

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	MSc
4	Programme Title	International Financial Analysis
5	Programme Code	4050 F
6	Programme Accreditation	ACCA; AIA; CFA
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	Business Management
8	FHEQ Level	7
9	Last updated	July 2021

10 Programme Aims

MSc International Finance Analysis has been specifically designed with an aim to enable participants to prepare for and/or develop a career in finance/accounting/investment. The programme brings together creative thinking, fundamental theory and real-life case studies, to enable participants to develop a wide range of analytical and critical thinking skills to be job-ready for today's dynamic international financial and economic environments.

Specifically the programme aims:

- 1 To develop an in-depth understanding of accounting and financial analysis in the context of the international financial environment.
- 2 To develop quantitative and qualitative skills of analysis to enable students to evaluate and appraise corporate performance and valuation.
- 3 To develop students' transferable skills including: analytical and research skills, personal and interpersonal skills, presentation skills, team working skills and an appreciation of working in a multicultural environment.
- 4 To produce graduates with the professional attributes and financial analytical skills highly valued by international organisations

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme outcomes are consistent with the benchmark statements for Masters Awards in Business and Management and Newcastle University Statement of the Taught Postgraduate Offer.

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- A1 Critically review and apply in-depth knowledge and advanced understanding of international financial analysis and corporate valuation.
- A2 Evaluate contemporary issues and developments in international financial analysis and corporate valuation informed by international scholarship and research.
- A3 Critically interpret ethical challenges, corporate social responsibility, and sustainability issues to inform investment decision making in international financial environments,

corporate social responsibility, and sustainability issues to inform decision making in international financial environments.
Teaching and Learning Methods
The primary means of imparting knowledge and understanding is through interactive lectures which guide students towards independent reading and enable students to check their learning through group discussions and problem solving/ practice. Students are facilitated to read research articles, take part in student-centred projects, and analysis of case studies during the programme.
Assessment Strategy
Knowledge and understanding (A1, A2, A3) is assessed by unseen exams, various forms of coursework – essays requiring critical analysis, reports, case studies, presentations and dissertations.
Intellectual Skills
<p>On completing the programme students should be able to:</p> <p>B1 Apply critical thinking skills to inform problem solving in work based situations</p> <p>B2 Function as an independent learner and skilled reflective practitioner</p> <p>B3 Undertake and apply research of relevance to international financial analysis</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods
The skills set (B1, B2, B3) is developed by lectures, small group sessions and presentations.
Assessment Strategy
The skills set (B1, B2) is assessed via unseen exams, various forms of coursework – essays requiring critical analysis, reports, case studies, presentations and dissertations. B3 is assessed via a group report as part of the compulsory module NBS8006.
Practical Skills
<p>On completing the programme students should be able to:</p> <p>C1 Recognise and utilise the potential for digitally enhanced organisational capabilities</p> <p>C2 Effectively function in formal and distributed organisational leadership roles</p> <p>C3 Gather, synthesise and evaluate information through the use of databases and other sources.</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods
The skills set (C1, C2, C3) is developed by lectures, small group sessions and presentations.
Assessment Strategy
The skills set (C1, C2) is assessed via unseen exams, various forms of coursework – essays requiring critical analysis, reports, case studies, presentations and dissertations.

Transferable/Key Skills
<p>On completing the programme students should be able to:</p> <p>D1 Apply quantitative skills required for financial analysis and corporate valuation.</p> <p>D2 Develop and sustain a high level of interpersonal effectiveness, leadership attributes, organisational, and communication skills in diverse socio-cultural international financial business environments.</p> <p>D3 Apply analytical and modelling skills through the use of real world data and sophisticated econometric and statistical software.</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods
<p>The skills set (D1,D2, D3) is developed by lectures, small group sessions and presentations.</p>
Assessment Strategy
<p>The skills set (D1, D2, D3) is assessed via unseen exams, various forms of coursework – essays requiring critical analysis, group and individual assignments, case studies, presentations and dissertations.</p>

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features
Basic structure of the programme
<p>Programme – Semesters 1 & 2</p> <p>The MA IFA programme consists of SIX compulsory modules. These modules will enable you to acquire a firm understanding of many of the major areas of knowledge in accounting and finance.</p> <p>Detailed aims and objectives for each module can be found in the module outlines which can be found on the website: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/module-catalogue/</p> <p>Dissertation (Analyst Report)</p> <p>The dissertation is the capstone module for the programme, worth 60 credits. This module provides the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills developed during the taught components of the programme into analysing and synthesising real world situations and problems. Specifically, participants produce a detailed analyst report – including in-depth analyses and future assessments – relating to a listed corporation.</p> <p>The dissertation is a major piece of work (no more than 12,000 words).</p>
Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)
<p>The programme contains a significant portion of both financial accounting, finance, and international capital markets, providing necessary tools for quantitative and qualitative assessments for the purpose of corporate valuation. The programme is designed primarily for those seeking career prospects in financial and investment industries.</p> <p>In addition, taught by accounting and finance faculty, the core modules of the programme provide fast-track career prospects with its professional accreditations of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and Association of International Accountants (AIA).</p> <p>The MSc in IFA has been structured in light of the need to synthesise complex issues with vast sources of data into valuing corporate performance in today's dynamic international</p>

financial and economic environments. The course has been designed to provide non-specialist who have reasonable numerical backgrounds firstly to acquire the quantitative and qualitative skills of financial analysis, and secondly to gain an insight and understanding of how accounting and finance knowledge may be combined to assess corporate performance and valuation and make investment decisions. In particular, the programme features 'hands on' analysis of real world data, including work with Datastream, Bloomberg and other sources, with a substantial emphasis on developing IT and Data-modelling skills (the advanced use of spreadsheets, databases, econometric and statistical software).

IFA integrates contemporary issues with staff members' international research interests as well as demonstrates real-world insights through its Guest Speaker Series.

In addition, the dissertation (analyst report) is based around the research reports of financial analysts – individual participant articulates knowledge learnt from taught components of the programme into analysing a list company of their choice, and concluding with a valuation of the company.

The above features significantly differentiate this programme from conventional taught Masters programmes in Accounting and Finance.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[4050 Programme Regulations 21-22](#)

13 Support for Student Learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

Accreditation reports

None

Additional mechanisms

None

15 Regulation of assessment

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/>

Degree Programme and University Regulations: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/>

The Degree Programme Handbook: <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/business-school/current-students/academic/pg-handbooks/ifa-msc/#yourprogramme>

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.