



## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### KEY FACTS

Programme name	Finance Finance (with Professional Placement)
Award	BSc (Hons)
School	Cass Business School
Department or equivalent	UG Programme (Cass Business School)
UCAS Code	N300 Finance N3N1 Finance (with Professional Placement)
Programme code	USFINE
Type of study	Full Time
Total UK credits	360
Total ECTS	180
Partner (partnership programmes only)	Beijing Normal University
Type of partnership	Articulation

### PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The BSc (Hons) Finance degree provides you with the academic knowledge and skills required to operate in the increasingly competitive world of finance. This degree is set up with the aim of ensuring coverage of all areas of finance, and as such distinguishes itself from the BSc (Hons) Banking and International Finance and the BSc (Hons) Investment and Financial Risk Management, which provide core skills in the areas of banking and financial risk management, respectively. Therefore, the BSc (Hons) Finance comprises areas such as Company Valuation, Financial Accounting, and Corporate Governance, which are not necessarily required in the banking and risk management sectors, while also including relevant areas from those degrees such as Corporate Finance, Asset Management, Derivatives, and International Finance. In years 2 and 3 you will also be able to choose a number of elective modules to focus more deeply on specialist areas such as Corporate Strategy, Bank Risk Management, Real Estate Valuation, Finance & Funding, or broaden your studies into areas including Accounting, Business And Financial Forecasting, or Emerging Markets.

This is a three year programme (or four years, if a sandwich year is taken or you apply for the programme with an integrated Professional Placement).

If you apply for the four year with Professional Placement programme you will need to

secure a Professional Placement between years 2 and 3. If you do not secure a Placement you will be transferred to the BSc Finance programme.

A Sir John Cass Business School undergraduate degree earns you the credibility with employers to achieve success in your chosen career. The unique combination of our central London location, academic programmes and professional contacts offer you a great head start in business. Cass has been ranked 1st in London and 4th in the UK for our undergraduate courses in business, management and finance by The Guardian University Guide from 2008 to 2014.

Our undergraduate programmes are constantly evolving to meet the needs of an ever-changing business world. They are delivered within the context of a vibrant, diverse and multi-national environment which is part of the City of London. Not only in terms of its location, but also in terms of the role we play as an intellectual hub for the City.

As a university specialising in undergraduate business degrees, many of our academics and lecturers have worked in industry and continue to consult for corporate organisations, so you benefit from their first-hand knowledge and business experience. There is every chance that you will have the opportunity to meet and learn from high-level practitioners from leading City firms.

The degree aims to:

1. Develop your knowledge and understanding of modern financial theory and the analytical tools that allow you to apply this knowledge;
2. Develop your ability to analyse, interpret, and understand issues related to finance;
3. Develop your ability to make reasoned judgements, frame appropriate questions, and draw independent conclusions;
4. Develop your ability to communicate your knowledge and understanding effectively, form valid arguments, and draw conclusions based on reason and scientific rules;
5. Equip you with the ability to work and think both independently, as well as part of a team, in solving problems faced by the finance community;
6. Develop you into a responsible and socially aware business person or manager;
7. Prepare you to enter postgraduate study in finance or related disciplines.

On successful completion of Programme Stage 1 of the Programme you will have acquired a foundation knowledge and understanding of the key concepts and principles underlying your area of study, the ability to recognize and explain these, and to identify and apply appropriate solutions when presented with a problem. On successful completion of Programme Stage 1 you will be eligible for the award of Certificate of Higher Education should you choose to leave the Programme.

On successful completion of Programme Stage 2 of the Programme you will have built on the knowledge and understanding gained at Programme Stage 1 and demonstrated an ability to analyse and apply these concepts and principles to complex problems and scenarios. You will have also have broadened your field of study through the completion

of elective modules. On successful completion of Programme Stage 2 you will be eligible for the award of Diploma of Higher Education should you choose to leave the Programme.

The first year and a half is taught in conjunction with the other BSc programmes in finance. On successful completion of the first year students on either programme can apply to transfer to the other, subject to the consent of the Course Directors and spaces being available.

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

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

### Knowledge and understanding:

- Critically discuss financial markets, their activities, and products.
- Demonstrate through evaluation and analysis knowledge of the major theoretical tools and theories of finance, and their relevance and application to theoretical and practical problems, their assumptions and weaknesses, and ability to propose alternatives.
- Describe and evaluate the relationship between financial theory and empirical testing, and apply this knowledge to the appraisal of the empirical evidence in corporate finance and capital markets.
- Reflect on and be able to articulate the usefulness of quantitative finance in today's financial markets.

### Skills:

- Analyse complex financial information using appropriate quantitative tools, critically evaluate arguments and evidence using specific banking and finance platforms, and draw reasoned conclusions.
- Demonstrate an ability to locate, extract and analyse data from multiple sources, including the acknowledgement and referencing of sources.
- Develop and utilise strong numerical and IT skills, and demonstrate a deep knowledge of databases related to finance.
- Self-manage appropriate aspects of your learning, as well show a developing potential to follow a programme of original research into a finance topic.
- Present quantitative and qualitative information together with analysis, argument, and commentary orally as well as in written form, and in a style appropriate to different intended audiences.
- Work effectively and efficiently with a group as a leader or member.

### Values and attitudes:

- Demonstrate an ethical approach to work, which resonates with that expected of a professional manager.
- Work as an effective team player who demonstrates tolerance of

disagreement, openness and sensitivity to diversity in terms of business, cultures, people, and finance issues.

- Exhibit assurance, confidence, and self-belief in your own ability to apply the skills and knowledge learnt on the degree.

When you undertake a programme of study at Cass Business School we will expect you not only to learn but also to challenge and look critically at the world in which we live. We will constantly ask you to question the ethical underpinning of the assumptions you have made and the decisions you have reached, and that inquisitive, ethical approach is woven through every element of a Cass education. In recognition Cass is one of the few business schools to have been awarded Champion Status by the UN PRME (Principles of Responsible Management Education) initiative at Davos in 2018.

This programme has been developed in accordance with the QAA Subject Benchmark for Finance.

### **HOW WILL I LEARN?**

Most teaching hours during your degree programme take the form of lectures and these may be of varying sizes. Lectures are used to communicate the basic theoretical or technical points relevant to the module.

Tutorials and exercise classes are opportunities for you to apply and develop your knowledge and understanding and to participate in the discussion of the subject area. A number of tutorials and exercise classes are scheduled during the first year, the number decreasing as you progress and you become more able to direct your self-managed learning.

Some modules use case studies to bring real-life issues to the classroom and, as such, foster a practice-oriented approach. In other modules, computer simulations may be required to assist in the identification and likely impact of key decision variables. The final year project and some more quantitative modules require extensive use of our databases and statistical packages while certainly makes full use of self-directed learning and contribution to your independent critical thinking.

In all modules, the face-to-face teaching is complemented by the use of the Virtual Learning Environment.

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

#### Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Assessment is carried out according to context and purpose and recognises that you may exhibit different aptitudes in different forms of assessment.

Most modules are assessed by both coursework and an exam. Coursework can include:

- Essays or reports which you can take home and complete with the aid of your notes.
- Class tests.
- Online quizzes and tests using the Virtual Learning Environment.
- Individual and group presentations.

- Group projects, sometimes based on case studies.
- You may decide to undertake a Final Year Project as part of your Programme which would count for a quarter of your Stage 3 marks. The Final Year Project enables you to apply much of the knowledge, personal development and skills you have acquired during the programme in the creation of a piece of research that has been designed and executed by you.. Every project is different, and there are often many ways of defining and approaching a particular project area and a variety of methods that can be employed. Some of these will be more effective than others in enabling you to reach the project objectives. But, all successful projects will require clarity of purpose, careful planning and good organisation. For all these reasons, it is necessary that you devote considerable effort towards the Project should you decide to undertake one. Because of this, we would normally only allow you to undertake the Final Year Project if you have a Stage 2 average mark of at least 65%. Students with a Stage 2 average mark less than 65% who wish to undertake the Project can only do so with the permission of the course director

Formal unseen written exams take place at the end of each term (or at the end of the year, if a module is taught over both terms).

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 on all assessed work (either formative or summative) and on other relevant aspects of your performance and progress in a module. You will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations, or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided when results are released following the Assessment Board.

#### 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. You also need to pass each Programme Stage of your Programme in order to progress to the following Programme Stage.

To qualify for the Honours Degree, you must acquire the total credits indicated in the Student Handbook. Calculation of results and classification of the final award is based on a weighted average of module marks. The contribution of each module is proportional to its credit value.

BSc degrees are awarded with First Class Honours, Second Class Honours (Upper and Lower) or Third Class Honours.

The overall class of honours awarded is based on the overall weighted average mark achieved throughout the three Programme Stages of your degree. The weights given to each Programme Stage are shown below:

<b>Programme Stage</b>	<b>Weight</b>
One	10%
Two	30%
Three	60%

The Pass mark for each module is 40%.

### **Progression from Programme Stage 1 to Programme Stage 2**

To be admitted to Programme Stage 2 it is necessary to achieve:

- A module mark of at least 40% in each module, and
- 120 credits at Programme Stage 1.

### **Progression from Programme Stage 2 to Programme Stage 3**

To be admitted to Programme Stage 3 it is necessary to achieve:

- A module mark of at least 40% in each module, and
- 120 credits at Programme Stage 2.

### **Progression from Programme Stage 2 to Programme Stage 3 – term abroad**

To be admitted to Programme Stage 3 it is necessary to achieve:

- A pass in each module studied at the partner institution, and
- A module mark of at least 40% in each Cass module, and
- 120 credits at Programme Stage 2.

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

## **1. Compensation**

### **Compensation at Programme Stages 1 & 2**

Where you fail up to a total of one sixth of the total credits of Programme Stages 1 or 2 at first or resit attempt, you may be allowed 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 Stage, and
- A minimum overall mark of 30% has been achieved in the module to be compensated, including a minimum of 30% in the exam and 30% in the coursework, and
- An aggregate mark of 40% has been achieved for the Programme Stage.

### **Compensation at Programme Stage 3**

Once 90 credits have been earned, the remaining credits for Programme Stage 3 can be earned either by passing modules or through compensation provided that:

- 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 Stage, and
- A minimum overall mark of 30% has been achieved in each module to be compensated, and
- An aggregate mark of 40% has been achieved for Programme Stage 3.

Where you are eligible for compensation at the first attempt, this will be applied in the first instance rather than offering a resit opportunity.

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 module mark will be used for the purpose of your Award calculation.

## 2. Resit

Where you are not eligible for compensation at the first attempt, you will be offered one resit attempt.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit 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 components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the pass requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress to the next Programme Stage and the Assessment Board will require you to be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for a particular Programme Stage or 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?

### Bachelor's Degree with Honours:

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
1	4	120	10	I	70
2	5	120	30	II upper division	60
3	6	120	60	II lower division	50
				III	40

### Ordinary Degree:

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
1	4	120	10	With Distinction	70
2	5	120	30	With Merit	60

3	6	60	60	Without classification	40
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Diploma of Higher Education:

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
1	4	120	35	With Distinction	70
2	5	120	65	Without classification	60
				With Pass	40

Certificate of Higher Education:

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
1	4	120	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without classification	40

### WHAT WILL I STUDY?

At least 30 credits attained in programme stages 2 and 3 together must come from electives that are specifically relevant to the BSc in Finance. These modules are marked with an asterisk, and include the Final Year project.

#### Programme Stage 1

Total Programme Stage I credit value = 120 credits.  
Students take 8 core modules = 120 credits.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be compensated?	Level
Banking and Financial Institutions	IF1204	15	C	Y	4
Business Skills	IF1106	15	C	Y	4
Finance and Investment	FR1101	15	C	Y	4
Introductory Financial Accounting	AF1101	15	C	Y	4
Macroeconomics	IF1203	15	C	Y	4
Mathematics for Finance	FR1202	15	C	Y	4
Microeconomics	IF1105	15	C	Y	4
Statistics for Finance	FR1203	15	C	Y	4

#### Programme Stage 2

Total Programme Stage 2 credit value = 120 credits.  
Students take 6 core modules = 90 credits.  
Students choose 2 elective modules = 30 credits.

Module Title	SITS	Module	Core/	Can be	Level
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	Code	Credits	Elective	compensated?	
Intermediate Financial Accounting	AF2101	15	C	Y	5
Financial Econometrics	FR2202	15	C	Y	5
Derivatives	IF2209	15	C	Y	5
Corporate Finance and Valuation	IF2105	15	C	Y	5
Portfolio Theory & Investment Valuation	FR2209	15	E*	Y	5
Asset Management	IF2210	15	E	Y	5
International Banking	IF2103	15	E	Y	5
Bank Risk Management	IF2208	15	E	Y	5
Company Valuation	FR2203	15	C	Y	5
Corporate Risk Management	FR2105	15	C	Y	5
Intermediate Financial Accounting 2	AF2203	15	E*	Y	5
Introduction to Real Estate Investment	FR2106	15	E	Y	5
Risk Analysis and Modelling	FR2208	15	E	Y	5
Fundamentals of Management Accounting	FR2213	15	E	Y	5
Introduction to Business Law	BM2210	15	E*	Y	5
Economics for Business 2	BM2208	15	E	Y	5

### Programme Stage 3

Total Programme Stage 3 credit value = 120 credits.

Students take 3 core modules = 45 credits, and

5 elective modules = 75 credits.

Students with an average grade of 65 and above at programme stage 2 may choose to do IF3000 Final Year Project (30 credits) in place of IF3003 Final Year Applied Research Project (15 credits) and one elective (15 credits).

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be compensated?	Level
Final Year Applied Research Project OR Final Year Project	IF3003 IF3000	15 30	C E*	Y N	6
Banking Regulation	IF3102	15	E	Y	6
Financial Services Regulation	FR3207	15	E	Y	6
Monetary Economics	IF3109	15	E	Y	6
Fixed Income Portfolio Management	FR3100	15	E	Y	6
International Finance	IF3101	15	E*	Y	6

Advanced Financial Accounting: Theory and Practice	AF3203	15	E	Y	6
Asset Liability Management	FR3102	15	E	Y	6
Mergers and Acquisitions	BS3218	15	C	Y	6
Bank Strategy and Management	IF3104	15	E	Y	6
Corporate Restructuring	IF3207	15	C	Y	6
Corporate Social Responsibility	BS3214	15	E*	Y	6
Emerging Markets	IF3206	15	E	Y	6
Financial Engineering	FR3200	15	E*	Y	6
Real Estate Finance and Funding	FR3202	15	E	Y	6
Business Forecasting	IF3103	15	E	Y	6
General Insurance	AS3303	15	E	Y	6
Strategy for Business	BS3100	15	E	Y	6
Machine Learning for Finance	IF3110	15	E	Y	6

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.

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

Certain electives may be pre-requisites for other electives you may wish to take later in the programme. Full details can be found in the individual Module Specifications and will be updated annually in your Course Handbook.

In view of the importance of foreign language skills and employability, you also have the opportunity to study extra-curricular (non-credit bearing) language courses in Arabic, French, German, Mandarin, Russian and Spanish.

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

As a graduate of this course, you will be well-placed to enter a career in the finance industry, in the finance function in a corporation, in consulting, or in regulation and government. Job roles include Assistant Auditor, Consulting Analyst, Financial Analyst, Graduate Analyst, Insurance Broker Assistant, Investment Banking Analyst, Investment Banking Credit Risk Analyst, Market Analyst, Risk Management Assistant, or Underwriting Assistant.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

### **WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?**

You can choose to study abroad for a full year or for one term. You can also choose to combine studying abroad with a period of work experience.

Your Study Abroad options are:

**1. Term Abroad:**

Programme Details: If you are accepted on this programme you will spend the 1<sup>st</sup> term of your 2<sup>nd</sup> year of study at one of our partner universities abroad. You will take equivalent 2<sup>nd</sup> year modules in English at the overseas institution. You will then return to Cass to complete the 2<sup>nd</sup> term of your 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Your term abroad will count for 60 credits towards your degree but not to your final award mark. If you take part in this programme you **are** permitted to also undertake a Placement Sandwich Year.

Eligibility criteria: You will be required to pass all year 1 assessments at first attempt and to achieve a minimum of 60% in each of your 1<sup>st</sup> year January examinations.

**2. Sandwich Year Abroad:**

Programme Details: If you are accepted on this programme you will go abroad in between your 2<sup>nd</sup> and **final** year of study. Your year abroad will not count for credit but, if you pass all your assessments abroad, you will receive a Study Abroad endorsement as a recognised part of your degree. Within this programme you can choose from the following options:

a. **Full year studying abroad:** You will study business school modules at a partner university abroad (you can also opt to go to two different partner universities abroad in each term if you wish). You can choose to study entirely in English or take some modules in the language of the partner university if you possess the required language skills.

b. **Half year studying abroad and half year undertaking a work internship abroad:** You will spend one term studying business school modules at a partner university abroad and the other term undertaking a self-organised work internship abroad. During the study abroad term you can choose to study entirely in English or take some modules in the language of the partner university if you possess the required language skills.

Eligibility Criteria: You will be required to pass your year 2 assessments at first attempt.

Studying abroad enables you to improve your language skills and develop future business contacts, and provides you with an international outlook on business.

## WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

### Professional Work Placement Option

Programme Details: The Professional Work Placement programme is a recognised part of your degree, which is endorsed on your final degree certificate. It is undertaken during your 3<sup>rd</sup> year, giving you the opportunity to add a valuable additional year to your degree working for a professional organisation, either in the UK or abroad. You will then return to Cass, after your Placement, to complete your final year.

The aims of the Professional Work Placement go beyond work experience. You will spend a period of 9 – 12 months within a professional working environment taking on

real responsibilities whilst receiving a competitive salary. This option is intended to give you practical experience which can be related to the knowledge gained at University and is greatly valued by graduate employers. You also get the opportunity to explore the industry you would like to enter after graduation. You will develop key personal, transferable and professional skills, along with the added possibility of securing a graduate position on completing your placement.

**Eligibility:** You are required to pass all of your Year 2 assessments at the first attempt. However, students not meeting this requirement will be considered on a case by case basis.

**Summer Internships:**

Taken at the end of your 2<sup>nd</sup> Year for a period of 4 – 12 weeks, this is a great opportunity to gain vocationally relevant work experience within a professional organisation. On completion of your internship you will receive a 'Certificate of Professional Experience'

**Eligibility:** No requirements

**WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?**

**Accrediting Body:** Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)

<http://www.cii.co.uk/>

**Nature of Accreditation**

Upon completion of the degree students will receive a significant number of credits towards the Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Financial Services and the Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Insurance.

**Accrediting Body:** Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)

<https://www.icaew.com/>

**Nature of Accreditation**

Specific Cass papers give exemptions for specific ICAEW papers.

**Accrediting Body:** Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS)

<https://www.icas.com/>

**Nature of Accreditation**

Specific Cass papers give exemptions for specific ICAS papers at the Test of Competence level.

Please note that recognition of prior learning awards can change at any time in response to qualification framework changes. Any changes will be

communicated to you as soon as they are confirmed.

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

For A-level students our standard offer is AAA.

In addition, GCSE Maths (grade B) and English Language (grade C) or equivalent are required for A Level students.

For International Baccalaureate students our standard offer is 36 points overall, with minimum 5 in each subject.

For BTEC students our standard offer is Distinction Distinction Distinction.

In addition, GCSE Maths (grade A) and English Language (grade C) or equivalent are required for BTEC students.

We also make offers on other international, European and British qualifications that are recognised by British Universities.

For students whose first language is not English, evidence of English language proficiency is required.

IELTS: 6.5 with a minimum of 6 in any unit.

Pearson Academic English: 58 overall with a minimum of 50 in any component.

Version: 6.0

Version date: February 2021

For use from: 2021-22