

Programme Specification

MSc in International Business and Finance (full-time)

PFTZIBUFINHM

For students entering in 2020/21

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	MSc in International Business and Finance (full-time) - 12 months
Accreditation	
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

This programme provides an in-depth understanding of the interrelationships between the areas of finance and the global economy. One of the hallmarks of globalisation is the growing significance of multinational enterprises (MNEs) that span multiple countries and industries, and consequently need to manage business operations in an increasingly complex environment. Students will develop a comprehensive understanding of the international business environment, in terms of the competitive and investment milieu, which is largely determined by the policies and regulations established by governments and supra-national institutions. The programme introduces conceptual frameworks and practical methodologies that make sense of the interaction between firm strategies and policies. These strategies are constantly in flux as these environments rapidly evolve in a globalising world. How are global financial markets leveraged by these MNEs? What are the management challenges that face MNEs that seek to exploit international business opportunities? How are these relevant to financial and capital markets? This programme examines these and other issues from both a business and economic perspective. MSc IB&F is designed for business and economics graduates, as well as financial analysts.

The programme pathway requires a substantial amount of independent reading, research and study and students are expected to take personal responsibility and show initiative in developing their knowledge and understanding of the field of study. They will also need to enhance their skills in communications (both written and oral), information handling, and analysis of context and cases in development. Students will work under pressure of time throughout the programme and will learn to set priorities and manage their time in order to meet strict deadlines.

Graduates will therefore demonstrate a range of cognitive, personal and intellectual skills and techniques specific to International Business and Finance. They should be aware of cultural differences and the different approaches of a range of international students and be able to make adaptations to their natural styles to overcome difficulties. They will therefore need to develop and demonstrate relevant personal and interpersonal skills.

Module information

The programme comprises of 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
ICM106	Financial Markets	20	M
ICM107	Securities, Futures and Options	20	M
ICM108	Fixed Income and Equity Investments	20	M
ICM129	Introductory Quantitative Methods for Finance for IBF	0	M
MMM001	International Strategic Management	20	M
MMM070	Study and Research Skills: Sources, Methods, and Practice	0	M
MMM071	International Business Environment	20	M
MMM095	Multinational Enterprise Strategy and Performance	20	M
MMM141	International Business Project	30	M
MMM142	International Study Challenge (International Business)	10	M

MMM141 International Business Project and MMM142 International Study Challenge (International Business) are completed in the Summer Term.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

This programme is only available for full time study.

Additional costs of the programme

There are no textbooks which you must buy and students are encouraged to discuss the purchase of textbooks or other resources with the module convenor before purchasing. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs.

A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks, electronic resources and computer facilities, are available through the Central Library and the Business School Academic Resource Centre.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost per A4 page of £0.05 (black and white) and £0.30 (colour). Essential costs in this area will be low as most coursework is submitted electronically. Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

In the Summer Term students complete an International Study Challenge at a foreign study visit location. Travel and accommodation (including kitchenette and breakfast) costs are paid by the School. Each student is required to cover their personal cost for subsistence; we estimate costs to be no more than £40 per day x 12 days.

Optional modules

Students must choose 20 credits of option modules in Finance from the ICMA Centre so as to complete a total of 180 credits.

A complete list of option modules is available from the Programme Director, and a list of current options can be found in the relevant Programme Handbook. There is no guarantee that in any one year all modules will be available. New option modules may also be added.

Placement opportunities

The international dimension of this programme is important, and all students will have the opportunity to undertake some portion of their studies outside the UK in the form of an international study visit.

Study abroad opportunities

Teaching and learning delivery

Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of material varies among the modules, especially in the proportion of time allocated to lectures, classes and seminars.

Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is 290 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

All modules involve coursework, which takes a variety of forms reflecting the aims of the module. Final assessment of the modules usually involves a two hour examination and coursework. A project supervisor is appointed for each student.

Assessment of taught modules will take place by May/June. Students will have the opportunity to re-sit any failed modules in late August or early September. The business project must be submitted in early September (or a two weeks thereafter if there are re-sits).

Students wishing to proceed to a higher degree by research should normally have obtained an average of at least 60% across all modules, and at least 60% in the Capstone modules (MMM141 and MMM142). These two are modules of special significance in the degree.

Progression

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For a Master's degree

To qualify for Distinction, students must gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits and a mark of 60 or more for the business project and for the international study challenge and must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for Merit, students must gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits and a mark of 50 or more for the business project, and must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for a Pass, students must gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits and a mark of 50 or more for the business project. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits.

For a PG Diploma

To qualify for Distinction, students must gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits and must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for Merit, students must gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits and must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for Pass, students must gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits and of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits.

For a PG Certificate

To qualify for a Postgraduate Certificate, students must gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

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29 July 2019

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