



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**

1	Programme Title	Finance and Accounting
2	Programme Code	MGTT170
3	JACS Code	N300 & N400
4	Level of Study	Postgraduate (7)
5a	Final Qualification	Master of Science (MSc)
5b	Position in the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications	Masters
6a	Intermediate Qualification(s)	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma
6b	Position in the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications	Masters
7	Teaching Institution (if not Sheffield)	Not applicable
8	Faculty	Social Sciences
9	Department	Management School
10	Other Department(s) involved in teaching the programme	None
11	Mode(s) of Attendance	Full-time
12	Duration of the Programme	1 year
13	Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	None
14	Date of production/revision	March 2015, November 2023, April 2024

15. Background to the programme and subject area

To succeed and to be competitive in current and future business, understanding core skills in accounting and finance is crucial at all levels. It is very important that managers are equipped with the relevant competency, knowledge and skill set in this area in order to create real competitive advantage to business.

The MSc in Finance and Accounting is designed to enhance graduate career prospects in a wide range of accounting and finance roles. The programme offers a corporate perspective to reflect closely the real-world business environment and focuses on the applied skills and expertise sought by modern employers. The MSc builds a strong foundation in the theory and practice of making financial decisions in an international environment and is ideal for students aiming to work at a senior level in corporate finance, asset management, financial services and accounting.

This programme is distinctive in bringing together theoretical and applied expertise in a broad range of areas key to effective finance and accounting practices. A good understanding of corporate governance, finance and accounting issues at PG level are delivered. In addition, essential analytical skills and competence in both quantitative and qualitative research methods are developed to enhance more fundamental problem-solving skills across a range of disciplines in both practice and academia. Underpinning many of the areas of interest in this programme is the study of the tools and practical instruments used to measure and manage financial risk in domestic and international markets and to account for – and manage – financial performance.

The global challenges facing financial managers and the implications of the new regulations and credit controls in financial markets around the world are addressed. Future managers will benefit from an understanding of the implications for the markets concerned, the effects of new legislative changes and will have the knowledge to help them to keep businesses competitive and profitable. Current issues in corporate finance are analysed to develop insights to allow managers to act on developments, implications, reports and conclusions on areas of prime concern to the successful running of businesses.

The programme draws on world leading expertise in finance and accounting research and benefits from our close links with business, regulators and government. The MSc in Finance and Accounting provides truly research led teaching for the next generation of financial leaders. Students on the programme are given the opportunity to work on the latest research and benefit from guest lecturers from leading practitioners in this area.

Further information about the Management School is available on our website at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/management>.

16. Programme aims

1. Our students will be employable professional graduates.
2. Our students will have contextually relevant critical thinking skills.
3. Our students will be socially responsible professionals in Finance and Accounting.
4. Our graduates have advanced knowledge in Finance and Accounting and the ability to apply this knowledge in an effective manner.

17. Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding: students will

K1	Attain advanced knowledge of theory and concepts in Finance and Accounting.
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K2	Create solutions using theories and concepts in Finance and Accounting.
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Skills and other attributes: students will be able to:

S1	Demonstrate advanced written communication skills for different purposes and audiences.
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S2	Deliver persuasive oral presentations for different purposes and audiences.
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S3	Recommend evidence-based management solutions to complex/wider contexts.
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S4	Critically analyse complex management practices.
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S5	Critically synthesise relevant theoretical concepts.
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S6	Integrate social responsibility concepts into management practices.
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18. Teaching, learning and assessment

Development of the learning outcomes is promoted through the following teaching and learning methods:

Lectures are used to communicate subject-specific knowledge and understanding, to guide the general direction of students' engagement with each subject to develop analytical skills and to stimulate critical reflection.

Web sites and **handouts** are used to provide questions, activities and case-studies to enhance understanding through exercises and illustrations. Such exercises are used to promote critical reflection by students of the linkages between finance and accounting theory and practice.

Seminars enable students to develop their understanding of the subject matter through discussion of review questions and the analysis of case studies based upon real organisational challenges. Students will also prepare **presentations** on their case study analysis to develop communication and other transferable skills.

Workshops in the form of computer-based laboratories will allow students to learn how to use a standard statistical / econometrics computer package in order to analyse their data, conduct hypothesis tests and gain new knowledge in the form of statistical inference.

Group work will allow students to develop transferable skills and understanding by debate and collaborative working.

Tutor and self-directed **independent study**, alongside preparation for tutorials and assessment, will be a significant component of each student's personal development.

Tutorials are used to respond to students' enquiries, to provide feedback on progress and to promote reflection and analysis. Students have one-to-one supervision to help them prepare their management project reports (S5). Students have one-to-one communication through the use of face-to-face meetings, email and telephone contact.

Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes are provided through the following assessment methods:

Examinations are used to test knowledge and understanding of the theory and practice of Finance and Accounting alongside the skills of application to small-scale case studies.

Essays and reports are used to test knowledge and understanding and skills relating to S1 through S4.

The Quantitative Methods **assignment** is used to test S5.

19. 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

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/vision>

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Management School Learning and Teaching Strategies.

20. Programme structure and regulations

The programme for the MSc in Finance and Accounting will comprise of 180 credits. There will be 60 credits of core taught modules, up to 30 credits of modules where there are restricted choices, and either 45 or 60 credits of optional modules depending on whether they have chosen one or two 15 credit modules from the initial restricted choice, plus a dissertation of 45 credits. Students may only proceed to the dissertation with the permission of the Board of Examiners: the Board will need to be satisfied, based on the results of the taught part of the programme, that a student has a good chance of completing a satisfactory dissertation. Students who opt to read only 60 credits in the first semester will have to select 75 credits in the second semester; conversely, students who opt to read 75 credits in the first semester will read only 60 credits in the second semester. In the first week of the programme, students will undertake an assessment of their Mathematical and Statistical Skills. Students who fail this assessment will have to read MGT6146 that is designed to bring their skills up to the level necessary to complete the other modules successfully. There will also be a test of English Language competence in the induction week and students who score low on that test will be provided with guidance designed to improve their English Language skills.

Detailed information about the structure of programmes, regulations concerning assessment and progression and descriptions of individual modules are published in the University Calendar available on-line at

<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/calendar/regs>.

21. Student development over the course of study

The first semester includes core modules and will cover basic disciplines and core concepts in Finance and Accounting.

The second semester enables students to integrate the knowledge and skills acquired in the first semester and to develop a deeper level of skill in analysing real world problems in the field of finance and accounting with follow-on modules at a more complex level. The second semester also provides students with the research methods skills that are necessary to undertake a dissertation during the final stages of the programme.

Options allow students to broaden the range of topics and to choose to gravitate to either accounting-based topics or finance-based topics, to tailor the studies to their intended career paths.

The Masters' enables students to demonstrate their ability to undertake a sustained investigation, drawing on relevant aspects of the knowledge, understanding and skills gained in the earlier stages.

22. Criteria for admission to the programme

The normal entry requirements are the holding of an honours' degree or equivalent from an approved Institution. There are no particular subject requirements. Non-graduates who hold a professional qualification in finance and accounting that is deemed to be equivalent to the holding of an honours' degree may be admitted to the programme after being considered individually by the Head of School.

Applicants whose first language is not English will also be required to provide an International English Language Test Score (IELTS) of at least 7.0 with a minimum of 6.5 in writing and 6.00 in any of the other three categories. Detailed information regarding admission to the programme is available at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/prospective/>

23. Additional information

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 department(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 www.shef.ac.uk/ssid.