

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### KEY FACTS

<b>Programme name</b>	<b>International Accounting and Finance</b>
Award	MSc
School	Cass Business School
Department or equivalent	Specialist Masters Programme
Programme code	PSIAFN
Type of study	Full Time
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

### PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The MSc in International Accounting & Finance provides you with expertise in accounting and finance set in a broad international context. The course focuses on the connections between theory and practice. In particular, it explores issues in accounting and finance from the perspective of those who will be involved in the evaluation and/or management of company performance.

Throughout the course, where possible, lecturers will emphasise the many ethical issues that arise in the context of accounting practice. In so doing you will be encouraged to share your views with your lecturers and with your class mates, where a diversity of opinion is to be expected and encouraged.

You will be required to take nine core modules in term 1 and term 2 as outlined in the module list. In term 3, you have three options to complete the MSc:

**Option 1** - Elective study only by taking 5 x 18 hours specialist electives of 10 credits each\*

**Option 2**- a combination of elective study (3 x 10 credits) and an Applied Research Project with a maximum of 5,000 words (1 x 20 credits)\*

**Option 3** - A Business Research Project with a credit value of 40 and a maximum of 10,000 words, taken in tandem with one specialist elective.

*\* NB – 30 credit “super elective” in International Financial Reporting Standards can be substituted for 3 x 10 credits.*

Aims

- To provide a high quality education for individuals seeking a comprehensive understanding of accounting and financial analysis.
- To provide the students with a thorough understanding of the conceptual foundations of accounting and finance, and of the relevance of these in an applied context.
- To focus on the international context in view of the increased globalisation of accounting standards and capital markets.
- To provide students also with a focus on the wider business and strategic setting of accounting and finance decision-making.
- To demonstrate to students the relevance of research in accounting and finance to practice in these fields

### **WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?**

**On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:**

#### Knowledge and understanding:

- Acquire a critical understanding of the theories underlying current thinking in accounting and finance and how these are synthetically related.
- Have a critical understanding of how these theories can be applied in practical contexts.
- Have a critical understanding of the impact of globalisation on accounting and financial analysis issues.

#### Skills:

- Develop practical, analytical and decision-making skills in the field of accounting.
- Develop practical, analytical and decision-making skills in the field of finance.
- Demonstrate their ability to undertake independent research projects in the subject area and prepare a dissertation which argues their case in a convincing way and incorporates insights from the relevant literature appropriately.
- Acquire relevant IT and consulting skills, which will deepen their understanding of the business context within which accounting and financial decision-making takes place.
- Appreciate the implications of current accounting and finance theory for practical issues.

- Enhance group-working skills.
- Enhance presentation and communication (oral and written) skills.
- Identify relevant information from a large array of accounting, finance and business data.
- Acquire research and project management skills

Values and attitudes:

- Show critical awareness and understanding of ethical issues in financial reporting and financial markets.

**HOW WILL I LEARN?**

Teaching and learning methods include the opportunity for you to apply your knowledge and expertise to problems beyond those generally encountered. A range of teaching and learning strategies are used to help you meet the different learning outcomes and to cater for the varied backgrounds and experiences of you and your fellow students.

- Lectures and directed reading are used to help to help you achieve an understanding of the current level of knowledge in the relevant areas.
- Case studies, the use of specialist software package and real life exercises as well as contributions from outside speakers are used to achieve integration between theory and practice.
- Substantial pieces of individual work such as a Business Research Project will provide you with the opportunity to acquire research and report writing skills on an individual basis and you will also work in small groups with your fellow students in order to benefit from peer interaction.
- Classes are supported by e-learning material which is available on the Moodle Virtual Learning Network.

The assessment of the course will also support your learning:

- Coursework provides ongoing feedback on your programme.
- Tests will assess the knowledge gained.
- Examinations provide a more in-depth assessment of knowledge gained and also assess your problem solving abilities.

The MSc in International Accounting and Finance is designed and structured to allow for

intellectual progression through core modules taught in terms 1 and 2. Modules taught in term 2 normally build on the knowledge and skill acquired in term 1. Term three allows for further progression by choosing specialist elective modules or a dissertation/project, where students can apply knowledge and skills acquired earlier in the programme.

A minimum of 10 teaching and learning hours (both contact and non-contact) are required for each credit awarded. The precise weighting of different types of teaching and learning depends on the modules you take and the breakdown is therefore provided within the appropriate module specifications.

Non-contact hours are for self-directed study and account for the **minimum** amount of time you should spend studying independently, including subject research, reading, working in groups and completing assignments and other homework.

**Overall teaching and learning hours: approx 1800 hours**

**Contact hours: approx 348 hours**

## **WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?**

### Assessment and Assessment Criteria

This course is assessed by coursework and examinations and applies standard MSc grade related criteria.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade- Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

### Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy and will be provided in a variety of ways throughout your course, both formally and informally, in order to support your learning.

You will normally be provided with coursework feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional

grade or mark. The timescale for feedback on final projects or dissertations may be longer. Examination grades will be provided once they have been agreed by an Assessment Board.

More details about the feedback you can expect from individual modules and assessments will be provided by your lecturers.

The full policy can be found at:

[https://www.city.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/68921/assessment\\_and\\_feedback\\_policy.pdf](https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68921/assessment_and_feedback_policy.pdf)

### Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits. The programme is weighted according to the number of credits awarded for each module. Pass / Fail modules are excluded from this calculation.

The pass mark for each module is 50% and there are no minimum qualifying marks for individual components.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

#### **1. Re-Sit:**

You will normally be offered one re-sit attempt.

If you are successful in the re-sit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a re-sit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the component(s) that you passed at first attempt.

#### **2. Compensation:**

Compensation can only be awarded by the Final Assessment Board and must be applied within the following limits and conditions:

Where you fail up to a total of 20 credits (15 for a postgraduate certificate), you may be eligible for compensation if:

- Compensation is permitted for the module involved (see the “What will I Study” section of the programme specification), and
- It can be demonstrated that you have satisfied all the Learning Outcomes of the modules in the Programme, and

- A minimum overall mark of no more than 10% below the module pass mark has been achieved in the module to be compensated, and
- An aggregate mark of 50% has been achieved overall.

If you receive a compensated pass in a module you will be awarded the credit for that module. The original component marks will be retained in the record of marks and your original mark shall be used for the purpose of your award calculation.

If, at the point where you have results for all taught modules:

- You have no more than 20 credits outstanding (15 for a PG Certificate), and
- The grade for this module(s) is 40% or above, and
- Your overall degree average is at least 50%, and
- If the module(s) is eligible for compensation.

Then you will **not** be required to undertake the re-sit for that module, as this will be eligible for compensation.

**Please note:**

- **If you fail more than 20 credits (excluding project modules), then you must retake all outstanding assessments with no exceptions.**

If you do not meet the pass requirements for a module and do not complete your re-sit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:

[http://www.city.ac.uk/data/assets/word\\_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc](http://www.city.ac.uk/data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc)

**WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?**

Master's Degree:

	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
Degree	7	180	100	With Distinction	70

With Merit 65  
 Without 50  
 Classification

Postgraduate Diploma:

You must achieve 120 credits with a minimum mark of 50%.

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Degree	7	120	100

**Class**                      **% required**

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With Distinction 70  
 With Merit 65  
 Without 50  
 Classification

**WHAT WILL I STUDY?**

You are required to take 9 core modules in term 1 and term 2 as outlined in the module list. In term 3, you have three options to complete the MSc:

**Option 1** - Elective study only by taking 5 x 18 hours specialist electives of 10 credits each.\*

**Option 2** – Study through a combination of taught courses and applied research.

- Three elective units of 10 credits each\*
- One Applied Research Project of 20 credits and a maximum of 5000 words – to follow the completion of your elective programme

**Option 3** - A Business Research Project with a credit value of 40 and a maximum of 10,000 words, taken in tandem with one specialist elective.

*\* NB – 30 credit “super elective” in International Financial Reporting Standards can be substituted for 3 x 10 credits.*

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
Accounting Information and Capital Markets	SMM461	15	C	Y	7
Financial Statement Analysis	SMM146	15	C	Y	7
Financial Reporting	SMM249	15	C	Y	7

Strategic Cost Management	SMM452	15	C	Y	7
International Financial Management	SMM460	15	C	Y	7
Finance 2: Advanced Corporate Finance	SMM471	15	C	Y	7
Applied Empirical Accounting	SMM466	15	C	Y	7
Finance 1: Corporate Finance and Valuation	SMM469	15	C	Y	7
Research Methods for Finance Professionals	SMM522	10	C	Y	7
IFRS	SMM450	30	E	N	7
Business Research Project	SMM527	40	E	N	7
Applied Research Project	SMM799	20	E	N	7
Behavioural Finance	SMM274	10	E	Y	7
Ethics, Society and the Financial Sector	SMM500	10	E	Y	7
Global Real Estate Markets	SMM545	10	E	Y	7
Hedge Funds	SMM121	10	E	Y	7
Intro to Python	SMM283	10	E	Y	7
Investment Banking in Corporate Finance	SMM126	10	E	Y	7
Investment Strategy	SMM140	10	E	Y	7
Mergers and Acquisitions	SMM233	10	E	Y	7
Private Equity Investment	SMM528	10	E	Y	7
Project Finance	SMM232	10	E	Y	7
Project Finance and Infrastructure Investment	SMM953	10	E	Y	7
Trading and Market Microstructure	SMM921	10	E	Y	7
Visual Basics in Finance	SMM231	10	E	Y	7

During term three you will be able to choose from a range of electives to personalise your experience.

This list of electives is an indication of the range of modules that can be on offer and is subject to change due to circumstances such as: enhancing or updating the quality and content of educational provision; responding to student feedback; academic staffing changes; the number of students in each programme; a lack of student demand for certain modules; or factors beyond the institution's reasonable control, such as meeting

the latest requirements of a commissioning or accrediting body. For these reasons, not all the electives listed will be offered every year. New (additional or replacement) modules may also be added for these reasons.

There may also be pre-requisites for joining a module, and space and timetable availability restrictions may also apply.

The list of electives offered in a given year will be confirmed by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?**

<http://www.cass.city.ac.uk/more-about-cass/careers-services> - Careers Service

<http://www.cass.city.ac.uk/more-about-cass/alumni-services> - Alumni Service

### **WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?**

- Placements are not part of the programme.

### **WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?**

Accreditations for the course are available from a number of professional bodies, primarily:

- ACCA – Associate of Certified Chartered Accountants
- CIMA – Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
- ICAEW – Institute of Chartered Accountants for England and Wales

Please note that these change from time to time and the most up to date information is available on our website.

### **HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?**

To be accepted on to a Cass MSc degree you will need a good Bachelors degree. This usually means a UK 2.1 or above, or the equivalent from an overseas institution. Some level of previous study in the specific subject area may be required.

Applicants will need to submit two references, one of which must be an academic

reference if the candidate does not have previous work experience. Previous work experience is not a requirement of our full time MSc courses.

We require all students who have not previously studied at in English to take an IELTS exam. The IELTS requirement is 7.0 with a minimum of 6.5 in writing.

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