

# Programme Handbook

Academic Year: 2025-26

## MSc Accounting and Finance

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## Welcome

Welcome to the MSc Accounting and Finance course offered by the School of Accounting and Finance at Bloomsbury Institute, in partnership with Birkbeck, University of London.

This Programme Handbook provides key information about the course that you are following. For all other non-course-specific information, please refer to your Student Handbook (the Appendix of this handbook provides the Index of your Student Handbook).

We wish you all the very best with your studies.

**Dr Joan O'Mahony**  
Principal

**Dr Mubashir Qurashi**  
Course Leader

**Note:** this Programme Handbook is available in electronic form from Canvas, your virtual learning environment.

## 1. Key Information

<b>Course:</b>	MSc Accounting and Finance	<b>Qualification(s)</b>	Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting and Finance
<b>Duration:</b>	One Year (full-time)	<b>Campus:</b>	Bloomsbury
<b>Start Dates:</b>	October 2025, February 2026, June 2026	<b>Awarding Body:</b>	Birkbeck, University of London

## 2. Overview

The MSc Accounting and Finance course is delivered by Bloomsbury Institute School of Accounting and Finance and leads to awards which are conferred on students by Birkbeck, University of London. Students who complete the courses will graduate from Birkbeck, University of London, alongside students who studied on the University's campus.

Most classes take place at Birkbeck College (Bloomsbury campus), with occasional classes being held in our Bedford Square building. Students are provided with access to the Bloomsbury Online Library and the Birkbeck, University of London, library resources.

Our MSc Accounting and Finance course is an applied, professionally focused programme designed to equip graduates with the advanced knowledge and transferable skills required by employers in a dynamic global marketplace. It prepares students to operate effectively within accounting and finance functions across a wide range of organisational contexts.

The programme develops expertise in financial reporting, analysis, interpretation, investment and financing decisions, while also fostering the strategic capability required for senior leadership roles. Graduates are prepared not only for traditional stewardship functions but also for executive management, corporate restructuring, and strategic growth in both established and emerging organisations.

Recognising the evolving role of accounting and finance professionals, the course emphasises data-driven decision-making, including the use of intelligent accounting and finance systems and big data analytics. It also embeds sustainability and responsible business practice within the curriculum, aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Bloomsbury Institute's commitment as a signatory to the London Higher Sustainability Pledge.

The degree is accredited by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), providing additional professional exemptions beyond those typically available at undergraduate level. Graduates benefit from strong career prospects in areas such as professional accountancy, financial analysis, banking, financial services, financial management and management accounting, and are well prepared to operate as skilled financial professionals in the international arena.

### 3. Academic Regulations

The Bloomsbury Institute delivers your programme and leads to an award from Birkbeck, University of London. This means that the Academic Regulations which apply to you throughout your studies are those of Birkbeck, University of London.

These regulations set out the rules for assessment, progression, reassessment, and the classification of awards, and ensure that standards are applied fairly and consistently. While this handbook summarises key programme information, the formal regulations of the awarding partner take precedence in all cases. Students are responsible for familiarising themselves with the regulations that apply to their course and for complying with them throughout their studies.

The Regulations are available at:

<https://www.bbk.ac.uk/documents/common-award-scheme-regulations-25-26.pdf>

### 4. Programme Specification

A summary of the main features of the programme is contained in the 'Programme Specification MSc Accounting and Finance'.

The Programme Specification includes information on the following:

- Admissions Requirements
- The educational aims of the Programme
- Distinctive Features
- Course Structure
- The subject-specific knowledge and skills (i.e. the learning outcomes) that a student will demonstrate achievement of through formal assessment
- The transferable skills that a student will have developed (with an indication of those skills that a student will demonstrate achievement of through formal assessment)
- The teaching, learning and assessment methods and strategies
- Professional body requirements
- Academic Regulations and course management
- Support for students and their learning
- Career and progression opportunities
- Methods for evaluating and enhancing the quality and standards of teaching and learning
- Indicators of quality and standards

The Programme Specification is published within the Programme area of Canvas, your virtual learning environment.

#### 4.1 Educational aims of the programme

The main aims of the MSc Accounting and Finance programme are to:

1. Provide advanced education and training in the academic discipline of accounting and finance that is intellectually rigorous and up to date within a global business context by offering a combination of rigorous and critical analysis of issues in these areas.
2. Provides a theoretical framework and practical skills that accounting and finance professionals working in financial institutions and financial markets need in order to cope with an increasingly complex and global financial environment.
3. Provide knowledge and understanding of the issues, problems and ideas associated with accounting and finance by way of a critical examination of the literatures associated with these fields of academic enquiry.
4. Provide an intellectually stimulating and satisfying experience of learning and teaching in accounting and finance that promotes in students a spirit of innovation and enterprise equipping them with lifelong learning skills.
5. Support accounting and finance students in their journey of becoming self-directed and critical learners, researchers and effective leaders who possess skills for independent research, enquiry, analysis, synthesis, critical evaluation, devising and sustaining arguments, decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts, and problem-solving.
6. Deepen students' graduate level understanding of conceptual and practical knowledge in accounting and finance by providing theoretical and analytical paradigms, and by applying them to stimulated and real-life problem-solving scenarios.
7. Further develop critical problem-solving skills and general/transferable skills, to prepare accounting and finance students for employment and lifetime career opportunities with a view to excelling.
8. Provide a valuable foundation for those considering continuing their academic studies in the field of applied finance and accounting leading to a PhD level.

## 4.2 Learning outcomes

At the end of the Programme, you will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

1. Demonstrate comprehensive and critical understanding of and ability to apply within global dimensions key aspects of accounting, finance and related areas in the design of financial strategy.
2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the core theoretical contributions to accounting, finance and related areas and how these may be applied to enhance management and professional practice.
3. Identify and investigate connections between the legal, economic and social environments as they bear on the accounting, finance and related subjects' operations.
4. Demonstrate understanding and in-depth knowledge of the research process.
5. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the process which underpins corporate strategy and planning.
6. Demonstrate command of relevant investment analysis, corporate finance and risk management techniques and methodologies applicable to problem solving, evaluation and strategy formulation in global financial services.
7. Demonstrate understanding of the development of the regulatory framework of financial reporting and discuss the principles of good corporate governance for listed companies and the need for internal controls.

Subject:

8. Demonstrate skills of analysis and synthesis and apply them to issues and decisions associated with accounting, finance, and related areas.

9. Create a range of valid alternative responses to situations and problems and evaluate and discriminate between them in a critical way.
10. Identify and utilise appropriate research strategies, methods and sources of data and information in order to formulate, design, manage and execute a substantial research project, and present and communicate the research findings in an appropriate form.
11. Critically review and apply relevant current theories and practices in the context of the accounting, finance, and related subject area.
12. Engage and negotiate effectively in professional dialogue and communicate complex ideas clearly and succinctly.

## 5. Modules and Course Structure

The course is delivered over three academic terms. Modules in Terms 1 and 2 are compulsory and provide the core knowledge and skills underpinning the programme. Term 3 is dedicated to the Final Project, enabling students to apply their learning through independent research and in-depth analysis of a management-related issue.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Core/Option	Likely teaching term(s) (1-Aut, 2-Spring 3-Summer)		
<b>MSc Accounting and Finance</b>					<b>Start point</b>		
<b>Full-time – 1 year</b>					<b>Oct</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Jun</b>
7	BUS7B72	Advanced Financial Reporting and Corporate Governance	30	Core	1	2	1
7	BUS7B71	Strategic Management Accounting	30	Core	1	2	1
7	BUS7B75	Corporate Finance and Performance Management	30	Core	2	1	2
7	BUS7B74 BUS7B75	Option - either International Finance and Risk Management Or Monetary Policy and Financial Markets	30	Option	2	1	2
7	BUS7B78	Dissertation (or research project)	60	Core	3	3	3
<i>Note there are three intakes, starting Oct, Feb and June.</i>							

## 6. Module descriptions

### 6.1 Level 7

#### **Advanced Financial Reporting and Corporate Governance**

This module helps you to develop a deeper knowledge and build skills in understanding corporate governance theories, principles, and mechanisms. Focusing on improving the governance of public companies and applying and understanding accounting standards, the module explains the theoretical frameworks required to prepare financial statements for a range of entities, including groups. Integrated reporting, and how to analyse and interpret those financial statements, are also covered in this module.

You will learn how to implement corporate governance codes, mechanisms, and principles to develop a sound monitoring system that ensures greater transparency and accountability, safeguarding the interests of stakeholder groups in public companies. The module also introduces the conceptual and regulatory framework of Financial Reporting to broaden your understanding, enabling you to analyse and discuss the topical issues and challenges facing the profession today.

This module prepares you to deal with key accounting transactions by following International Accounting and Reporting Standards. Upon successful completion of this module, you will be able to prepare financial statements for a single entity and groups in accordance with the ISAs and IFRS. You will also be able to analyse and interpret financial statements for internal and external purposes.

#### **Strategic Management Accounting**

This module covers the tools and techniques for applying strategic management accounting and decision-making theory. You will explore management accounting's position within the strategic management of businesses and how these techniques can be integrated into the strategic decision-making process. The module places particular emphasis on implementing appropriate management accounting systems to complement different strategies. Applications, cases, and examples include multinational organisations, SMEs, non-profit and governmental organisations.

On the successful completion of this module, you will have a good understanding of how management accounting contributes to organisational strategic decision-making. You will also understand both the theoretical principles of strategic management accounting and its practical application, which assists in the analysis of management accounting data and the development and monitoring of business strategy.

### ***Corporate Finance and Performance Management***

Leadership, management, project management, investment, financing, and dividend policy decisions are all skills which a finance manager requires. This module covers these areas and helps to develop a deeper understanding of firms' financial management, long-term investment, and working capital management, which will help you to understand financial decision-making in enterprises.

This module covers different types of leadership and management styles and their impact on performance and relationships in organisations. You will also consider the concepts and phases of project management, project management techniques, and project management leadership.

Finally, this module will guide you in applying corporate financial theory, project management techniques, and leadership and management styles to real-life scenarios encountered by entrepreneurs and decision-makers in the corporate world.

Upon the successful completion of this module, you will be able to explain capital budgeting techniques, sources of short- and long-term finance, and dividend policies that assist public companies in achieving shareholder wealth maximisation objectives. You will also understand the impact of leadership and management styles on firm performance and the project management techniques required to lead and manage projects successfully.

### ***International Finance and Risk Management***

This module enables students to understand and apply strategic decisions in financing, investment, and risk management in a global context. The module covers the financial management dimensions of leading a multinational enterprise (MNE). The MNE as an organisation poses unique demands on business leaders, who are confronted with a multitude of challenges. The increased importance of the global integration of money and capital markets has created expanded opportunities for investors and organisations alike. In everyday life, risk is usually regarded as something to be avoided entirely; however, in the investment world, risk and performance are inseparable. Understanding risk and how to manage it is an important skill in the financial world. Volatile exchange rates have not only increased risk but also created unique opportunities for both investors and firms to profit when properly understood and managed.

On the successful completion of this module, students will possess a demonstrably good understanding of the international financial system, the evolving globalisation of the world economy, and the strategies firms can employ to respond to these changes, including hedging techniques. Students should also understand financial derivatives in an integrated manner, in their application to risk management.

### ***Monetary Policy and Financial Markets***

You'll take a closer look at money, monetary policy, and financial markets in the globalised world in this module, offering insight into the techniques used to set monetary policy and how they can be applied in real-world situations. Sound knowledge of these essential areas is crucial for finance professionals who have to grapple with the effects of central bank monetary policy and occasional financial crises. Successful completion of this module will enable you to confidently evaluate the impact of monetary policy on businesses, households and other economic agents. You will also develop a deeper analysis of the money-creation process, general equilibrium theory, inflation, portfolio theory, monetary policy

objectives and instruments, interest rates, central bank independence, and related topics. In addition, the content in this module should complement the other modules in the programme to ensure students have the necessary knowledge, understanding and application to work as competent practitioners in the financial industry.

### ***Dissertation***

Your MSc dissertation is an independent piece of research. You will be graded on your ability to identify a topic relevant to the programme, design and execute research and present it as a dissertation. The core integrative element of the MSc Accounting and Finance programme, your dissertation, is the final stage of the master's degree. It provides an opportunity to demonstrate that you have gained the necessary knowledge, understanding, conceptual awareness and skills required to organise and conduct academic research.

## 7. Module Leaders

The Module Leader for each module is as follows:

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Module Leader
7	BUS7B72	Advanced Financial Reporting and Corporate Governance	
7	BUS7B71	Strategic Management Accounting	
7	BUS7B75	Corporate Finance and Performance Management	
7	BUS7B74	International Finance and Risk Management	
	BUS7B75	Monetary Policy and Financial Markets	
7	BUS7B78	Dissertation (or research project)	

## 8. Academic staff

Accounting and Finance staff are located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of 7 Bedford Square. Their contact details are:

Name	Email	Position
Dr Nnamdi Obiosa	<a href="mailto:Nnamdi.Obiosa@bil.ac.uk">Nnamdi.Obiosa@bil.ac.uk</a>	Head of the School of Accounting & Finance
Dr Mubashir Qurashi	<a href="mailto:Mubashir.Qurashi@bil.ac.uk">Mubashir.Qurashi@bil.ac.uk</a>	Principal Lecturer & Course Leader
Dr Yue Fang	<a href="mailto:Yue.Fang@bil.ac.uk">Yue.Fang@bil.ac.uk</a>	Senior Lecturer in Accounting & Finance
John Adjei	<a href="mailto:John.Adjei@bil.ac.uk">John.Adjei@bil.ac.uk</a>	Senior Lecturer in Accounting & Finance
Olayinka Olugbile	<a href="mailto:Olayinka.Olugbile@bil.ac.uk">Olayinka.Olugbile@bil.ac.uk</a>	Lecturer in Accounting & Finance
Barry McFadzean	<a href="mailto:Barry.mcfadzean@bil.ac.uk">Barry.mcfadzean@bil.ac.uk</a>	Part-time Lecturer in Accounting & Finance
Saira Zia	<a href="mailto:Saira.Zia@bil.ac.uk">Saira.Zia@bil.ac.uk</a>	Part-time Lecturer in Accounting & Finance

## 9. Professional recognition and career opportunities

### 9.1 Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)

Our BSc Accounting & Finance degree course is accredited by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA). CIMA is one of the leading professional bodies for management accountants with more than 597,000 members and students in 188 countries.

You can take advantage of CIMA online communities and free resources, including career support services such as interview tips, CV support, discussion forums, graduate vacancies, networking events and employment skills classes.

CIMA prepares people for a career in business. It teaches skills in strategic advice, risk management, and key decision-making, with a syllabus designed to deliver a strong understanding of all aspects of business so members can contribute across many areas of the organisations they work in.

Graduates of our BSc Accounting and Finance course will be granted up to 8 exemptions from the 16 CIMA modules required to become a Chartered Management Accountant. Graduates from our MSc courses can be granted up to 11 exemptions from the 16 modules.

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