

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION



1 Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2 Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3 Final Award	MSc
4 Programme Title	Accounting, Finance and Strategic Investment Accounting, Finance and Strategic Investment (with Study Abroad)
5 Programme Code	5156F 5478F
6 Programme Accreditation	CIMA; ACCA
7 QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	Business and Management
8 FHEQ Level	7
9 Last updated	July 2021

10 Programme Aims

MSc Accounting, Finance and Strategic Investment has been specifically designed with an aim to enable participants to prepare for and /or develop a career in management accounting/ financial planning/ corporate investment. The programme brings together innovative thinking, fundamental theory and real-life case studies, to enable participants to develop a wide range of analytical and critical thinking skills.

Specifically the programme aims:

- 1 To develop advanced understanding of accounting, finance and strategic investment in advancing the effectiveness and competitiveness of organisations.
- 2 To develop quantitative and qualitative skills for evaluating and informing strategic decisions and investment opportunities.
- 3 To develop transferable skills including report writing, personal and interpersonal skills, presentation skills, group working skills and an appreciation of working in a multicultural environment.
- 4 To equip graduates with professional attributes and investment and decision making skills highly valued by international organisations.
- 5 Offer students the opportunity to develop graduate attributes which increase employability, particularly communication and (where applicable) language skills, intercultural competencies, adaptability, resilience and global awareness.
- 6 Gain insight into international Higher Education and experience differences in academic approach and learning environment.
- 7 Provide the opportunity to experience new areas of study outside of their usual programme of study at Newcastle University.

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 managerial control and decision making and strategic planning and investment.
- A2 evaluate contemporary issues and developments in managerial control and decision making and strategic planning and investment informed by international scholarship and research.
- A3 critically interpret ethical challenges, corporate social responsibility and sustainability issues to inform managerial and strategic decision making within an international organisation.
- A4 Demonstrate the ability to adapt to different learning environments and cultures

Teaching and Learning Methods

The primary mode of instruction is via lectures and staff led discussion, supplemented by practical exercises including the use of case studies. Students are encouraged to employ reading lists to broaden subject knowledge and to use appropriate business cases, quantitative examples and new developments in business to ensure up to date knowledge of the theory and practice.

Assessment Strategy

Knowledge (A1, A2, A3) is assessed by a mix of unseen examinations, supported by individual and group assignments which are selected to best reflect the subject being studied. In addition a dissertation (consultant report) will be produced.

Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- B1 Apply both quantitative and interpretative skills required for corporate performance evaluation, managerial decision making and strategic planning and investment.
- B2 develop and sustain a high level of interpersonal effectiveness, leadership attributes, organisational and communication skills in diverse socio-cultural international business environment.
- B3 Apply analytical and modelling skills through the use of real world data and sophisticated econometric and statistical software.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Students learn by completing case studies, group and individual exercises, the presentation of findings.

Assessment Strategy

Intellectual skills (B1, B2, B3) are assessed by a mix of unseen examinations, supported by assignments which are selected to best reflect the subject being studied. In addition a dissertation (consultant report) is produced.

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

C1 Recognise and utilise the potential for digitally enhanced organisational capabilities

C2 Effectively function in formal and distributed organisational leadership roles

C3 Gather, synthesise and evaluate information through the use of databases and other sources.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Students are required to apply their knowledge of key skills to practical situations, through individual and group exercises and through a dissertation (consultant report).

Assessment Strategy

Subject specific skills (C1, C2, C3) are assessed by a mix of unseen examinations, supported by assignments and other assessed exercises which are selected to best reflect the subject being studied. In addition research skills are assessed when a dissertation (consultant report) is produced.

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

D1 Apply critical and innovative thinking skills to inform complex decision making and problem solving in work based situations

D2 Integrate evidence from a variety of sources to enhance effectiveness and competitiveness of organisational performance.

D3 Undertake and apply research of relevance to strategic financial planning and managerial decision making within international financial market structures.

D4 Adapt and operate in a different cultural environment

Teaching and Learning Methods

Students experience problem solving in case studies, group exercises and individual assignments. They develop presentation, team-working skills and the ability to work independently.

Assessment Strategy

Transferable skills (D1, D2, D3) assessed by unseen examinations, and supported by group and individual assignments which are selected to best reflect the subject being studied. In addition skills are assessed when a dissertation (consultant report) is produced.

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

Programme – Semesters 1 & 2 except: * = S1 only and ** = S2 only

The MSc Accounting, Finance and Strategic Investment programme consists of seven compulsory taught modules, plus a dissertation. These modules will enable participants to acquire a firm understanding of many of the major areas of knowledge in accounting and finance.

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/>

Dissertation (Consultant Report)

The dissertation is the capstone module for the programme, worth 60 credits. This module provides the opportunity to articulate and apply knowledge and skills developed during the taught components of the programme into evaluating real world situations and problems. Specifically, participants produce a detailed consultant report – including in-depth analysis and future assessments – relating to a major listed corporation.

The dissertation is a major piece of work (no more than **12,000 words**).

Optional international experience – following successful completion of taught elements

Following the completion of all taught elements of the programme, registrants will have the option to undertake one additional semester of study with an existing NUBS partner institution. The exchange period will begin in late September/early October (depending on the destination institution) following the submission of the dissertation. Students participating in an exchange will be instructed to select partner modules which will add value to their NUBS degree, focussing on subjects that will enhance their graduate employability prospects.

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

The programme contains a significant portion of both finance and management accounting, providing necessary tools for quantitative and qualitative assessment of corporate performance. The management accounting, financial planning and business strategy dimensions reflect the fact that the programme is designed primarily for those working **WITHIN** organisations or for those providing consultancy advice **TO** organisations.

The programme provides fast-track career prospects with its professional accreditations of Chartered Global Management Accountants (CGMA)/Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) and Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).

The programme has been designed to provide non-specialists who have numerical backgrounds with a strong foundation of knowledge and analytical skills for understanding and improving strategic planning and investment, decision making and management control of an organisation within international financial market structures. 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 skills (incl. advanced use of spreadsheets, databases, econometric and statistical software).

AFSI integrates contemporary issues with staff members' research interests as well as demonstrates real-world insights through guest speakers from industries.

In addition the dissertation (consultant report) involves individual student choosing a real-world listed company and articulating knowledge and skills learnt from taught components of AFSI into evaluating and making recommendations regarding performance and strategy.

The programme also offers participants the opportunity to enhance their graduate employment prospects by improving their intercultural understanding and communication skills by offering an optional semester exchange abroad at one of NUBS' existing partner institutions

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

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[5156 Programme Regulations 23-24](#)

13 Support for Student Learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

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

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#). *Accreditation reports*
None.

Additional mechanisms

None.

15 Regulation of assessment

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

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/>

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.