

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Key Information

Programme Title:	MSc Finance and Investment MSc Finance and Investment with Placement Year
Awarding Institution:	Buckinghamshire New University
Teaching Institution(s):	Buckinghamshire New University
Subject Cluster:	Business
Award Title (including separate Pathway Award Titles where offered):	Master of Science in Finance and Investment
Pathways (if applicable)	N/A
FHEQ level of final award:	7
Other award titles available (exit qualifications):	PG Diploma in Finance and Investment PG Certificate in Finance and Investment
Accreditation details:	N/A
Length of programme:	One Year Two Years with Placement Year
Mode(s) of Study:	Full-Time
Mode of Delivery:	In person (on-site) delivery
Language of study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark(s):	Characteristics Statement Master's Degree 2020 The UK Quality Code for Higher Education 2023 QAA Higher Education Credit Framework for England 2021 Qualifications and Credit Frameworks Subject Benchmark Statements (Finance) 2019 University Policies and Regulations
Other external reference points (e.g. Apprenticeship Standard):	N/A
Course Code(s):	MSFINVFT MSFINVSW
UCAS Code(s):	
Approval date:	July 2024
Date of last update:	July 2025

2. Programme Summary

The MSc Finance and Investment programme is designed to meet the growing demand for skilled finance professionals by providing a comprehensive education in finance and investment strategies, financial analysis, and risk management. The programme aims to equip students with both the theoretical understanding and practical skill sets necessary for successful careers in the finance industry.

Through specialised courses in corporate finance, asset and portfolio management, derivatives, financial management, risk management, financial modelling, and financial data analysis, students will gain a deep understanding of the field. Hands-on experience will be provided through internships, case studies, and industry projects, leveraging faculty expertise and industry partnerships to enhance learning outcomes.

Graduates of the programme will be well-prepared for roles in investment banking, private equity/debt, hedge funds, corporate finance, and securities operations. Industry partnerships will facilitate internships, guest lectures, and recruitment opportunities, while an alumni network will provide graduates with access to a community of finance professionals.

The MSc Finance and Investment programme offers a comprehensive and practical education that will enable graduates to excel in their careers and contribute to the growing field of finance and investment.

3. Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

Programme Aims

The MSc Finance and Investment programme aims to offer a comprehensive and transformative learning experience designed to prepare students for successful careers as qualified finance and investment experts or senior management professionals. The programme adopts a holistic approach, examining finance and investment from various perspectives, including individual, group, and organisational behavioural levels, as well as functional, process, and strategic levels. Students are encouraged to reflect on their prior experiences, both personal and within the cohort, to enrich their learning journey.

Throughout the programme, students will develop a wide range of skills essential for success in the finance industry. In addition to gaining an advanced understanding of concepts, legal, social, ethical, and professional issues in finance and investment, students will cultivate enhanced personal and interpersonal skills, with a particular focus on leadership capability and business development skills specific to the finance and investment sector. The programme aims to instil confidence in students, enabling them to solve complex problems and implement effective solutions in real-world scenarios.

The MSc Finance and Investment programme places a strong emphasis on personal responsibility and reflective practice. Students are encouraged to take ownership of their learning and continuously evaluate their progress within a framework of reflective practice. By fostering life-long learning skills and personal development, the programme not only prepares students for successful careers but also equips them to make meaningful contributions to society at large.

Upon completion of the programme, graduates will possess a strategic and comprehensive understanding of finance and investment, coupled with the practical skills and confidence necessary to excel in their chosen careers. With a strong foundation in personal and professional development, graduates will be well-prepared to navigate the complex and ever-changing landscape of the finance industry, making a positive impact on their organisations and the wider community.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding (K)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
K1	Demonstrate systematic knowledge and understanding of the contexts in which finance operates, including institutional framework necessary to understand the role, operation and function of markets and financial institutions.
K2	Identify and discuss a range of methods to value securities, appraise projects and risk management techniques and their application to investment and portfolio management strategies.
K3	Demonstrate the ability to link financial theory and empirical testing in drawing appropriate conclusions and recommendations.
K4	Demonstrate the ability to interpret and communicate financial information and decisions effectively to a variety of stakeholders.

Analysis and Criticality (C)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
C1	Analyse financial data using appropriate financial models and software and provide meaningful recommendations.
C2	Evaluate the financing arrangements in the light of established theories and assess the effectiveness of such arrangements.
C3	Critically analyse the financial markets mechanisms and instruments that influence the investment behaviour and assess the importance of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria to corporate strategies.
C4	Critically appraise capital budgeting projects, financial decisions, and investment strategies used to measure the performance of portfolios.

Application and Practice (P)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
P1	Evaluate relevant theories and models of finance, their relevance and application to practical problems.

P2	Apply relevant finance and modelling techniques to value of securities, perform financial data analysis, evaluate risks and produce recommendations.
P3	Utilise data analytics tools and appropriate financial software to conduct meaningful analysis, enabling informed decision-making for portfolio management, forecasting, and performance optimisation.
P4	Navigate ethical dilemmas and promote transparency and socially responsible practices in professional finance and investment roles.

Transferable skills and other attributes (T)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
T1	Analyse and process financial data and information, including with the use of software, and draw reasoned conclusions based on evidence and formulate practical solutions.
T2	Locate, extract and critically evaluate arguments other relevant information from multiple sources, including acknowledging and referencing of sources.
T3	Demonstrate numerical skills, quantitative skills, and problem-solving skills necessary for effective decision-making.
T4	Utilise effectively written and digital communication skills to present financial information, both qualitative and quantitative, in a coherent and persuasive manner in a form appropriate to the intended audience.
T5	Display a range of personal and interpersonal skills, including the capacity for continuous learning, taking initiatives, performing to deadlines, and working in small groups.

Graduate Attributes

The BNU Graduate Attributes of: Knowledge and its application; Creativity; Social and ethical awareness and responsibility; and Leadership and self-development 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.

Graduates will possess a strategic and holistic understanding of finance and investment, enabling them to analyse complex situations and make informed decisions at the individual, group, and organisational levels. They will also be able to demonstrate strong leadership capabilities and business development skills specific to the finance and investment sector, allowing them to drive growth and success in their organisations.

Graduates will exhibit a deep understanding of legal, social, ethical, and professional issues in finance and investment, ensuring they operate with integrity and maintain high standards of professional conduct.

This course will equip graduates with the confidence and skill required to solve complex problems and implement effective solutions in real-world finance and investment scenarios, adapting to the ever-changing demands of the industry. A culture of reflective practice and continuous learning will enable graduates to take ownership of their personal and professional development to remain agile and responsive to the evolving landscape of finance and investment. This programme will equip graduates with life-long learning skills and a strong

sense of personal development, enabling them to make meaningful contributions to society at large and act as responsible global citizens.

Graduates will possess a collaborative and innovative mindset, fostered through a rich educational experience that draws from diverse perspectives and industry partnerships, allowing them to thrive in dynamic and complex environments. They will have technical proficiency and practical skills in finance and investment, including financial analysis, risk management, and investment strategies, ensuring they are well-prepared to excel in their chosen careers.

This programme will build communication and interpersonal skills, enabling graduates to effectively convey complex financial concepts, build strong relationships, and influence stakeholders at all levels.

Graduates from this programme will be adaptable and resilient, possessing the skills and mindset necessary to navigate the challenges and opportunities of the finance and investment sector, and to thrive in the face of change and uncertainty.

4. Entry Requirements

The University's [general entry requirements](#) will apply to admission to this programme with the following additions / exceptions:

- Applicants to the programme will normally have obtained a Bachelor's degree with Honours (or equivalent) which can be in a range of subject disciplines or professions. Applicants need a minimum of a 2:2 in their degree to be considered.
- If your first language is not English or your language of instruction at undergraduate level was not English you will be required to demonstrate English proficiency at an overall score of IELTS level 6.5 (or its equivalent) and no score below 6.0 in any category.
- In line with the university Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme, potential learners can apply for Advanced Standing by Accreditation of Prior Learning.

If you do not meet the entry requirements you may, if you have relevant professional experience, still be invited for interview, where you will be required to demonstrate the necessary knowledge and understanding for entry onto the course.

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules in accordance with our [accreditation of prior learning](#) (APL) process.

5. Programme Structure

Pathway 1 or stand-alone course (MSFINVFT)

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Exit Awards
Level 7	<p>Core modules: BAM7068 – Financial Instruments & Markets (20 credits) BAM7069 – Corporate Finance (20 credits) BAM7064 – Financial Data Analysis (20 credits) BAM7065 – Corporate Governance & Sustainability (20 credits) BAM7066 – Derivatives & Risk Management (20 credits) BAM7067 – Investments & Portfolio Management (20 credits)</p> <p>Option modules: Choose one of modules - 60 credits: BAM7030 – Professional Project (60 credits) BAM7047 – Business Consultancy (60 credits) BAM7048 – Work Placement (60 credits)</p>	<p>Post Graduate Certificate Finance and Investment 60 credits at level 7</p> <p>Post Graduate Diploma Finance and Investment 120 credits at level 7</p>

Pathway 2 – with Industrial Placement (Placement Year) (MSFINVSW)

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Exit Awards
Level 7	<p>Core modules – Year 1: BAM7068 – Financial Instruments & Markets (20 credits) BAM7069 – Corporate Finance (20 credits) BAM7064 – Financial Data Analysis (20 credits) BAM7065 – Corporate Governance & Sustainability (20 credits) BAM7066 – Derivatives & Risk Management (20 credits) BAM7067 – Investments & Portfolio Management (20 credits)</p>	<p>Post Graduate Certificate Finance and Investment 60 credits at level 7</p> <p>Post Graduate Diploma Finance and Investment 120 credits at level 7</p>

	Core modules – Year 2: BAM7107 – Industrial Placement (60 credits) BAM7030 – Professional Project (60 credits)	
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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 changes in the subject area.

6. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and teaching

The programme will engage and develop students' learning through face-to-face delivery, supported by effective use of the virtual learning environment (VLE) and flipped learning. Flipped learning supports students to participate in the learning process, through investigations, research and collaboration with others, to produce answers to questions set by the lecturer. Short-burst lecture elements (or very short periods of 'teacher talk' in between student activities) will form part of the programme, enhanced through an active and flipped learning approach. The Arena Blended Connected (ABC) curriculum framework will support the delivery of the curriculum, through the application of a range of teaching styles, such as acquisition, collaboration, investigation, discussion, practice and production, to encourage students to familiarise themselves with a range of learning styles and to be more active in sessions. The use of ABC will also lend itself well to the combination of VLE and in-class learning. The below definitions of inputs explain in more detail what students will be exposed to throughout their course of study.

Lectures

This is the most formal teaching strategy employed in teaching the modules but will constitute a much smaller part of the overall teaching and learning delivery. Short elements of the lecture method will be used to deliver a body of theoretical information to a group of learners and will be incorporated into a seminar, workshop or tutorial session to consolidate learning.

The lecture format may be supported by written handouts, web or library references which serve to reinforce and expand the audio-visual information presented. In addition, staff will make appropriate use of the University's VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) and rich-media facilities. This will enable lecturers to enhance the traditional communication and learning mediums, as well as making material available to learners off-site and at the university.

Tutorials

Often in smaller groups or on a one-to-one basis, tutorials incorporate guided learning, which can either support a formal lecture by working through materials with the help of a module tutor or academic coach or by discussing plans for formative and summative assessment.

Practical Sessions

Most often in small groups, practical sessions will be made up of simulations, live briefs and role play elements, based on case studies and scenarios. This will enable students to immerse themselves in activities which mirror real-life situations.

Seminars

These can vary from large group seminars, which provide an opportunity for the learner-led formal debate of topic areas, to 'impromptu' discussion sessions with smaller groups, which may for example follow the showing of a video.

Other Activities

Other techniques such as industrial visits, guest lectures and computer aided learning tools will be used where appropriate. This variety of techniques is aimed at stimulating learning.

The teaching and learning strategies for individual modules are detailed in the relevant module descriptors.

Assessment

The assessment of this programme includes varied methods. Assessments are, wherever possible, authentic and tied to real-world contexts and constraints, allowing students to practically demonstrate the skills they have developed. Selected assessments will provide aspects of co-created learning to enable the students to create an individual project. Indicative projects may include simulations, data analysis, pitches, live negotiations, and debates.

The final professional module, worth 60 credits, provides students with two options – a professional project or business consultancy. These options enable students to bring together the knowledge, practical and analytical skills that they will have developed throughout the programme.

Selected assessments will provide enough opportunity for learners to exhibit a level of innovation and creativity associated with excellence. Throughout the programme, students will be exposed to a variety of summative and formative assessments whilst developing the academic skills to be a successful learner at post-graduate level study.

Contact Hours

Students can expect to receive approximately 4 hours of scheduled learning activities per module per week. These will include a combination of lectures, seminars, and workshops. In between learners are expected to be engaged in independent study, preparing for activities, reading around the subject and completing assessment tasks. Approximately 16 hours per module per week should be dedicated to individual study including coursework completion, exam preparation and the completion of other activities. A full breakdown of contact hours can be found in individual module descriptors.

7. Programme Regulations

This programme will be subject to the following assessment regulations:

- Regulations for Taught Degree Programmes

8. Support for learners

The following systems are in place to support you to be successful with your studies:

- The appointment of a personal tutor to support you through your programme
- A programme handbook and induction at the beginning of your studies
- Library resources, include access to books, journals and databases - many of which are available in electronic format – and support from trained library staff
- Access to Blackboard, our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which is accessible via PC, laptop, tablet or mobile device
- Access to the MyBNU portal where you can access all University systems, information and news, record your attendance at sessions, and access your personalised timetable
- Academic Registry staff providing general guidance on University regulations, exams, and other aspects of students and course administration
- Central student services, including teams supporting academic skills development, career success, student finance, accommodation, chaplaincy, disability and counselling

- Support from the Bucks Students' Union, including the Students' Union Advice Centre which offers free and confidential advice on University processes.

9. Programme monitoring and review

BNU has a number of ways for monitoring and reviewing the quality of learning and teaching on your programme. You will be able to comment on the content of their programme via the following feedback mechanisms:

- Formal feedback questionnaires and anonymous module 'check-ins'
- Participation in external surveys
- Programme Committees, via appointed student representatives
- Informal feedback to your programme leader

Quality and standards on each programme are assured via the following mechanisms:

- An initial event to approve the programme for delivery
- An annual report submitted by the External Examiner following a process of external moderation of work submitted for assessment
- The Annual Monitoring process, which is overseen by the University's Education Committee
- Review by the relevant PSRB(s)
- Periodic Subject Review events held every five years
- Other sector compliance and review mechanisms

10. Internal and external reference points

Design and development of this programme has been informed by the following internal and external reference points:

- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- The QAA Subject Benchmark Statement – see detailed mapping below
- The BNU Qualifications and Credit Framework
- The BNU Grading Descriptors
- The University Strategy, Thrive 2028

Mapping of Subject Benchmark Statement and any relevant Apprenticeship Standard to Programme Learning Outcomes

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)				Analysis and Criticality (C)				Application and Practice (P)								
	K1	K2	K3	K4	C1	C2	C3	C4	P1	P2	P3	P4	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Knowledge and skills: An appreciation of the nature of the contexts in which finance can be seen as operating, including knowledge of the institutional framework necessary for understanding the role, operation and function of markets and financial institutions.	X								X				X				
Knowledge and skills: Knowledge of the major theoretical tools and theories of finance, and their relevance and application to theoretical and practical problems.	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	
Knowledge and skills: An understanding of the factors influencing the investment behaviour and opportunities of private individuals.		X	X				X		X	X	X	X		X			

<p>Knowledge and skills: An ability to interpret financial data, including that arising in the context of the firm or household from accounting statements and data generated in financial markets. The interpretation should involve analysis using statistical and financial functions and procedures such as are routinely available in spreadsheets and other statistical/econometric software packages. It may involve the skills necessary to manipulate financial data and carry out statistical and econometric tests.</p>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	
<p>Knowledge and skills: An understanding of financial service activities in the economy, and the factors that are changing these activities over time, and an appreciation of how finance theory and evidence can be employed to aid such understanding.</p>	X		X		X	X	X	X	X				X				
<p>Knowledge and skills: An understanding of the relationship between financial theory and empirical testing,</p>			X		X			X	X	X	X						

and application of this knowledge to the appraisal of the empirical evidence in at least one major theoretical area. The appraisal should involve some recognition of the limitations and evolution of empirical tests and theory.																	
Knowledge and skills: An understanding of the financing arrangements and governance mechanisms and structures of business entities, and an appreciation of how theory and evidence can be combined to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of such arrangements.			X			X	X		X			X		X			
Knowledge and skills: An ability to understand financial statements, and a reasonable appreciation of the limitations of financial reporting and disclosure practices and procedures.		X		X	X	X			X	X			X	X		X	
Abilities and skills: critical evaluation of arguments and evidence					X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Abilities and skills: independent and self-managed learning																	X

Abilities and skills: analysis, filtering and evaluation of data, and drawing reasoned conclusions concerning structured and, to a more limited extent, unstructured problems from a given set of data and from data acquired by the student													X	X	X	X	
Abilities and skills: location, extraction and analysis of data from multiple sources, including acknowledging and referencing of sources														X			
Abilities and skills: numeracy, including the processing and analysis of financial and other numerical data and the appreciation of statistical concepts at an appropriate level													X		X		
Abilities and skills: using contemporary information and communications technology for the acquisition, analysis and communication of financial information	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X		X				
Abilities and skills: communication, including presenting quantitative and qualitative information, together with analysis, argument and commentary, in a form		X	X							X					X	X	

appropriate to the intended audience, and oral as well as written presentation.																	
Abilities and skills: working with others (such as through small group projects).																	X
Threshold graduates will be able to:																	
demonstrate a reasonable appreciation of the nature of the context and institutional framework in which finance operates	X						X										
demonstrate a reasonable knowledge of the main theories used in finance and a reasonable ability to apply them in straightforward structured situations from given data generated for the purpose	X	X	X				X		X		X						
reveal a reasonable ability to interpret financial data and carry out straightforward statistical and financial analysis					X				X		X			X			
relate empirical evidence to finance theory in at least one of the main areas of finance with a reasonable understanding of the significance and limitations of such evidence	X	X	X				X			X	X						
demonstrate an understanding of the financial needs of	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X						

business entities, a reasonable appreciation and understanding of how theory and evidence may be used to guide practice; the workings of capital markets; the relationship between risk and return; and the nature and use of financial derivatives																	
demonstrate a reasonable understanding of the principles of personal investment		X					X			X	X						
demonstrate a reasonable ability to use and interpret the information in financial statements			X	X									X		X		
demonstrate possession of the required cognitive abilities and non-subject specific skills to a reasonable level of attainment				X										X	X		X
demonstrate a reasonable understanding of the economic, political, regulatory and social environments in which finance and financial services operates, and the ethical considerations embedded in these operations.	X						X					X					

Mapping of Programme Learning Outcomes to Modules

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)					
	Module Code (Core)	K1	K2	K3	K4		C1	C2	C3	C4		P1	P2	P3	P4		T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Level 7																					
BAM7068 – Financial Instruments & Markets	X	X		X		X	X	X			X	X				X	X	X	X	X	
BAM7069 – Corporate Finance	X	X		X		X	X		X		X	X						X			X
BAM7064 – Financial Data Analysis	X		X	X		X					X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
BAM7065 – Corporate Governance & Sustainability				X				X						X			X			X	X
BAM7066 – Derivatives & Risk Management	X	X		X		X		X	X		X	X					X	X	X	X	X
BAM7067 – Investments & Portfolio Management	X	X	X	X		X	X		X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
BAM7030 – Professional Project			X	X		X					X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
BAM7047 – Business Consultancy				X		X					X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
BAM7048 – Work Placement				X		X					X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
BAM7107 – Industrial Placement	X					X								X		X		X	X	X	X