

University of Plymouth

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Business

Plymouth Business School

Programme Specification

MSc Finance

September intake: 3071

January intake: 7020

Approved Final Version

November 2020

1. **Final award title:** MSc Finance

Level 7 intermediate award titles:

Postgraduate Diploma

Postgraduate Certificate

HECOS code: 100107

2. **Awarding institution:** University of Plymouth
Teaching institution: University of Plymouth

3. **Accrediting body**
Not applicable.

4. **Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience**

The programme is designed to ensure students learn and gain insights into the financial industry as part of an international student learning community.

Flexibility of study – students may start in September or January and accumulate the required credits to proceed to the Advanced Business Research module.

5. **Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group**

Masters Degrees in Business and Management (2015)

https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-business-and-management-15.pdf?sfvrsn=1997f681_16

6. Programme Structure

September Start

Semester 1	ACF7001: Investments (30 credits)
	ACF7002: Corporate Finance (30 credits)
Semester 2	ACF7003: International Finance (30 credits)
	ACF7004: Analysis of Financial Statements (30 credits)
All Year <i>(Semesters 1 & 2 & Summer)</i>	ACF7000: Advanced Business Research (60 credits)

January Start

Semester 1 <i>(Semester 2 21/22)</i>	ACF7004: Analysis of Financial Statements (30 credits)
	ACF7003: International Finance (30 credits)
Semester 2 <i>(Semester 1 22/23)</i>	ACF7002: Corporate Finance (30 credits)
	ACF7001: Investments (30 credits)
All Year <i>(Semester 2 & Summer 21/22 and Semester 1 22/23)</i>	ACF7000J: Advanced Business Research (60 credits)

7. Programme Aims

The programme aims to produce graduates with:

- 7.1 high analytical and technical skills and a critical understanding of financial issues and their wider implications, which meet the needs of commerce and industry;
- 7.2 a gateway to postgraduate research;
- 7.3 a deep understanding of the diverse and international nature of financial management;
- 7.4 vocationally relevant skills and competencies demanded by a complex financial environment.

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

8.1 Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. a deep and systematic understanding within the Finance field of study and its interrelationship with other relevant disciplines such as Economics and Accounting;
2. the ability to apply valuation principles to company accounts, capital investment decisions, mergers/acquisitions and equities/bonds;
3. the ability to understand, develop, and apply risk analysis to portfolio design, international finance, hedging and derivatives;
4. critical appraisal of financial theories, practices and problems, including alternative sources of finance, the cost of capital, international financing, and international financial reporting;

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. develop critical responses to existing theoretical discourses, methodologies or practices in the Finance area and suggest new concepts or approaches;
2. design and undertake substantial investigations to address significant areas of theory and/or practice, using a range of financial data and appropriate methods;
3. select appropriate advanced methodological approaches and critically evaluate their effectiveness;
4. undertake analysis of complex, incomplete or contradictory evidence/data and judge the appropriateness of the enquiry methodologies used. Recognise and argue for alternative approaches;

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. use personal reflection to analyse self and own actions;
2. make connections between known and unknown areas, to allow for adaptation and change;

3. identify, evaluate and maintain capabilities and qualities to support effective communication in a range of complex and specialised contexts;
4. demonstrate high-level quantitative and technical skills.

8.4 Employment-related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed these skills:

1. critical appraisal of challenges and opportunities faced by the financial sector;
2. communication and critical analysis;
3. evaluate and interpret financial data, using appropriate tools and techniques.

8.5 Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. incorporate a critical ethical dimension to practice, managing the implications of ethical dilemmas and working proactively with others to formulate solutions;
2. autonomously adapt performance to multiple contexts and implement and evaluate improvements to performance, drawing on innovative or sectoral best practice;
3. work effectively, clarifying tasks and making appropriate use of resources.

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and Disability Service arrangements

Entry Requirements: MSc Finance	
First Degree	Normal minimum entry requirements are a Lower Second / 2:2 class honours degree or equivalent in Accounting and Finance, Economics, or Business Studies/Business Administration with a significant quantitative component; or in a quantitative discipline, such as Management Sciences, Operational Research, Computer Science, Mathematics or Statistics. Other qualifications and relevant experience will be considered on an individual basis.
APL	Applications for the accreditation of prior learning will be considered by the Programme Leader on a case-by-case basis in accordance with published University of Plymouth regulations.
Language Requirements	Candidates whose first language is not English require IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum of 5.5 in each element) or equivalent. If the applicant's English language does not meet the above standard at point of application there may be an opportunity to complete one of the University's pre-sessional English language courses.

Disability Service arrangements are as per standard University practice. Applicants can access information at:

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/services/student-services/disability-and-dyslexia/applicants>

10. Progression /routes criteria for final and intermediate awards

Postgraduate Diploma – 120 credits from the programme

Postgraduate Certificate – 60 credits from the programme

11. Non-standard Regulations

Not applicable.

12. Transitional Arrangements

Repeating or other students will be treated on a case by case basis as required.

13. Programme Specification Mapping (PGT): module contribution to the meeting of Award Learning Outcomes

Module	Credits	C core E elective	Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)																				Compen- sation Y/N	Assessment element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1 - exam E2 - clinical exam T1 - test C1 - coursework A1 - generic assessment P1 - practical
			Knowledge & understanding				Cognitive & intellectual skills				Key & transferable skills				Employment related skills				Practical skills					
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
ACF7001	30	C	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		Y	C1 (100%)
ACF7002	30	C	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		Y	C1 (100%)
Learning Outcomes 60 credits																								
ACF7003	30	C	X		X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		Y	C1 (60%), T1 (40%)
ACF7004	30	C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		Y	C1 (100%)
Learning Outcomes 120 credits																								
ACF7000 / ACF7000J	60	C	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		N	C1 (90%), P1 (10%)
Learning Outcomes 180 credits			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			
Confirmed Award Los			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			

ACF7001: Investments

ACF7002: Corporate Finance

ACF7003: International Finance

ACF7004: Analysis of Financial Statements

ACF7000 / ACF7000J: Advanced Business Research