

Course record information

Name and level of final award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Science - Finance and Accounting <p>The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible</p>
Name and level of intermediate awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - Finance and Accounting • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - Finance and Accounting
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Primary: Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	Business and Management
Professional statutory or regulatory body	<p>Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)</p> <p>Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)</p>
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSc Finance and Accounting FT, Full-time, September or January start - 1 year standard length
Valid for cohorts	From 2021/2

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum entry requirements for all postgraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information. For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements. More information can be found here: <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply>.

Aims of the programme

The principal aim of the MSc Finance and Accounting course is to equip graduates with the knowledge and skills they will need so that they can pursue a wide range of careers in the fields of accounting and finance. Graduates may find careers in any aspect of the global business function that requires expertise in accounting, investment and the numerical aspects of finance. Such careers may be based in the private, public or not-for-profit sector. In some cases, graduates will be intending to work in family businesses and will be returning with the skills required to ameliorate the finance function.

The course's specific aims are:

- To enable participants to improve their knowledge of finance and accounting, with an emphasis on those who are looking for an enhanced experience in study in such areas and/or are seeking a change in direction in their studies and hence careers
- To provide students with a route to gain professional qualifications in any field of accounting with the focus on the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).
- To provide a range of modules which will provide advanced studies in the cores of finance and accounting
- To maintain and develop links with industry and professional bodies to enhance value of qualifications and services offered and to increase employability of our graduates
- To promote quality research as an output in its own right and to underpin credibility of the taught programme.
- As far as possible, to harmonise with international professional bodies' qualifications to permit international credit accumulation and transfer.

Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students.

Students who have completed this Masters programme have gone on to careers in financial or management accounting, finance, commerce, education, government and management. Many of those who have gone down the financial accounting route have secured jobs with one of the "Big 4" accounting firms.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Course learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning.

These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

The overall knowledge and understanding you will gain from your course (KU)

Graduate attributes are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA)

Professional and personal practice learning outcomes are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP)

Key transferable skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. (KTS)

Level 7 course learning outcomes: upon completion of Level 7 you will be able to:

- 001 Be able to demonstrate a breadth and depth of knowledge across the theoretical and practical areas of both accounting and finance, some of which may involve working at the limits of theoretical or research boundaries. (KU)
- 002 Have the required knowledge of techniques in finance and accounting, along with mastery of analytical techniques, to be able to advise and act as consultants in key decision making areas. (KU)
- 003 Be able to identify the risks in a business management context and to be able to recommend ways to mitigate such risks by the use of appropriate financial instruments. (KU)
- 004 Reflect on current financial and accounting theory and practice and be able to apply a high level of knowledge and understanding from these subject areas to a diverse range of academic, practical and professional issues and problems. (KU)
- 005 To provide students with analytical skills in accounting and finance, the ability to work with professionals from other disciplines and powers of advocacy in presenting cases and advising key decision-makers. (KU)
- 006 Present their findings in a coherent report in the discipline of finance and/or accounting, in which they will evaluate critically the current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline and deal with complex issues in a way that can be clearly understood by specialist and non-specialist audiences and be prepared to argue and justify their approach. (SS)
- 007 Use on-line resources, including mathematical programs, to enhance their research and justify their finding. (SS)
- 008 Use their skills to turn theory into practice within a work environment. (SS)
- 009 Be able to explore new ideas and innovative techniques coming into use in contemporary international capital markets operations and management. (SS)
- 010 Demonstrate their ability to apply a range of analytical frameworks to problems, policy issues, case studies and other forms of assessment (including examinations). (SS)
- 011 Ability to approach complex problems in a systematic way, informed by a range of relevant knowledge, tools and techniques in order to critically analyse, advise and solve practical problems (KTS)
- 012 Ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks in a professional setting. (KTS)
- 013 Ability to communicate clearly in writing and other media to specialist and non-specialist audiences. (KTS)
- 014 Ability to contribute in an engaged manner to team-working. (KTS)
- 015 Use of appropriate computer software tools and financial databases. (KTS)
- 016 Time management skills, having learnt the importance of prioritising tasks. (KTS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

Learning and knowledge skills will be acquired through material delivered in lectures, exercises, case-study work covered and debated in seminars. Some classes will take place in computer lab, including the Financial Market Suite, which will enable students to develop their use of financial databases. The coursework element of each module will be completed by a student either singly or as part of group. Coursework helps to develop a much deeper understanding of the subject. Students are made aware that their subject area is evolving and it is their responsibility to acquire further information in order to continue with lifelong learning process.

Lifelong learning is an important feature of the course and is operational through each module and culminates with the completion and submission of a major project at the end of the programme. Under the direction and supervision by a member of staff, students will be encouraged to produce work that could ultimately lead to publication in journals.

Students will have the opportunity to develop presentation and advocacy. Presentation skills will be developed through report submissions, while oral presentation skills will be developed through interchanges of communication in seminar discussions. The coursework in a number of modules will emphasise the communication of technical ideas to non-specialists.

Each module encourages use of learning styles and experiences of individual lecturers responsible for the module. In addition, the lectures followed by seminars or tutorials will aim to encourage group discussion of a topic in order to stimulate learning and to encourage independent learning. Guided reading and solving a variety of problems in seminars is a common feature of many modules. Students are encouraged to widen their knowledge by covering the course reading material, completing exercises provided in adopted texts and by studying peer-reviewed journal articles.

Teaching methods

The teaching approaches used by the team delivering the course will seek to ensure that the student is offered a good theoretical and practical grounding in all areas of accounting and finance related to this course. Students will learn about accounting and finance principles. They will develop an ability to read and interpret financial statements, give financial advice and undertake financial risk management. They will also be taught how to critically analyse. The core modules ensure that students have the desired educational and skills sets to achieve these objectives. The electives will allow students to concentrate on areas of particular interest to them.

The programme will use a variety of conventional teaching methods including lectures, seminars and workshops. Students will be expected to develop a high degree of competence in data handling and financial problem solving, using appropriate computer software packages as required.

Knowledge will be acquired and then applied so that students learn to appreciate that theory delivered and taught in the classroom setting can be applied in a modern setting. Practical examples will be emphasised and students' own experience will be drawn upon where appropriate. Although the course is largely focused on theory and application of techniques, the coursework set for each module will promote learner independence and self-development.

Assessment methods

All modules, except for the Research Methods and Project modules, will be assessed by a mixture of coursework and examinations. The weightings on most modules is 30:70, coursework to examination.

Assessment methods are those most appropriate to each module. Assessment methods are kept under constant review through course monitoring procedures.

The collective assessments made via the modules that are part of this course are designed to ensure that the learning outcome objectives for the course are met collectively by the diet of modules provided on this course.

Course Structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year. Additional free text information on the choices may also be included, for example where students must choose one of two modules.. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

Modules

Level 7

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7ACCN024W	Finance Management and Corporate Valuation	Core	20	10
7ACCN022W	Financial Accounting Policy and Practice	Core	20	10
7ACCN012W	Managerial Accounting	Core	20	10
7FNCE023W	Project (Finance and Accounting)	Core	20	10
7BUSS013W	Research Methods in Finance and Accounting	Core	20	10
7ACCN017W	Taxation Principles and Practice	Core	20	10
7ACCN023W	Auditing, Assurance and Professional Ethics	Option	20	10
7ECON001W	Data Analysis	Option	20	10
7FNCE009W	Financial Derivatives	Option	20	10
7ACCN021W	Financial Information Systems	Option	20	10
7FNCE011W	Financial Markets and Institutions	Option	20	10
7FNCE013W	Fixed Income Analysis and Trading	Option	20	10
7FNCE019W	International Risk Management	Option	20	10
7FNCE021W	Modern Portfolio Management	Option	20	10

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. In addition, timetabling and limited spaces may mean you cannot register for your first choice of option modules.

Professional body accreditation or other external references

The course has been accredited by both the [Association of Chartered Certified Accountants \(ACCA\)](#) and the [Chartered Institute of Management Accountants \(CIMA\)](#). Graduates of the MSc Finance and Accounting course may qualify for up to 9 exemptions from ACCA's 14 examinations. They also have the opportunity to go through CIMA's Gateway Route which grants 11 exemptions from CIMA's 16 examinations on successful completion of a Gateway exam.

Course management

In terms of course management the following personnel are in charge of various aspects of this programme and others within the Business School.

The Head of College holds responsibility for the course and for other courses run by Westminster Business School and for the overall quality and delivery of the educational process.

The Head of School I has responsibility for the courses in the School of Finance and Accounting.

The Course Leader has responsibility for the academic integrity of the programme. This includes the everyday management of the course, development of the curriculum, and ensuring the delivery in terms of quality control and equivalence of experience for course participants.

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations.

Course specific regulations apply to some courses.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Campus Registry. You will be

provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students. Further information on Blackboard can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/studies/your-student-journey/when-you-arrive/blackboard>

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development).

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught in their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/student-advice>

The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/students-union>

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel. University Panels normally include internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university, a representative from industry and a Student Advisor.

The course is also monitored each year by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course and make changes where necessary.

A Course revalidation takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Course representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course representatives.
- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College and University committees.;
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate, if they take full advantage of the learning

opportunities that are provided. This specification is supplemented by the Course Handbook, Module proforma and Module Handbooks provided to students. Copyright in this document belongs to the University of Westminster. All rights are reserved. This document is for personal use only and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose, either in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the University of Westminster. All copies of this document must incorporate this Copyright Notice – 2022©