



MSc in International Accounting and Finance

General Track:

- MSc in International Accounting and Finance

Specialisation tracks:

- International Financial Reporting
- Strategic Finance Practice
- Emerging Markets

The MSc in International Accounting & Finance offers a sound critical analysis of international accounting and finance principles, theories, and practice within a global context. The programme will provide you with a balance of strategic and tactical management skills from an accounting and finance perspective and will place great emphasis on the measurement of performance to best support an organisation's strategic initiatives. Upon completion of this programme, students will have acquired skills to more definitively assess the accounting and financial approaches best suited to position global organisations for long-term success in the global marketplace.

Programme outline

Six core modules provide a thorough grounding in the field of international accounting and finance. These include subjects such as Reporting and Analysis, Strategic Managerial Accounting and Performance Management, Assurance and Management Control, Strategic Financial Management, International Corporate Governance and Finance, and Accounting Information Systems and Technology. You will then specialise by choosing two elective modules in areas such as International Corporate Finance, Finance in Emerging Markets, and Advanced International Financial Reporting and Analysis.

Alternatively, you can focus on a specific area by following a pre-defined specialisation track in International Financial Reporting, Strategic Finance Practice, and Emerging Markets. If you opt for a specialisation track, you must choose from a selection of specialisation modules outlined on page 3.

Specialisation Tracks

International Financial Reporting

The MSc in International Accounting & Finance with a specialised track in International Financial Reporting captures the highly technical reporting and analysis requirements and integrates those with accounting information systems that will assist both financial and managerial accounting professionals. You will learn how to apply International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and evaluate both short-term and long-term effects on an organisation's financial performance. This specialisation also integrates case study analysis, which includes best practices to better evaluate corporate reporting compliance and system needs.

Strategic Finance Practice

The MSc in International Accounting & Finance with a specialised track in Strategic Finance Practice equips you with a rich understanding of financial management through applied practice within the corporate financial environment and financial markets. You will become adept as a financial decision-maker within an organisation by honing your ability to assess treasury management, capital structure, and market theory.

This specialisation also incorporates these strategic financial practices with core accounting competencies to provide a greater perspective of the need for these skills among current and aspiring senior leaders within organisations.

Emerging Markets

As organisations assume a greater global presence, financial decision makers must understand and adapt to both the financial and non-financial dynamics of the emerging marketplace, including market penetration and social acceptance. The MSc in International Accounting & Finance with a specialised track in Emerging Markets expands upon the cultural and regional variances in the global business environment and provides a broad understanding of international accounting in these nascent markets. This specialisation provides you with a practical approach to entering into and succeeding within emerging nations and regions and the associated relationship dynamics required for success.

Programme structure

Our general track in International Accounting & Finance, along with our specialisation tracks in International Financial Reporting, Strategic Finance Practice, and Emerging Markets comprise ten modules – two

Core Modules

(All programmes)

- International Financial Reporting and Analysis
- Strategic Managerial Accounting and Performance Management
- Assurance and Management Control
- Strategic Financial Management
- International Corporate Governance and Finance
- Accounting Information Systems and Technology

Elective Modules

Students choose two

	International Corporate Finance	Treasury Management and Ethics	Financial Analysis and Valuation	Islamic Finance	Finance in Emerging Markets	Social Entrepreneurship	Entrepreneurial Finance	Advanced International Financial Reporting and Analysis
General track								
International Financial Reporting								
Strategic Finance Practice								
Emerging Markets								

preparatory, six compulsory and two elective – culminating in a dissertation.

You will follow two non-credit bearing modules (Student Readiness Orientation and Foundations for Academic Success) that will prepare you for your online learning experience. For more information about these required preparatory modules refer to the [Centre for Student Success document](#).

The first module will be nine weeks in length (two half weeks and seven full weeks). Each subsequent module lasts eight weeks. You take one module at a time in order to study a specific subject in-depth without distractions.

Dissertation

The culmination of your programme, this written project demonstrates your mastery and integration of all your previous learning. The dissertation is the cornerstone of the UK university system. It is an original, scholarly work that applies your new knowledge and experience and allows you to prove your mastery of the techniques you have studied.

Students choose their dissertation topic in conjunction with their Personal Dissertation Advisor, an academic supervisor who will provide support throughout the study and writing process. If you follow a specialisation track, it is mandatory that your dissertation be on a topic appropriate to your specialisation.

Programme duration

Each programme is 30 months in duration based on the recommended study schedule. Should students need to alter their study path due to work or family commitments they can do so in consultation with a Student Support Manager.

Core modules

International Financial Reporting and Analysis

Aim: To gain a comprehensive understanding of the framework, concepts, and practices associated with international financial reporting.

A greater understanding of corporate valuation is acquired through the study of this module as you develop integral knowledge of financial statements and financial analysis. Upon completion of this module, you will be able to better assess the tools, definitions, and acceptable practices of international financial reporting, based on the international financial reporting standards (IFRS), now required in many countries and economic trade areas. To help ensure short-term and long-term organisational success, the impact of financial and economic fluctuations are examined while topics such as foreign exchange, cash accounting, ratio analysis, and trend analysis are also introduced.

Strategic Managerial Accounting and Performance Management

Aim: To explore the use of management accounting and accounting systems to link strategic leadership, resource management, and organisational performance.

In this module, you will develop an ability to manage resources, create and sustain value, and develop a system of organisational score and goal-keeping tools. Your ability to integrate these skills with accounting systems will enable your organisation to make performance-based decisions. You will be able to ascertain, measure, and revise strategic goals associated with performance and develop a performance metrics system that will measure performance against the overall organisational strategic goals. You will also explore the ethical and moral dimensions of strategic financial decision-making.

Assurance and Management Control

Aim: To dissect how management controls the entity and relationships with external partners to enhance organisational value.

This module investigates the roles of audit and assurance in management control, and promotes organisational compliance with a focus on internal controls, risk management procedures, assurance and management information. The concept of due diligence, including the acquisition and the monitoring of activities of business partners, is also analysed at both the national and international levels. You will appreciate the nature and

roles of assurance engagements and internal audits, and develop an understanding of risk management and risk reporting in a global context.

Strategic Financial Management

Aim: To examine and integrate into practice a blend of global financial management strategies and case-based applications.

Through intense case study analysis, this module focuses on topics that range from the acquisition, deployment and management of international financial resources, to financial planning and analysis. You will learn how to devise strategies for identifying and developing international financial resources, and to effectively communicate these strategies with organisational team members, partners and governments. You will also become adept at analysing an organisation for re-organisation and restructuring from a strategic perspective.

International Corporate Governance and Finance

Aim: To analyse the regulation of governance, recognise varying international governance practices, and examine the links between governance and corporate performance.

The study of this module will enable you to gain a practical understanding of how governance structures can promote good decision making and performance, and increase the accountability of directors and managers. Key external regulations that can affect organisations,

such as international tax and law, are highlighted extensively. The capacity to assess and monitor director remuneration will also be an acquired asset by the time the module is complete.

Accounting Information Systems and Technology

Aim: To introduce the use and purpose of accounting information systems (AIS) and other relevant technologies from a value-creating and organisational alignment perspective.

Multiple approaches for employing AIS are investigated in this module through a variety of decision making and critical thinking approaches. You will understand how appropriate internal controls are established and how to verify compliance through audits linked to AIS. This module will equip you with the skills to analyse business processes and optimise organisational performance by means of AIS, and the aptitude to develop decision making models linked to organisational strategies. You will also evaluate the challenges associated with computer crimes and information technology security.

Elective modules (students choose two)

N/A Available for

- 1 General track
- 2 International Financial Reporting
- 3 Strategic Finance Practice
- 4 Emerging Markets

1 International Corporate Finance

3 *Aim: To deliver an understanding of the organisational structure of international finance from a corporate perspective.*

You will study a wide variety of related subjects: international trade policy; payment methods; how foreign exchange impacts on an organisation; transfer pricing; sources and use of global funds. You will also gain a practical understanding of how trends in the balance of trade and balance of payments, and the global demand for commodities, affect organisations linked by the global economy.

1 Treasury Management and Ethics

3 *Aim: To explore, from a practical perspective, the tools used in managing the treasury function of an organisation.*

This module studies the instruments necessary to finance an organisation, including banks as well as the money and capital markets. This will involve topics such as risk mitigation techniques, payment methods, data transfer, and working capital management methods. You will learn how to determine a proper capital structure, manage the costs of long-term capital, and quantitatively evaluate capital resource investments.

1 Financial Analysis and Valuation

3 *Aim: To deliver an advanced overview of the concepts, theories and practices of business valuation.*

This module will develop your ability to successfully engage in this important aspect of the business world. You will be exposed to various valuation approaches: company information gathering methods; economic

and industry analysis; and financial statement analysis. You will learn how to determine credit worthiness and predict financial distress, and you will integrate value, strategy and economic climate to determine the appropriateness of merger and acquisition strategies.

3 Financial Markets and Institutions

3 *Aim: To provide an overview of financial markets and institutions, enabling students to understand and critically assess a broad array of economic and financial information.*

A wide range of relevant topics will be explored, including the flow of funds from lenders to borrowers. The role of financial intermediaries, investment banks, and securities firms will be emphasised. Money and capital markets are analysed, and you will investigate foreign exchange markets, floating exchange rate regimes, and the role played by multilateral financial organisations in the global economy.

1 Islamic Finance

4 *Aims: To provide an understanding of the unique nature of Islamic Law and culture, and how this impacts on finance, business and contracts.*

Given the growing importance of Islamic finance in global economies, it is important that students have the opportunity to learn how to financially manage organisations which operate in Islamic markets. This module contrasts the principles of Islamic finance with 'traditional' concepts and determines how the social justice principles associated with Islamic finance affects traditional models and theories. You will also analyse the role of Islamic Law in underlying business behaviours, and determine how Islamic Law affects the selection of financing instruments.

1 Finance in Emerging Markets

4 *Aim: To expand financial management knowledge and practice skills to meet the needs of firms operating in emerging markets.*

The theory and tools of traditional finance are typically designed for developed world economies with their highly efficient capital and money markets. Yet the emerging world economies represent significant opportunities such as foreign direct investment, product market expansions, mergers and acquisitions, and outsourcing. You will be exposed to the way in which context, culture, institutions and markets differ in emerging markets, and the way in which such factors impact on the approach to business opportunities.

1 Social Entrepreneurship

4 *Aim: The objective of this module is to examine the characteristics and goals of the social entrepreneur as well as an in-depth view into the practices of creating social value for individuals and communities.*

Your ability to develop and implement social change will increase significantly as you become acquainted with the theories of social entrepreneurship and learn how to identify the characteristics of the social entrepreneur. Upon completion of this recommended module, you will also be able to evaluate the organisational structure, human resources, funding, marketing and stakeholder participation; all vital success factors in a social change project. The study of the theories and practice of creating partnerships for social change, the aptitude to resource initiatives to link community needs and the talent to develop a plan to implement social change will all be covered in this study of social entrepreneurship.

1 Entrepreneurial Finance

4 *Aim: To introduce the global process of entrepreneurship, and determine how to identify and source entrepreneurial financing and funding.*

Through this case-based module you will discover how financial tools and techniques are extended to match the risk, innovation, and change-rich environment of the entrepreneur. You will also expand your finance management repertoire to include an understanding of how non-traditional sources of financing can be raised and directed to meet an entrepreneurial firm's growth and operational needs. The context is global and cases show how to assess which countries represent the best places to start a business, how to adapt locally, and how to execute for success.

1 Advanced International Financial Reporting and Analysis

4 *Aim: To enhance the knowledge and skills acquired from the study of the International Financial Reporting and Analysis module and provide a more advanced practice of the application of international financial reporting standards (IFRS).*

This advanced accounting module involves an in-depth examination of IFRS, which includes the application of its regulations and the interpretation of financial statements for the assessment of performance and position of an entity. You will learn how to apply IFRS to a variety of transactions, assess organisational position and understand the reporting of assets, liabilities, provisions and equity. The module also includes subject matter such as reporting overseas activities and advanced group accounting.



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