



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	Accounting, Governance and Financial Management
2	Programme Code	MGTT192
3	JACS Code	N400, N411 and N340
4	Level of Study	Postgraduate
5a	Final Qualification	Masters (MSc)
5b	QAA FHEQ Level	7
6a	Intermediate Qualification(s)	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma
6b	QAA FHEQ Level	7
7	Teaching Institution (if not Sheffield)	Not applicable
8	Faculty	Social Sciences
9	Department	None
10	Other Departments providing credit bearing modules for the programme	None
11	Mode(s) of Attendance	Full-time
12	Duration of the Programme	1 year
13	Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	Not applicable
14	Date of production/revision	December 2015, November 2023, April 2024

15. Background to the programme and subject area

Financial experts in organisations – regardless of whether they are corporate, private, public or third sector – require knowledge of accounting, reporting, related governance issues and financial management. It is very important that managers are equipped with the relevant competency, knowledge and skill set in this area in order to ensure that organizations are effective, efficient and just in all areas of their financial activities.

The MSc in Accounting, Governance and Financial Management is designed to enhance graduate career prospects in a wide range of accounting, governance and financial management roles. The programme offers an organisational focus that captures the demands put on a wide range of enterprises by the contemporary environment and focuses on the applied skills and expertise sought by employers. The MSc builds a strong foundation in the theory and practice of applying accounting to financial decisions and reporting on those decisions to relevant audiences in properly governed organisations and is ideal for students aiming to work at a senior level in accounting, financial management and financial control in a range of different organisations.

This programme is distinctive in bringing together theoretical and applied expertise in a broad range of areas key to the effective financial management, accounting, reported and related governance of organisations. A good understanding of corporate governance, accounting, financial management and financial reporting issues at postgraduate level are delivered. In addition, essential analytical and research skills 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 performance and to present that information in an appropriate form for relevant audiences.

The challenges and types of decisions that face financial managers and the regulatory environment affecting governance of organisations are addressed to develop insights that will allow managers to act on developments, implications, reports and conclusions on areas of prime concern to the effective running of those organisations.

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 Accounting, Governance and Financial Management.
4. Our graduates have advanced knowledge in Accounting, Governance and Financial Management 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 Accounting, Governance and Financial Management.
K2	Create solutions using theories and concepts in Accounting, Governance and Financial Management.

Skills and other attributes: students will be able to:

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

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 (K1-K8).

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 (S1 and S2).

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 K1-K8 and S1-S4).

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 (K7 and S2).

Group work will allow students to develop transferable skills and understanding by debate and collaborative working (S4).

Tutor and self-directed **independent study**, alongside preparation for tutorials and assessment, will be a significant component of each student's personal development (K1-K8 and S1-S5).

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 Accounting, Financial Reporting, Governance and Financial Management 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 **dissertation** is used to test K1, K7, K8, S2, S3 and S5.

19. Reference points

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

The Qualifications and Credit Framework

<http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk/qualifications-and-credit-framework-qcf.html>

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 Accounting, Governance and Financial Management will comprise of 180 credits. There will be 75 credits of core taught modules and 60 credits of optional modules, plus a dissertation that has a value 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 English Language competence 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 the basic disciplines and core concepts in Management Accounting, Financial Reporting and Corporate Governance. The first semester also provides the students with the opportunity to study options about the broader financial context of the markets in which those organisations operate and other options that are designed to develop high level qualitative and quantitative analytical skills.

The second semester provides a core module that enables students to integrate the knowledge and skills acquired in the first semester into the financial management of organisations. Another core module also provides students with the research methods skills that are necessary to undertake a dissertation during the final stages of the programme. Optional modules allow the students to develop greater understanding of the core areas of Management Accounting, Financial Accounting, Financial Reporting and Corporate Governance that were studied in the first semester, to tailor their studies according to their interests and intended career paths.

The final dissertation will enable the students to synthesise the different analytical skills that they have developed with knowledge attained in the core modules and chosen specialist options and to supplement that with additional guided reading through one-to-one supervision with a specialist supervisor to study a specific problem or question in an area of accounting, governance or financial management, to establish an area of individual expertise of their choice.

22. Criteria for admission to the programme

The normal entry requirement is an upper second-class honours degree or equivalent from an approved Institution. There are no particular subject requirements. Non-graduates who hold a professional qualification in accounting or cognate area that is deemed to be equivalent to 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 reading and 6.00 in the other categories.

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

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 <http://www.shef.ac.uk/ssid>.