

BSc Finance and Investment Banking
For students entering Part 1 in 2010/1

UCAS code: N302

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	
Faculty:	Henley Business School at Univ of Reading
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	28/Apr/2012
Programme Director:	Ms Hilary Feltham
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	Henley Business School Board of Studies for Undergraduate Programmes
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The aim of the programme is to prepare the graduate for a career in the international investment banking industry. Graduates will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to continue their studies at a graduate level and to perform well at the entry level in the investment banking industry.

Transferable skills

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills in line with the University's Strategy for Learning and Teaching. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, use of IT and problem-solving and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

Programme content

The following profile lists the compulsory modules, together with their credit size, for each Part. Students are required to take a total of 120 credits in each Part. Where the compulsory modules in a Part total less than 120 credits, students are required to select options containing sufficient credits to make up the shortfall. Any such options selected must be drawn from the options listed below for Parts 2 and 3. Not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

MM1F2	Introductory Financial Accounting	20	4
IC101	Introductory Securities and Markets	20	4
IC102	Introductory Finance/Trading Simulation I	20	4
EC101	Principles of Microeconomics	20	4
EC102	Principles of Macroeconomics	20	4
EC105	Introductory Quantitative Techniques	20	4

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

IC201	Corporate Finance	20	5
IC202	Financial Modelling/Trading Simulation II/CMS	20	5
IC203	Debt Markets & Instruments	20	5
IC204	Portfolio Management	20	5

EC203	Introductory Econometrics (BA)	20	5
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One optional module to total 20 credits

EC226	Mathematics for Economists	20	5
LA1XX1	IWLP Language Module	20	5

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

IC301	Derivative Securities/Trading Simulation III	20	6
IC303	Management of Risk	20	6

Optional modules to total 80 credits:

IC302	Financial Engineering	20	6
IC305	Research Project	20	6
IC306	Foreign Exchange & Money Markets	20	6
IC309	Private Equity and Venture Capital	20	6
IC310	Topics in Finance	20	6
Either:			
MM270	Practice of Entrepreneurship	20	6
Or			
LA1XX1	IWLP	20	6

Progression requirements

To progress to Part 2 a student must:

- (i) obtain an average mark of at least 40% across all six modules;
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all Part 1 modules.

To progress from Part 2 to Part 3 a student must:

- (i) obtain an average mark of 40% across all Part 2 modules;
- (ii) achieve not less than 30% in individual modules amounting to 100 credits.

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of material varies among modules, especially in the proportions of time allocated to lectures, and to classes and seminars. All modules involve coursework, which takes a variety of forms. Final assessment normally involves a written examination, and may also incorporate coursework marks. The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook but you should note that the weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67% respectively

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

Grade B or better in Mathematics in GCSE and Grade C or better in English in GCSE; and achieved:
UCAS Tariff: 340 points from either 3 A Levels or 2 A Levels and 2 AS Levels (including B in at least AS Level Mathematics) or 360 points from 3 A Levels and 1 AS Level

International Baccalaureate: 6,6,5 for Higher level subjects (must have 6 at Standard level Mathematics)
Irish Leaving Certificate: AABBB (including Mathematics)
Foundation Programme: Distinction (including core content of Mathematics)

Admissions Tutor: Dr S Varotto

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Student Employment, Experience and Careers Centre (SECC), In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see www.reading.ac.uk/student

In addition, the ICMA Centre provides three purpose built dealing rooms that include Reuters and Bloomberg terminals and normal high specification PCs that students use for *INVEST* trading simulations and course work. Furthermore, the ICMA Centre has its own library that holds journals specialising in finance that are not available in the main university library. All students are given a specialised financial calculator for use in their studies at the beginning of their second year. The ICMA Centre's Continuing Professional Development Unit provides specialised careers advice targeting the investment banking industry through a 5-credit unit included in the second year programme.

Career prospects

In recent years graduates from this programme have entered a variety of careers in the financial services sector, principally in the City of London but also in other international financial centres. Examples include jobs in the various departments of banks and securities firms (trading, sales, back office administration and compliance, risk management, portfolio management, and so on).

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Although it is ultimately up to the student, the Continuing Professional Development Unit provides support for obtaining an internship with city investment banks for the summer following the end of the second year. While no formal study abroad programme exists, student requests for study abroad is supported and dealt with on an individual case basis.

Programme Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas.

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. The fundamental concepts at the core of financial and economic knowledge comprising microeconomics, macroeconomics, investments and corporate finance.
2. The basic techniques in econometrics comprising OLS estimation, hypothesis testing and module evaluation.
3. How to apply financial concepts and techniques to solve 'business world' problems.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Formal lectures, practical (including dealing room sessions) and conventional classes, supervisions supported by directed and assessed self-study. Feedback and guidance are an important part of the process for all three years of study.

Assessment

Courses are assessed through a combination of coursework and unseen examinations. Practical project works are also assessed and provide a source of feedback on performance to students.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:

1. Structure, analyse and solve problems.
2. Think laterally and explore alternative solutions.
3. Comprehend the evolving state of knowledge in the degree subject areas.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Substantive problems are illustrated in lectures and smaller groups. Essays, project work and problem sets provide related opportunities for problem solving. Lectures supported by essays and discussions provide the basis of ensuring the growing knowledge base becomes comprehensible.

Assessment

1-3 are assessed through examination questions, essays, project work and problem sets

C. Practical skills - *able to*:

1. Utilise Reuters and Bloomberg business information and analytical tools.
2. Use spreadsheet software to analyse complex practical problems in finance.
3. Operate in a dealing room environment including the ability to manage the bid/ask spread.
4. Carry on at least a basic conversation in a foreign language.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Practical skills are introduced in lectures, and are acquired in supporting tutorials, computer sessions and dealing room sessions, and are reinforced by problem sets and supervised project work.

Assessment

1-3 are assessed through simulated dealing room sessions, computer sessions and tutorials. 4 is available as an option in the second and third years and is assessed by the Institution Wide Language Programme.

D. Transferable skills - *able to*:

1. Use IT, including word processing, data exchange, graphics, Excel, econometric software and directed Website searches.
2. Communicate orally and in writing, and to work with others in teams.
3. Use library and Web based resources.
4. Manage time to achieve goals.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The use of IT is an integral part of the practical side of the course. It is encouraged through applications requiring economic and financial analysis. These involve spreadsheet modelling exercises, website searches, use of library resources, the presentation of word processed documents including graphics displays. Communication skills, both oral and written are assessed at several points throughout the program. Oral communication, presentation and team-working skills are specifically emphasised in the CMS unit taught in the second year. Good time management is essential to organising a timetable to complete project work.

Assessment

Assessment of transferable skills is incorporated at several points in the programme. 1-4 contribute towards assessed work in projects, problem sets and dealing room sessions.

Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.