

Programme Title: MSc 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 Finance
Name of Interim Award(s)	
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	1 year
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	L1T5
QAA Benchmark Group	Economics and Finance
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	CFA Institute (Chartered Financial Analyst)
Date Programme Specification Approved	20 Aug 2013
Responsible School / Institute	School of Economics and Finance

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

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

Programme Outline

The current suite of finance related MSc programmes lacks an offering that is both academically rigorous and strongly vocational. This programme aims to offer that combination and aims eventually to become the 'flagship' programme of this suite. This Programme is aimed at broadening the range of Master of Science the School offers. Also, it represents a very good strategic choice for the School as it can allow the variety of students applying to the MSc Banking and Finance and MSc Finance and Investment to be better accommodated.

This MSc is aimed at not only at producing high quality job candidates, but also at producing high quality finance researchers. It builds a strong foundation in the theory and practice of making financial decisions, so it is ideal for students aiming to pursue the academic career but also to work at a senior level in banking, financial services and corporations.

Students applying for the MSc in Finance can boost their existing careers in the financial sector, in such areas as investment, financial services, asset management and corporate finance.

Aims of the Programme

The MSc in Finance is designed for students who want to undertake their academic career in the finance area and for professionals working in banking and other financial institutions, governments and corporations wanting to boost their

Programme Title: MSc Finance

knowledge in Finance.

Students and professionals will experience major theoretical and practical issues in the areas such as investment analysis, analysis of financial statement, corporate finance, financial econometrics and advanced asset pricing.

On completion of the programme students are expected to have deep understanding of the fundamentals of the finance theory. In particular, of how firms and financial markets take decisions about the optimal investment and financing policy in advanced and transitional economies; how corporations analyze financial statements and price assets. Moreover, students will be equipped with advanced statistical and mathematical tools for high quality research in Finance.

Demands for such researchers and professionals is high both in a financial based system as the UK or in fast developing transitional economies as China.

What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

A broad understanding of analytical finance

Academic Content:

A 1	Financial markets and corporate finance
A 2	The Financial system of advanced and transitional economies
A 3	The state of the current academic debate in Finance

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	Make significant theoretical advances into the areas of financial asset pricing and corporate finance
B 2	Apply statistical and mathematical methods in Finance
B 3	Understand the value of the ethical behavior when working in such a delicate and important area
B 4	Understand the pricing and payoffs of financial instruments
B 5	Master the use of state-of-the-art econometric and statistical tools including the use of specialised econometric software
B 6	Understand the accounts and financing of a corporation

Attributes:

C 1	Work as part of a team to undertake the completion of projects involving complex financial analysis
C 2	Undertake complex financial quantitative analysis using state-of-the-art financial econometrics

C3	Work to tight deadlines in the process of carrying out projects involving complex financial analysis
C4	Test financial theories and undertake quantitative investment management.

How Will You Learn?

The delivery of learning will take a number of forms including lectures, small group support classes, seminars, computing practical lessons, guest speakers, individual supervision of dissertations.

Learning will be supported by individual feedback on work, assessment exercises, research methods training. There will be use of the college VLE comprising a number of quizzes, lecture videos, discussion boards and other supporting materials.

How Will You Be Assessed?

Assessment takes a number of forms and is targeted to the learning outcomes. Forms of assessment include unseen examinations, in-course assessments, case studies and coursework essays.

How is the Programme Structured?

The Programme is structured around a set of core and compulsory modules and a range of optional modules. Students take modules to the value of 120 credits and a dissertation with the value of 60 credits. Students will have 4 compulsory modules in their first semester as detailed below. They are then able to choose 3 elective modules in the second semester from the following:

ECOM026 Financial Derivatives;
ECOM035 International Finance;
ECOM038 Behavioral Finance;
ECOM042 Empirical Finance ;
ECOM055 Risk Management for Banking;
ECOM057 Asset Management ;
ECOM059 Applied Risk Management;
ECOM073 Further Quant. Tech. for Finance;
ECOM064 Applied Futures and Options;
ECOM069 Banking Regulations;
ECOM070 Cases in Business Finance;
ECOM071 Topics in Applied Finance;
ECOM074 Bond Market Strategies;
ECOM076 Alternative Investments;
ECOM077 Valuation and Private Equity;
ECOM078 Topics in Actuarial Finance and Insurance.

Academic Year of Study 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Investments	ECOM065	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Corporate Finance	ECOM015	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Financial Statements	ECOM052	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Econometrics For Finance	ECOM072	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Advanced Asset Pricing and Modelling	ECOM044	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Option (listed above)		15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Option (listed above)		15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Option (listed above)		15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Dissertation	ECOM024	60	7	Core	1	Semester 2 & 3

What Are the Entry Requirements?

a 2:1 or equivalent with significant quantitative training + a 6.5 IELTS or TOEFL equivalent. Weight will be given to prior relevant work experience.

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.

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 Student Feedback and module evaluations.

Academic Support

Students will attend an induction programme which includes a two week Mathematics and Statistics pre-session course aimed at embedding the core theoretical skills required for the programme.

All students are allocated an academic advisor who will be available throughout the year should students have queries relating to the programme of study. Students will also be allocated a dissertation tutor who will supervise their progression through the research project.

Programme-specific Rules and Facts

N/A The programme will comply with the regulations that cover all MScs for the School of Economics and Finance. As it stands there is no deviation from the standard regulations please refer to pages 88 - 93. There is no progression hurdle onto the dissertation.

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

The course is intended to give postgraduate training to students wishing to pursue careers in the Financial Sector, Corporate Finance, Government, International Financial Institution or Academia. Demand for such professionals is high both in the UK, and in fast developing transitional economies such as China. This Programme aims at Integrating the Careers programme offered by the Careers service with academic study.

The MSc Finance has been acknowledged as incorporating at least 70 percent of the CFA Program Candidate Body of Knowledge (CBOK) and placing emphasis on the CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice within the program. This program positions students well to obtain the Chartered Financial Analyst® designation, which has become the most respected and recognized investment credential in the world.

Programme Title: MSc Finance

--

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification

--

Person responsible for management of programme

--

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

--

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

20 Aug 2013
