

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
(Taught Postgraduate)**



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	MSc
4	Programme Title	Finance
5	Programme Code	5149 F
6	Programme Accreditation	N/A
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	N/A
8	FHEQ Level	Level 7
9	Last updated	July 2021

10 Programme Aims

1. To provide learning opportunities which enable course participants to acquire the following:
 - a. The capability to understand and analyse the behaviour of international financial markets and institutions with a view to employment in this area.
 - b. The knowledge, understanding, skills and attributes required for analysing the strategies of investors in financial markets with a view to employment in this area.
 - c. The ability to apply the knowledge, skills and understanding gained on the programme to a specific empirical focus within an individual project or dissertation.
2. The skills necessary to successfully enhance their CPD activity, self-directed learning, or pursue further postgraduate study.
2. To contribute to the University's objectives by increasing the number of graduate students and enhancing their key skills and employability, diversifying the teaching portfolio and developing alternative modes of delivery, and responding to the CPD agenda.
3. To provide a qualification which fully meets the learning outcomes at Level 7 in the Higher Education Qualifications Framework (FHEQ).
4. To provide a programme that conforms to prevailing University policies and the QAA Quality codes of practice.

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides students with opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of the key principles and theories of finance, as well as to demonstrate disciplinary competency. It combines theory with the practical application of skills required to generate solutions and communicate the results to others in a clear, concise and professional manner.

Knowledge and Understanding

The programme provides opportunities for the students to develop and demonstrate:

- A1 An advanced understanding of the role of finance in a modern economy.
- A2 An advanced understanding of the operation and behaviour of financial markets, institutions, and investors.
- A3 An advanced understanding of current research and scholarship on finance theory.

A4 An advanced understanding of empirical modelling techniques.

A5 An ability to define the key components of countries' financial environment and how environmental components differ globally.

A6 An ability to identify financial ethical issues and make recommendations for appropriate courses of action.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The primary means of imparting knowledge and understanding is a combination of lectures (A1-6), a variety of different seminar modes (A1-6), supervision in the development of project proposals (A1-6), and tutorial supervision of a dissertation (A1-6). Each seminar mode is interactive and student-focused, including discussion of taught and read material (A1-6), individual and group projects (A1-2, A3-6 as appropriate), and practical projects (A1-2, A3-6 as appropriate).

As this is essentially a conversion programme there is a heavy emphasis on the taught components. In line with University's emphasis on student-led learning, however, throughout the taught components of the course students are encouraged and expected to engage in independent reading and are supported in this by the provision of extensive and prioritised reading lists.

Students are enabled to learn through their active participation in the different modes of course seminar (A1-6), group project work (A1-2, A3-6 as appropriate), and through the supervision given to individual project work (A1-2, A3-6 as appropriate).

Assessment Strategy

Knowledge and understanding are assessed by a range of approaches, chosen to accurately assess student capabilities. These comprise essays (A1-3, A4-6 as appropriate), individual and group project reports (A1-6 as appropriate), a literature review and research proposal (A1-3, A4-6 as appropriate), individual presentations (A1-6 as appropriate), and formal seen and unseen exams (A1-2, A3-6 as appropriate). Some, or all, outcomes A1-6 (depending upon the topic), but especially A3, are also assessed by means of a dissertation.

Intellectual Skills

The programme provides opportunities for the students to develop and demonstrate:

B1 The ability to critically engage with contemporary debates on important issues related to the operation of financial markets and institutions.

B2 The ability to critically engage with contemporary debates on the role of empirical research on the efficiency of financial markets.

B3 The ability to critically evaluate current research and scholarship on finance theory.

B4 The ability to deal with complex issues both analytically and systematically, and to use the analysis to make sound judgements.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Cognitive skills are developed through seminar discussion groups (B1-4), short individual projects (B1, B2, B4), and group projects (B1-4).

All the cognitive skills (B1-4) are exercised significantly at an advanced level during the preparation and execution of the dissertation, supported by the Research Methods module, and tutorial supervision for individual students.

Assessment Strategy

Knowledge and understanding are assessed by a range of approaches, chosen to accurately assess student capabilities. These comprise essays (B1-4, as appropriate), individual and group project reports (B1-4, as appropriate), a literature review and research proposal B3-4, B1-2 as appropriate), individual presentations (B1-4, as appropriate), and formal seen and unseen exams (B1-4). Some, or all, of B1-4 (depending upon the topic), but especially B3, are also assessed by means of a dissertation.

Practical Skills

The programme provides opportunities for the students to develop and demonstrate:

- C1 The ability to demonstrate numeracy by applying appropriate computational techniques in the area of finance and an advanced capability with some of these techniques.
- C2 The ability to critically assess the quality of the analytical data generated by these techniques, and to synthesise and present relevant data, conclusions and recommendations to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- C3 The ability to apply, with originality and creativity, the knowledge, skills and understanding gained on the programme to complex issues within the finance and related industries.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Subject specific and practical skills are taught through lectures and seminars, supervision of the development of individual and group projects (C1-3). Apart from the lectures, all of these teaching methods are also designed to further enable student learning and to complement their independent study and group-work (C1-3). Such learning is reinforced and further developed as students apply their new skills in their dissertation (C1-3) under the guidance of their supervisor.

Assessment Strategy

Subject specific and practical skills are assessed by means of short individual project reports (C1, C2), short group project reports (C1-3), individual audio-visual presentations with accompanying notes (C2), essays (C1, C2), exams (C1, C2), and development of a literature review and project proposal (C2). Some, or all, of C1-3 (depending upon the topic) are also examined by means of a dissertation. A feature of the programme is the use of mid-term assessments to permit the students to receive early feedback on their progress.

Transferable/Key Skills

The programme provides opportunities for the students to develop and demonstrate the following key skills:

- D1 The ability to use appropriate verbal/written communication to convey information to a particular audience tailoring the content, style and presentation to their intended audience.
 - D2 The ability to exercise responsibility and leadership in group projects.
 - D3 The ability to appropriately use library and information sources, and IT resources and applications.
 - D4 The ability to organise and prioritise work activities and manage time effectively.
- The ability to work independently and in teams with professional responsibility, creative initiative and originality contributing effectively to the team based activity.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Some key skills are formally taught in compulsory modules (D1-D3). They are also taught informally as an additional outcome of those teaching methods focused on group-work (D2, D4), and the preparation of short Briefings (D1, D4). To promote learning, students are encouraged to acquire, develop and utilise key skills in seminars involving individual and group projects – with both audio-visual presentations and written reports (D1, D3, D4) – and individual and group projects requiring information search, analysis and interpretation (D2, D3). Planning, organisation and prioritisation and effective time management (D4) are promoted by means of a strictly enforced coursework submission timetable. Opportunities for the students to develop key skills exist in each of the components of the dissertation and associated supervision: identification of issue and construction of research plan (D4), literature review and method development (D3, D4), primary and secondary research (D1, D3-4) and analysis and final write-up (D1, D3-4). Opportunities to participate in an international study abroad experience during the summer will further develop these skills (D1, D4).

Assessment Strategy

Key skills are not independently assessed. However, all the key skills (D1-4) are indirectly assessed by the main modes of coursework utilised to assess the other learning outcomes (A-C inclusive) (essays, exams, short briefings, individual and group project reports, individual presentations, the literature review and project proposal). D1 and D4 are also assessed by means of a dissertation.

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

This programme is for full-time students only. The period of study is normally 12 months and the taught component of the course is split across Semester 1 and Semester 2.

All students take 180 credits of modules, 130 credits of which are compulsory modules, including the dissertation. Candidates shall take further optional modules to a value of 50 credits, of which at least 10 credits must be taken in semester 1 and at least 20 credits must be taken in semester 2. An overview of module content is available online on the Module Catalogue and further details of the module structure will be given during the first lecture.

During the summer students may opt to undertake an intensive international experience (up to 10 credits) at an approved summer school (as available) that provides an additional opportunity to immerse themselves in another country's academic environment, develop new contacts and gain additional skills for their future careers.

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

The Business School's MSc Finance programme builds on the School's established strengths in economics and finance and has been created in response to the increased growth of the financial services sector. Worldwide growth in the sector has furthered the demand for students with specialist skills and competencies in finance and banking. Closely related to the School's MSc Banking and Finance programme, the Finance degree features compulsory modules in financial theory and corporate policy and optional specialist finance modules, whereas the Banking and Finance MSc features a greater number of compulsory modules in central, retail, and investment banking. The MSc Finance programme is particularly aimed at those interested in pursuing a career in

- investment banking
- financial research
- financial trading

The program has many distinctive features including a mix of compulsory and optional modules, and a supervised dissertation. It provides the opportunity to participate in an intensive course at a summer school with one of our global partner universities that will complement learning at NUBS while developing international awareness.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[5149 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

N/A

Additional mechanisms

N/A

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/courses/>

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

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.