

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	MA / PG Dip
4	Programme Title	Finance and Economics (Research)
5	Programme Code	4116 F/P (MA) 3438 F/P (PG Dip)
6	Programme Accreditation	N/A
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	N/A
8	FHEQ Level	Level 7
9	Last updated	May 2026

10 Programme Aims

- 1 To provide an ESRC recognised Research Master's award benchmarked against ESRC Training Guidance
- 2 To provide foundational masters training in the subject to prepare students to take a PhD
- 3 To ensure students gain a thorough grounding in the theory, approaches and research methods of both the subject and social science more general
- 4 To provide a programme which meets the requirements for a Level 7 programme in the FHEQ and complies with University policies and procedures
- 5 To provide a programme that complies with prevailing University policies and QAA codes of practice

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas.

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should:

- A1 Have a thorough understanding of social science theory, approaches and research methods
- A2 Have a thorough understanding of research methods in Finance and / or Economics
- A3 Have a sound understanding of advanced scholarship and practice in areas within the Finance and / or Economics as well as an awareness of cutting edge research across the social sciences

Teaching and Learning Methods

A mixture of lectures, seminars, practicals are used to impart knowledge and understanding of social science theory and research methods (A1), research methods specific to Finance and

Economics (A2) and a sound understanding of advanced scholarship and practice in Finance and Economics (A3) These are backed up by independent study and directed reading.
Assessment Strategy
A range of assessment methods, including coursework, extended essays, testing, practical's and unseen written exams, providing a range of summative and formative assessment methods to examine learning outcomes (A1-A3)
Intellectual Skills
On completing the programme students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B1 Collect and analyse data using different approaches and data in a wide variety of formats B2 Evaluate literature in the discipline B3 Solve problems in the discipline
Teaching and Learning Methods
Lectures are used to provide an overview of the area and to introduce ideas and techniques (B1, B3) as well as to expose students to the relevant literature (B2). Seminars, workshops and practicals are used to practise data analysis and problem solving using a variety of data sets (B1, B3). The dissertation also provides practice in carrying out a literature review (B2).
Assessment Strategy
These intellectual skills are assessed through a variety of approaches covering the collection and analysis of data (B1) and through analytically-demanding unseen examinations and other assessments (B1-B3). The ability to evaluate literature is primarily assessed through the dissertation (B2).
Practical Skills
On completing the programme students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C1 Undertake preparatory planning for a doctorate C2 Carry out a literature search and review C3 Use the information and study skills obtained to do a doctorate C4 Develop analytical and empirical techniques for research
Teaching and Learning Methods
Lectures are used to introduce the material and the techniques, whereas seminars and practicals are used to practise particular methods (C4). The dissertation provides the opportunity to put the practical skills to the test and develop the skills needed to undertake a doctorate (C1-C3). The compulsory modules in information methods and qualitative and quantitative research methods cover dissertation preparation (C1, C3) and literature reviews (C2).
Assessment Strategy
These practical skills are assessed through a variety of approaches ranging from unseen examinations (C3, C4) to written coursework and analytical projects (C3, C4). The master's dissertation assesses the development of all these skills (C1-C4), and particular compulsory

modules (Information Skills C2; Nature of Explanation and Enquiry C1; Introduction to Qualitative Methods C4; Empirical Techniques in Research C4) develop specific skills from the list above.

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- D1 Write in a suitable academic style
- D2 Present ideas effectively orally in a variety of formats
- D3 Manage their own workload effectively so as to meet deadlines
- D4 Analyse theory, different approaches and quantitative and qualitative data effectively

Teaching and Learning Methods

These skills are primarily developed through seminars and workshops and completing the dissertation (D1-D4), although lectures will provide frameworks and concepts to help students analyse different theories and approaches to data analysis (D4).

Assessment Strategy

These key skills are assessed through a variety of assessment approaches, but in particular the dissertation (D1, D3, D4) and the research skills modules (D1, D3, D4). Some modules use informal student presentations to develop oral presentation skills (D2). Feedback on coursework will be particularly relevant in developing academic writing skills (D1).

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

The programme consists of a mixture of generic research training modules offered by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Research Training Programme combined with more specialised modules based in the subject covering both research training and specialist knowledge. The dissertation, undertaken at the end of the programme, provides the capstone which pulls together the varying strands of the programme.

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

The programme is designed to equip students for PhD study in the discipline and to be part of an ESRC 1+3 award.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[4116 Programme Regulations 26-27](#)

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/undergraduate/degrees/#subject>

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

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.