

## Programme Specification

A Programme Specification provides a concise summary of the main features of a programme and its intended learning outcomes. It is intended to be used by prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers.

<b>Programme Title:</b>	
<b>MSci Accounting and Finance</b>	
<b>Programme (AOS) Code(s):</b>	<b>MB1ACC1</b>
<b>UCAS Code:</b>	
<b>Name of Final Award:</b>	<b>Master in Science, MSci</b>
<b>Level of Qualification:</b>	<b>Level 7</b>
<b>Regime of Delivery:</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
<b>Mode(s) of Delivery:</b>	<b>Full Time</b>
<b>Typical Length of Study (Years):</b>	<b>4 Years</b>
<b>Professional Body Recognition / Accreditation (including specific requirements where applicable):</b>	<b>Compensation will not apply to modules linked to exemptions.</b>

### Brief Description of the Programme

This Integrated Masters programme allows those students with a strong interest in responsible career roles in accounting and finance to achieve a Masters qualification (undergraduate and postgraduate studies combined in single course) within 4 years. The programme is designed to reflect current sector practices, employer and industry requirements.

The first three years of this programme are very similar to the 3-year BSc (Hons) accounting and finance programme, but provides you with the opportunity to explore your interest in greater detail by offering a fourth year of study, enabling you to graduate with a Masters degree. A major benefit of Integrated Master's degree courses is the final year dissertation which will help you to develop advanced technical and professional skills that are required for research or other practically-based careers.

Successful completion of the award will give students access to nine (9) ACCA exemptions (F1 – F9). The students will also receive several exemptions from other professional bodies such as CIMA, ICAEW and IFA. Demand for qualified specialists in accounting and finance has always exceeded supply. Graduates can, therefore, expect a rewarding career and unlimited choice of the industry they wish to work in.

The programme also offers students the opportunity to work on real-life scenarios, business challenges and with students drawn from a variety of other disciplines at Bucks. It is also ideal for students who want to develop more advanced knowledge in accounting and finance. Thus, broadening and gaining internationally sought-after skills and exemptions from professional bodies which are recognised globally.

This course is deliberately designed to equip students with the latest cutting-edge theory and application of accounting and finance at national and international level. Our lecturers have

extensive industry and academic experience. They'll help you mix theory with practice, informing your teaching with their knowledge. We attract many guest speakers from industry, who share their business acumen, inform on current practices, career opportunities, and help prepare you for working life as Accounting and Finance professional.

### Programme Aims

1	Develop a strategic, integrated and holistic perspective on Accounting and Finance through study based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Individual, group and organisational behavioural level;</li><li>• Functional, process and strategic level; and</li><li>• Reflection on prior experience (both personal and within the cohort).</li></ul>
2	Prepare for a career as a qualified accountant or senior management career through the development of enhanced personal and interpersonal skills and, in particular, leadership capability and skills in business development in particular in the area of accounting and finance.
3	Develop an advanced understanding of concepts, legal, social, ethical, and professional issues in accountancy and finance.
4	Develop confidence to solve problems and implement solutions involving accounting and finance.
5	Take responsibility for their learning, and evaluate that learning in a framework of reflective practice.
6	Contribute to society at large by enhancing life-long learning skills and personal development.

## Programme Learning Outcomes

The Bucks Graduate Attributes focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens. The attributes are developed through the programme.

ID	Learning Outcome
On successful completion of the programme a graduate will be able to:	
<b>Graduate Attribute: Knowledge and its application (K)</b>	
K1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding the key accounting and financial concepts, theories and issues. Ability to critically evaluate models and practices in the field of accountancy and finance and related areas.
K2	Evaluate the impact of contextual forces on organisations including legal systems; ethical, economic, environmental, social, political and technological change issues; international developments.
K3	Discuss the merits and limitations of quantitative and qualitative methods for providing financial information and evaluating options in an uncertain business environment.
K4	Critically analyse the development, management and exploitation of financial systems and their impact on organizations.
K5	Compare and contrast the development of appropriate financial systems, policies and strategies within a changing context to meet stakeholder interests.
K6	Evaluate the risks in a financial system and develop suitable control for risk assessment.
K7	Critically analyse the impact of International Accounting Standards in harmonising countries accounting legislation and their impact on the global financial economy.
<b>Graduate Attribute: Creativity (C)</b>	
C1	Demonstrate a solid grasp of established approaches and practices, by use of imagination and synthesis, and through initiative and risk-taking.
C2	Critically analyse organisational issues and be able to evaluate information, arguments and concepts then create solutions and action plans.
C3	Compare and contrast information and knowledge effectively in order to abstract meaning from information and to share knowledge.
C4	Demonstrate problem solving skills and able to reimagine established approaches and concepts in order to arrive at a new way to represent or understand these concepts.
<b>Graduate Attribute: Social and ethical awareness and responsibility (S)</b>	
S1	Discuss social and ethical issues and able to make judgements, draw on technical, political and commercial awareness and expertise, in developing solutions.
S2	Evaluate and apply safeguards against threats to compliance.
S3	Discuss and communicate analyses and conclusions effectively to various stakeholders.
<b>Graduate Attribute: Leadership and self-development (L)</b>	
L1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding the importance of time management, task prioritisation and working to deadlines.
L2	Discuss ideas and arguments in a coherent and effective manner.
L3	Demonstrate effective use of Communication and Information Technology (CIT).
L4	Discuss and conduct research into business and management issues.

## Programme Structure

Programmes are structured in stages. The number of stages will vary depending on the mode (e.g. full-time, part-time), duration and location of study which will be detailed in the Programme Handbook.

Modules are set at a specific academic level and listed as either core (compulsory) or optional. The level indicates the relative academic difficulty which will increase through the programme. Passing modules will reward you with academic credit. The amount of credits will depend on the complexity of the module and the level of effort required, which is measured in 'notional learning hours'.

Our [Academic Advice webpages](#) provide more information on the structure of taught awards offered by the University.

*Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. Other option modules may also be introduced at a later stage enabling the programme to respond to sector developments.*

### Level Four

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
BM416	Accountant in Business Organisations	15	C	No
BM417	Financial Accounting	15	C	No
MG408	Graduate Challenge	15	C	Yes
BM461	Global Business Environment	15	C	Yes
BM415	Management Accounting	15	C	No
BM419	Computerised Accounting	15	C	No
MG410	Career Viewpoint	15	C	Yes
MG413	Data Insights for Business Decisions	15	C	Yes

### Level Five

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
BM561	Business Consulting	15	C	Yes
BM562	Consultancy in Practice	15	C	Yes
BM535	International Auditing	15	C	No
BM533	Contemporary Business Economics	15	C	Yes
BM536	Financial Reporting (I)	15	C	No
BM537	Corporate Business Law	15	C	No
BM538	Introduction to UK Taxation	15	C	No
BM539	Financial Management	15	C	No

**Level Six**

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
BM631	Research Methods	15	C	Yes
BM638	International Finance	15	C	No
BM633	Strategic Agility	15	C	Yes
BM636	UK Taxation	15	C	No
BM639	Financial Reporting (II)	15	C	No
BM637	Corporate Governance and Ethics	15	C	Yes
BM635	Consultancy Project	30	C	No

**Level Seven**

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
BM751	Advanced Management Accounting	15	C	No
BM753	International Management of Finance	15	C	No
BM757	International Trade and Competition	15	C	Yes
BM797	Dissertation	60	C	No
BM754	International Auditing	15	C	No

**Learning and Teaching Activities**

Please see the [Academic Advice pages](#) for a description of learning and teaching activities that are recognised by the University. Detailed information on this specific programme is outlined below:

A variety of approaches, supported by the effective use of technology, will be blended together to engage students in their learning in and outside of the classroom. This is a full time in attendance programme. The teaching hours are designed to maximise attendance from students who may have part time jobs.

This programme incorporates an integrated teaching, learning and assessment strategy as recommended by the PG subject benchmark. Class sessions comprise of a range of activities including interactive lectures, case studies, group work, presentations, business simulations games, seminars and practical sessions will all be appropriately utilised, with a gradual progression through the course from formal teaching to more student-centred and independent learning.

Different strategies will be adopted to provide real-world contextualisation and engagement, for example, guest lecturers, live briefs, work-relevant projects and external visits.

A combination of lectures and seminars will be the main medium of delivery for this programme. These relate to topics that are set in a scheme of work for each module. Learning outcomes for the programme and specific modules are applied to the content under discussion at each session.

Both students and staff will also have access to Bucks Blackboard (VLE) and the professional bodies (including ACCA, CIMA etc.) teaching and learning resources online.

### **Additional Course Costs**

There are costs associated with all studies, additional to the tuition fee, which require consideration, when planning and budgeting for expenditure. Costs are indicative and for the total length of the course shown unless otherwise stated and will increase with inflation; depending on the programme they may include equipment, printing, project materials, study trips, placement activities, DBS and/or other security checks.

#### **Books and other Texts:**

All core texts will be in the library for students to borrow for free, and wherever possible texts on reading lists will also be purchased in the library. Students may be required to purchase texts and journals to support their study programme. The average cost of books for students studying on a degree course is assumed as £100 per year.

#### **Printing:**

We recommend a minimum budget of £100 per year for printing costs including dissertation printing and binding. This relates to the printing of written documents through the photocopiers.

#### **Graduation:**

Graduation costs per student are estimated at £100 - £200 total. This is an optional cost for all students as attending graduation is not a requirement in order to have a degree conferred.

#### **Exemption Claim:**

You will be required to pay a fee for the exemptions should you wish to pursue professional level qualification.

#### **Study Tours and Trips:**

Optional trips and study tours of up to £100 per year. Students may wish to organise additional trips to support their own research of another £100.

## Contact Hours

1 unit of credit is the equivalent of 10 notional learning hours. Full time undergraduate students study 120 credits (1200 hours) and full-time postgraduate students study 180 credits (1800 hours) per year or 'stage' of the course.

Course Stage	Scheduled Activities (Hours)	Guided Independent Study (Hours)	Placement / Study Abroad / Work Based Learning (Hours)
Year One	360	840	
Year Two	360	840	
Year Three	315	885	
Year Four	187	1013	

## Assessment Methods

The [Assessment and Examination webpages](#) provide further information on how assignments are marked and moderated, including a description of assessment activities. These also include further information about how feedback on assessed work is provided to students, including our commitment to ensure this is provided to students within 15 working days (the 'three-week turnaround').

Students will be exposed to a variety of assessment types (including exams, coursework, group work and live briefs etc.), all designed to help them to learn and apply relevant knowledge, concepts and skills, whilst developing those competencies and characteristics needed to be successful in education and employment.

Coursework will allow students an opportunity to research, develop and apply solutions to complex problems followed by the chance to reflect. Examinations will allow students to demonstrate understanding and recall in a time-constrained environment of essential concepts and principles.

**Level 4 assessments** will be primarily formative and will encourage the development of appropriate academic practice and concepts. The emphasis will be on frequent small-scale assessments wherever possible with a balance between formative and summative assessment.

**Level 5 assessments** will be more demanding, with the emphasis still on development of knowledge, skills, and concepts but now encouraging learning at greater depth, emphasising the fundamental principles. There will be a shift towards summative assessment.

**Level 6 assessments** are designed so as to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills so that they have become effective, independent learners. The emphasis is on summative assessment.

**Level 7 assessments** are designed so as to allow students to critically further demonstrate their advanced knowledge and skills so that they have become leaders, effective, independent learners, and decision makers. The emphasis is on summative assessment.

There is more weighting assigned to examination to reflect professional body requirements.

### Additional Assessment Regulations

- Students must achieve a minimum level average at Level 5 of 49.5% to progress into Level 6 of this Integrated Master’s programme. Otherwise they will be transferred to the BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance programme.
- Failure to achieve 120 credits at Level 6 of the Integrated Master’s will also result in either transfer to the BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance programme or consideration for an appropriate exit award.

### Classification

**Calculation of final award:** Level 6 - 33% / Level 7 – 67%

For full details of assessment regulations for all taught programmes please refer to our [Results webpages](#). These include the criteria for degree classification.

### Admissions Requirements

Please see the [Application webpages](#) for more information on how to apply, including a statement on how we support students from a variety of backgrounds. Please also see our [general entry requirements](#) for taught programmes. Applicants who do not meet our published entry requirements are encouraged to contact our admissions team for further advice and guidance.

### Typical applicant profile and any programme-specific entry requirements

This programme will benefit those with A Level, BTEC and mature students aspiring to be accountants or working in the world of business and finance. It includes skills that you can build on based on your previous experience in the field of accounting, consultancy and finance such as investment and commercial banking, insurance, consultancy and financial markets, auditing, taxation, financial and management accounting etc.

The aim of this integrated master’s programme is to ensure that graduates acquire knowledge and competence in Accounting and Finance. The course provides a balance of theory and practice in accounting and finance, alongside providing a secure base for further development within the workplace. It is suitable for learners looking to develop themselves professionally, or who wish to return to or continue their education in a manner which will enhance their professional standing.

**Do applicants required a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check?** No

## Opportunities for students on successful completion of the programme

Graduates will be able to progress to a range of opportunities and careers in the Accounting & Finance profession. Having achieved exemption from a number of professional bodies including ACCA and CIMA etc., graduates can progress their professional qualifications through the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants or indeed through other equally prestigious accountancy professional bodies, such as CIMA, IFA and ICAEW.

Graduates can, therefore, expect a rewarding career and unlimited choice of the industry they wish to work in. The academic strength and rigour of the programme also means that students are sufficiently prepared to undertake any further study at postgraduate level.

There are multiple roles and careers available for those who have demonstrable capability in Accounting and Finance; and the award will allow graduates to enter the sector with confidence and evidence of subject specific knowledge and understanding. It follows that graduates will be more likely to be able to obtain employment in the component industries; and current employees will be better equipped to seek promotion and advancement. All graduates will have developed transferable skills that can be used in a wide range of employment roles such as accounting forensics, business valuation, tax consulting and treasury or cash management. It is also a useful foundation for general management or running your own business.

For further information, go to <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/chartered-certified-accountant>.

## Recognition of Prior Learning

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules. Please refer to our [Credit Accumulation webpages](#) for further guidance.

## Student Support

During the course of their studies, students will be supported in the following ways:

- At the start of their studies all students will receive a full **induction** to the programme which will include introduction to the staff responsible for delivering the course, and access to library and IT facilities
- The **Programme Handbook** will outline the exact nature of the course and how it is structured, including the availability of option modules
- Each student will be allocated a **Personal Tutor** who will support their academic development, be able to advise and guide them with their studies and, where necessary, give advice on study options
- Students will be able to access our full range of **support services**, including the Learning Development Unit for skills and study support, the Library, the Careers and Employability Team, Student Finance Team, Accommodation and Counselling Services

## Programme specific support (if applicable)

During the course of their studies, students will be supported in the following ways:

- At the start of their studies all students will receive a full induction to the programme which will include introduction to the staff responsible for delivering the course, and access to library and IT facilities
- The Programme Handbook will outline the exact nature of the course and how it is structured, including the availability of option modules
- Each student will be allocated a Personal Tutor who will support their academic development, be able to advise and guide them with their studies and, where necessary, give advice on study options
- Students will be able to access our full range of support services, including the Learning Development Unit for skills and study support, the Library, the Careers and Employability Team, Student Finance Team, Accommodation and Counselling Services

## Appendices

### Quality Assurance

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	<b>Buckinghamshire New University</b>
<b>Language of Study:</b>	English
<b>QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s):</b>	Subject Benchmark Statement (Accounting) 2019 Subject Benchmark Statement (Finance) 2019 Characteristics Statement Master's Degree (2020)
<b>Assessment Regulations:</b>	<i>Academic Assessment Regulations</i> , accessible via the Academic Advice webpages ( <a href="https://bucks.ac.uk/students/academicadvice">https://bucks.ac.uk/students/academicadvice</a> )
<b>Does the Fitness to Practise procedure apply to this programme?</b>	No
<b>Date Published / Updated:</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2020

### Other awards available on programme (Exit Qualifications)

Please refer to the *Academic Qualifications Framework* for Exit Qualifications recognised by the University and credit and module requirements.

<b>Name of Exit Qualification:</b>	<b>Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)</b>
<b>Full name of Qualification and Award Title:</b>	<b>CertHE Accounting and Finance</b>
<b>Credits requirements:</b>	<b>120 Credits</b>
<b>Module requirements:</b>	<b>ALL 120 Credits at L4.</b>
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	
Understand, explain and analyse critical contexts in the field of accounting and finance	
Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge and a critical awareness of current problems in the field of practice	

Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems and implementing tasks at a professional level

Understand and develop the appropriate skills for the effective use of information in the field of accounting and finance

<b>Name of Exit Qualification:</b>	<b>Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)</b>
<b>Full name of Qualification and Award Title:</b>	<b>DipHE Accounting and Finance</b>
<b>Credits requirements:</b>	<b>240 Credits</b>
<b>Module requirements:</b>	<b>ALL 120 Credits at Level 4 and ALL 120 Credits at Level 5</b>

#### **Learning Outcome**

Demonstrate a systematic knowledge of and explain accounting and finance systems, theories and processes, and evaluate the main issues and themes that affect the context and practice of accounting.

Locate, extract and analyse data from multiple sources, including annual reports, cash flow analysis and other financial data

Prepare, analyse and interpret financial statements and reports and produce projections based on these

Communicate effectively and persuasively in all forms, with particular reference to the presentation of qualitative and quantitative information and data

<b>Name of Exit Qualification:</b>	<b>Ordinary Degree</b>
<b>Full name of Qualification and Award Title:</b>	<b>BSc Accounting and Finance</b>
<b>Credits requirements:</b>	<b>300 Credits</b>
<b>Module requirements:</b>	<b>ALL 120 Credits at L4, ALL 120 Credits at L5, PLUS 60 Credits at Level 6</b>

#### **Learning Outcome**

Understand, explain and analyse critical contexts in the field of accounting and finance

Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge and a critical awareness of current problems in the field of practice

Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems and implementing tasks at a professional level

Understand and develop the appropriate skills for the effective use of information in the field of accounting and finance

Process and analyse numerical and statistical information to draw a reasoned conclusion based on the evidence.

<b>Name of Exit Qualification:</b>	<b>Honours Degree (Integrated Master's degrees only)</b>
<b>Full name of Qualification and Award Title:</b>	<b>BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance</b>
<b>Credits requirements:</b>	<b>360 Credits</b>
<b>Module requirements:</b>	<b>All 120 credits at Level 4 and Level 5 and 120 credits at Level 6/7 including the dissertation module or equivalent.</b>
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	
Deal with complex issues systematically and creatively, make sound judgments in the absence of complete data and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.	
Demonstrate decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations	
Continue to advance their knowledge and understanding and develop new skills in the field of accounting and finance to a high level.	
Understand and evaluate the essential, critical areas in their chosen field.	

\* Students will only be required to undertake one dissertation, this will be located in L7.