



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Programme Specification

A statement of the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin a taught programme of study leading to an award from The University of Sheffield

Programme Details

1. Programme title	Business Finance and Economics
2. Programme code	ECNT15
3. QAA FHEQ level	7
4. Faculty	Social Sciences
5. School	Economics
6. Other Schools providing credit bearing modules for the programme	None
7. Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	Not applicable
8. Date of production/revision	March 2024

Awards	Type of award	Duration
9. Final award	Master of Science (MSc)	1 year
10. Intermediate awards	Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)	1 year
	Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)	1 year

Programme Codes

11. JACS code(s) <i>Select between one and three codes from the HESA website.</i>	L100		
12. HECoS code(s) <i>Select between one and three codes from the HECoS vocabulary.</i>	100450	100449	

Programme Delivery

13. Mode of study	Full-time
14. Mode of delivery	Campus based / In person

15. Background to the programme and subject area

This programme is an applied degree that allows students to develop an advanced understanding of economics and finance. The programme will provide students with an understanding of how firms and consumers behave in different markets, how capital markets operate, and how financial decisions are made in the business world. The degree is designed for students who wish to apply their quantitative skills in the areas of economics and business finance.

16. Programme aims

The MSc Business Finance and Economics aims to:

A1	To develop the analytical skills necessary to understand microeconomic and macroeconomic issues relating to business and finance.
A2	To provide an understanding of the theory and application of quantitative techniques.
A3	To allow students to acquire in-depth understanding of specialist topics in economics and business finance appropriate to their needs and interests.
A4	To develop an ability to understand and critically appreciate recent developments in economic and business finance theory and analysis.
A5	To develop the ability to define a viable research project and to use appropriate analytical and technical skills in the investigation of the research question.

17. Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

		Links to Aim(s)
K1	Core economic principles and a grounding in analytical techniques of microeconomics and macroeconomics.	A1
K2	Different perspectives of economic events and debates in economic theory and their application to business, finance and industry.	A2
K3	Current research and scholarship in specialist topics in economics and business finance.	A3
K4	Important financial and economic issues of contemporary concern.	A4
K5	Quantitative methods for economics and financial data (econometrics) and their use, involving computer applications.	A5

Skills and other attributes

On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:

S1	Analyse complex issues, exercising critical judgement, and problem solving.	
S2	Apply appropriate techniques to collect information, analyse findings and interpret evidence and go on to conduct an independent research project.	
S3	Manage effective learning, including self-assessment and the constructive use of feedback.	
S4	Communicate information and ideas in oral and written forms.	
S5	Undertake self-directed learning, involving independent work, to solve problems and to acquire further knowledge and skills.	

18. Learning and teaching methods

Knowledge and understanding (K1-K5) are acquired in a variety of teaching and learning environments. Different modules will adopt different combinations of lectures, seminars and other student-oriented activities. The student-oriented activities involve individual and group-based investigation and problem solving, seminar preparation, coursework, and computer labs. The overall aim is to enable students to participate fully in the course, to develop their own ideas, and to learn how to present their arguments in a clear and coherent way.

The programme progresses students from knowledge acquisition through staff-delivered lectures to a focus on applying and developing their understanding through more applied and student-centred activities. This culminates in their extended research project, where they demonstrate independent study.

This shift in teaching and learning methods is designed to promote more tacit and critical capabilities i.e. skills S1-S5. Preparation for the extended research project will be supported throughout the year by study skills sessions, English language classes for non-native speakers, and workshops on topic choice, structure of the extended research project, and empirical research skills.

19. Assessment and feedback methods

The three stages of the Masters' programme (semester one taught modules, semester two taught modules, and an extended research project) will each contribute 60 credits towards the final 180 credit rating. Taught modules will be assessed using different combinations of unseen examination, individual coursework, and group work as appropriate to module objectives. The objective here will be to provide a coherent combination of both formative and summative assessment methods. Formal examinations are used to test the existence of basic core knowledge (i.e. K1 and K2 above) with coursework being used to develop and assess more student oriented and critical perspectives on topics (i.e. K3 – K5 above). Certain modules consider unseen examination an inappropriate means of assessment at advanced level because of the subject matter covered and course delivery adopted. Formal examinations take place at the end of the Autumn and Spring semesters.

The extended research project will normally be written over the summer. The extended research project will allow students to demonstrate a strong understanding of a particular topic through research and analysis. The topic students investigate will be linked to their specific degree programme. The research project will involve applying existing knowledge to a new situation or testing a hypothesis that the students have learned in the taught modules. This is viewed as a key learning experience to develop research and critical capabilities for all students (and so further develops K3 – K5 above).

20. Programme structure and student development

The curriculum enables students to develop both systematic knowledge of economics and business finance, along with relevant econometric techniques and detailed study of specific topics. Given that the programme has a very specialised focus, the programme consists of a large number of core modules. All students must successfully complete an extended research project on a specialist topic related to their degree in business finance and economics. Teaching is closely linked to the research interests of staff. This ensures that students engage with the insights and problems at the frontiers of the discipline.

The curriculum is designed to allow students to achieve the specified learning outcomes in a progressive manner. The first semester modules provide the foundation for further successive study and the preparation of the extended research project. This process involves a shift from staff to student-oriented learning and a shift towards more research-oriented methods of delivery. Advice is available at all stages to help students choose coherent programmes of individual study.

Detailed information about the structure of programmes, regulations concerning assessment and progression and descriptions of individual modules are published in the University Calendar available online at <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/calendar/>.

21. Criteria for admission to the programme

Detailed information regarding admission to programmes is available from the University's On-Line Prospectus at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/courses/>.

22. Reference points

The learning outcomes have been developed to reflect the following points of reference:

Subject Benchmark Statements

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements>

Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2014)

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf>

University Vision and Strategic Plan

<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/strategicplan>

23. Additional information

None

This specification represents a concise statement about the main features of the programme and should be considered alongside other sources of information provided by the teaching School(s) and the University. In addition to programme specific information, further information about studying at The University of Sheffield can be accessed via our Student Services web site at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/ssid>.