

Programme Specification

BSc Finance with Foundation

For students entering Foundation year in September 2023

UCAS Code: N3F1

UFFINFY

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

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|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Awarding Institution | University of Reading |
| Teaching Institution | University of Reading |
| Length of Programme | 4 years |
| Accreditation | AACSB and EQUIS |

Programme information and content

The aim of the programme is to prepare graduates for a career in corporate finance, financial markets and financial services with the possibility of specializations in investments, sustainable finance, the rapidly expanding FinTech sector, and international business. The recent changes that have affected finance in general, and especially the emergence of financial technology and the need to focus on sustainability have brought about alterations in many branches of the finance industry including payment systems and the increasing importance of environmental principles. Finance as a degree is gaining popularity, and students on this degree will gain a deep understanding of finance and the financial services industry in general.

The current programme allows students to study for a degree in Finance with a Foundation year. Students would have the option to stay on the general BSc. Finance programme in Finance, or they might wish to transfer to a BSc. Finance pathway programme and specialize in one of the following areas: (1) Investments; (2) FinTech; (3) Sustainable Finance or (4) International Business, and thus would be able to gain an understanding of the challenges in their particular areas, and learn how to respond to those. Also, students have the option to do a placement year or a study abroad year before their final year.

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| Foundation year: | In the Foundation year you will develop the foundational transferable skills which will help you succeed in your later studies. Modules will develop your skills in mathematics and writing as well as introduce you to core concepts in business and management. |
| Part 1: | Introduces you to the fundamental principles of Accounting, Finance Economics, quantitative techniques and ethics required to work in the finance industry. |
| Part 2: | Provides you with a deeper understanding of the core concepts in portfolio management, financial modelling and Corporate Finance. Also, you are given the opportunity to choose the specialist modules of the pathways. |

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| Placement/Study abroad year: | Students have the option to have a placement year or to do a study abroad year after Part 2. |
| Part 3: | Gives you the opportunity to learn about risk management and derivatives, and to specialize in some of the most exciting areas of finance according to your own preferences and professional aspirations. |

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Foundation modules:

| Module | Name | Credits | Level |
|--------|--|---------|-------|
| EN0SFS | Study for Success | 20 | 0 |
| IF0FM1 | Foundation Mathematics | 40 | 0 |
| IF0IBM | An Introduction to Business and Management | 40 | 0 |

Students will be taking one of the following two modules:

| Module | Name | Credits | Level |
|--------|-------------------------------|---------|-------|
| IF0RAS | Foundation in Academic Skills | 20 | 0 |
| IF0ACA | Academic Skills | 20 | 0 |

International students take IF0ACA (Academic Skills) and home students take IF0RAS (Foundation in Academic Skills), as IF0ACA is specifically targeted to the needs of international students.

Part 1 Modules:

| Module | Name | Credits | Level |
|--------|---|---------|-------|
| IC101 | Introductory Securities and Markets | 20 | 4 |
| IC102 | Introductory Finance/Trading Simulation I | 20 | 4 |
| IC103 | Introductory Economics for Business and Finance | 20 | 4 |
| IC104 | Introductory Quantitative Techniques for Business and Finance | 20 | 4 |
| IC105 | Ethics in Investment Management | 20 | 4 |
| MM1F27 | Business in Practice: Accounting for managers | 20 | 4 |

Part 2 Modules:

| Module | Name | Credits | Level |
|--------|----------------------|---------|-------|
| IC201 | Corporate Finance | 20 | 5 |
| IC204 | Portfolio Management | 20 | 5 |

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|-------|---------------------|----|---|
| IC212 | Financial Modelling | 20 | 5 |
|-------|---------------------|----|---|

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Henley Business School and modules from elsewhere in the University.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

| Module | Name | Credits | Level |
|--------|----------------|---------|-------|
| MM284 | Work Placement | 120 | 5 |

OR

| Module | Name | Credits | Level |
|--------|-------------------|---------|-------|
| IC300 | Study Abroad Year | 120 | 6 |

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

| Module | Name | Credits | Level |
|--------|-----------------------|---------|-------|
| IC303 | Management of Risk | 20 | 6 |
| IC317 | Derivative Securities | 20 | 6 |

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Henley Business School and modules from elsewhere in the University.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

Costs are indicative, but will vary according to module choice and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. The estimates were calculated in 2019.

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget approximately £300 a year. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

Subject to your module selection, you may be required to purchase sundry materials (i.e. printing). Many students find it advantageous to have their own personal computing facilities though there are central facilities available.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be offered the opportunity to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable placement. If you undertake a placement year, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you; also, Part 3 as described above may be subject to variation.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad year during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you; also, Part 3 as described above may be subject to variation.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through lectures, seminars and workshops.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 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 Part 0 – 320 hours, Part 1 - 222 hours, Part 2 - 205 hours, Part 3 (following the Placement year or Study Abroad year if applicable) - 202 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

Henley Business School programmes are accredited by AACSB and EQUIS.

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework, tests, oral presentation and practical skills assessments.

Progression Requirements:

Part 0

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows:

an overall average of at least 40% over all modules taken in Part 0;

no more than 40 credits of these modules with a mark below 35%

at least 40% in the Academic Skills module

To progress to Part 1, students must achieve a threshold performance **and** satisfy the following progression requirements:

an overall average of at least 60% over all credit modules taken in part 0

at least 60% in each of the two 40 credit modules

an average of at least 40% in the remaining two modules

no module mark below 40%

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 0 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Completion if he or she leaves the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 1

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' are as follows:

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.'

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a 'threshold performance', **and:**

- (i) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in all Part 1 modules, with the exception of IC105 in which a mark of at least 35% must be obtained;

The achievement of a 'threshold performance' at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 2

To gain a 'threshold performance' at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2;
- (ii) Marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and
- (iii) Marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics & Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the 3-year programmes, a student must achieve a 'threshold performance', **and**:

- (i) Marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.

Placement / Study Abroad Year:

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the 4 year programmes:

Programmes with a Placement year: Students are required, in addition to the above requirements, to pass the Placement year module.

Programmes with a Study Abroad year: Students are required, in addition to the above requirements, to meet the pass requirements of the Study Abroad Year as specified in the Study Abroad agreement.

Students who fail the Placement year or Study Abroad year transfer to the corresponding three-year version of the programme.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Four-year programmes
Part 2 one-third
Part 3 two-thirds

Five-year programmes, including Placement year / Study Abroad year:
Normally:
Part 2 one-third
Placement/Study Abroad Year not included in classification
Part 3 two-thirds

(where students fail a Placement year or Study Abroad year which does not contribute to classification they transfer to the three-year version of the programme)

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.

BSc Finance with Foundation for students entering Foundation year in session 2023/24
15 November 2023

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