range of theoretical frameworks.
B 3	integrate models with the relevant empirical evidence and assess the extent to which scientific hypotheses are supported by data.

Attributes:

C 1	demonstrate autonomous research capability, including planning, execution, and evaluation of projects.
C 2	demonstrate a range of transferable skills, such as problem solving, argumentation, self-reflection, independent working, and communication of results.

How Will You Learn?

The programme is delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, and individual research supervision.

Semester 1 "Topics" modules: Each module consists of two themed lecture courses (e.g., theoretical econometrics and applied econometrics), typically delivered by different instructors. Each of these courses has a distinct three-hour teaching block. Depending on the nature of the material covered and the enrolment in the module, this contact time may be used in a variety of ways. For example, the instructor may deliver traditional lectures, organise a reading group in which students present research papers from a designated list, or base the learning on problems to be solved individually or in groups.

Semester 2 "Advanced Topics" modules: These modules extend the corresponding Semester 1 offerings by introducing students to areas of active research. Within each module, 3-4 members of staff who work in the field concerned give short (2-3 week) surveys of ongoing research on a particular topic.

ECOM093 "MRes Short Dissertation": Students have an initial meeting with their individual dissertation supervisor during Semester 1 and then meet approximately once per month from January through August. The dissertation supervisor or Academic Director may also recommend additional activities to enhance student learning and improve the quality of the dissertation, such as training in the use of statistical software.

BUSM081 "Introduction to Social Science Research 1: Epistemology, Research Design, and Qualitative Methods": This module contains the DTP-delivered core social science training required to hold an ESRC-funded studentship. Learning methods are therefore determined centrally by the DTP.

How Will You Be Assessed?

The programme uses a variety of assessment methods.

Semester 1 "Topics" modules: Assessment includes an in-semester test as well as additional coursework. Depending on the nature of the material covered and the enrolment in the module, the additional coursework may take the form of midterm tests, problem sets, computational exercises, or presentations. In view of the advanced nature of these modules and their role as preparation for doctoral study and a research career, innovative assessment methods are encouraged.

Semester 2 "Advanced Topics" modules: Assessment focuses on professional skills, including an in-class presentation and a mock referee report (each normally pertaining to a research paper on the reading list). There is also an assessed essay that depending on the module could consist of, for example, an empirical replication, a literature review, or a research proposal.

ECOM093 "MRes Short Dissertation": The dissertation is marked by the student's individual supervisor and a second reader, overseen by the Academic Director. Overall responsibility for assessment on the programme lies with the SEF Postgraduate Exam Board.

BUSM081 "Introduction to Social Science Research 1: Epistemology, Research Design, and Qualitative Methods": This module contains the DTP-delivered core social science training required to hold an ESRC-funded studentship. Assessment methods are therefore determined centrally by the DTP.

How is the Programme Structured?

Please specify the full time and part time programme diets (if appropriate).

Compulsory:

Semester A

- ECOMXXX Topics in Financial Economics A [Semester 1; new module; 15 credits]
- ECOMXXX Topics in Financial Economics B [Semester 1; new module; 15 credits]

Sem A & B:

- BUSM081 "Introduction to Social Science Research 1: Epistemology, Research Design, and Qualitative Methods" [Semesters 1-2; 30 credits] [Note: module proposal to be submitted by SPIR]

Semester B:

- ECOM111 Advanced Topics in Financial Economics [Semester 2; existing module; 15 credits]

Sem B & C:

- ECOM093 MRes Short Dissertation [Semesters 2-3; new module; 60 credits]

Electives:

Semester A

List 1 (15-30 credits):

Students must take at least one, and a maximum two from the following list:

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- ECOMXXX Topics in Macroeconomics A [Semester 1; new module; 15 credits]
- ECOMXXX Topics in Macroeconomics B [Semester 1; new module; 15 credits]
- ECOMXXX Topics in Microeconomics A [Semester 1; new module; 15 credits]
- ECOMXXX Topics in Microeconomics B [Semester 1; new module; 15 credits]

List 2 (0-15 credits):

Students should take at most one of:

- ECOMXXX Topics in Econometrics A [Semester 1; new module; 15 credits]
- ECOMXXX Topics in Econometrics B [Semester 1; new module; 15 credits]

Semester B

List 1 (15 credits):

Students must take one of the following module (Semester B electives must follow on from Semester A choices):

- ECOM110 Advanced Topics in Econometrics [Semester 2; existing module; 15 credits]
- ECOM112 Advanced Topics in Macroeconomics [Semester 2; existing module; 15 credits]
- ECOM113 Advanced Topics in Microeconomics [Semester 2; existing module; 15 credits]

The elective choices must be agreed between the student and the Academic Director to ensure a coherent plan of study and a suitable background at the MSc level. Students must select Semester B modules which follows directly from their Semester A electives (i.e. a student cannot elect Advanced Topics in Microeconomics if they have not selected either Topics in Micro A or B in Semester A.

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Advanced Topics in Financial Economics	ECOM111	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Introduction to Social Science Research 1: Epistemology, Research Design, and Qualitative Methods	BUSM081	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
MRes Short Dissertation	ECOM093	60	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2 & 3
Advanced Topics in Econometrics	ECOM110	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Topics in Econometrics A	ECOMXXX	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Topics in Econometrics B	ECOMXXX	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Topics in Financial Economics A	ECOMXXX	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Topics in Financial Economics B	ECOMXXX	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Topics in Microeconomics A	ECOMXXX	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Topics in Microeconomics B	ECOMXXX	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Topics in Macroeconomics A	ECOMXXX	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Topics in Macroeconomics B	ECOMXXX	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Advanced Topics in Microeconomics	ECOM113	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Advanced Topics in Macroeconomics	ECOM112	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2

What Are the Entry Requirements?

Students admitted to the MRes Finance and Econometrics programme have normally achieved high marks (e.g., a merit or distinction) on a postgraduate degree in finance or a related field comparable to QMUL's MSc Finance and Econometrics in terms of content and quality. A good knowledge of topics in mathematics and statistical theory relevant to economic analysis (including univariate and multivariate calculus, constrained optimization, linear algebra, probability theory, and related material) is essential. Applicants must document English-language ability to the standard established by QMUL for technically-based postgraduate programmes.

How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The MRes/PhD Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between SEF and its students. This committee consists of student representatives from the MRes programme and from each year of the PhD programme, together with appropriate representation from staff within the School. Its purpose is to respond to the needs of students, as well as to act as a forum for discussing the development of new modules and programmes.

The School of Economics and Finance distributes teaching evaluation surveys for all postgraduate taught modules. Student feedback from these (anonymous) surveys is reported to the module instructor, the relevant committees, and the Head of School, enabling SEF to encourage the spread of good practice and to identify and resolve promptly any problems that may arise.

QMUL also conducts annual reviews of all taught programmes. This review system monitors academic standards and the candidate experience, taking into account student views in a variety of ways.

Academic Support

The School of Economics and Finance organises a range of induction activities for new postgraduate students each year in September.

MRes Finance and Econometrics candidates are advised by the programme's Academic Director and by their individual dissertation supervisors (once assigned). Students interested in applying for doctoral admission can also consult the PhD Director for advice.

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Support for the programme is provided by the Research and Joint Programmes Manager and by others in the School's well-staffed administrative office.

Programme-specific Rules and Facts

none

Specific Support for Disabled Students

QMUL has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service that supports students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties, and mental health issues. This service is available to all QMUL students: full-time and part-time, undergraduate and postgraduate, UK and international, at all campuses and all sites.

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

- diagnosing specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia
- applying for funding through the Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)
- arranging DSA assessments of need
- special arrangements in examinations
- accessing loaned equipment such as digital recorders
- specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- accessing course materials in alternative formats such as Braille
- providing educational support workers such as note-takers, readers, and library assistants
- mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum

Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

Students who complete SEF's integrated MRes and PhD programmes are encouraged to seek academic employment, and are supported in doing so by the School's placement officer. Graduates are also well qualified for employment at research institutes, government departments, international organizations, and think tanks, as well as an array of private sector employers (such as banks, consultancies, and insurers). Those seeking non-academic employment are supported by SEF's dedicated Careers Consultant.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification

Prof. Emmanuel Guerre

Programme Title: MRes Finance and Econometrics

Person responsible for management of programme

MRes Academic Director

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

12 Dec 2017

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

2 Feb 2018