Programme Title: MSc in Banking and Finance January Start

Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Queen Mary, University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary, University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	Master in Science in Banking and Finance
Name of Interim Award(s)	Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	1 year - full-time,
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	PMSF-QMECON1 PSBAF
QAA Benchmark Group	Not applicable
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	N/A
Date Programme Specification Approved	
Responsible School / Institute	School of Economics & Finance

Schools which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme
Other (please specify by typing in box)

Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

Programme Outline

The MSc in Banking and Finance is designed for practitioners working in banking and other financial institutions, governments and other corporations in a financial analyst or related capacity. Students and professionals will experience major practical issues and interests in the area of banking and investment such as investment analysis, analysis of financial statement, optimal investment, banking, and risk and portfolio management.

The programme is intended to give professional postgraduate training to students wishing to pursue careers in the City, Government or elsewhere in the private banking and financial sector.

The programme brings the latest advances of applied research and is specifically designed to impart a thorough knowledge of the main components of commercial and investment banking and the changing structure of the international financial industry.

It is designed so as to offer flexibility and progressive specialization to educate experts the industry is requiring and includes six compulsory modules that are the necessary foundations to master Finance and Banking issues. Then, students will opt for two electives. The main objective of the electives is to go further in academic and applied expertise, allowing the students to tailor the course curriculum to their specific needs and career choices.

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Aims of the Programme

The MSc. in Banking and Finance will provide students with:
- a specialisation in banking and financial system
- a learning environment which encourages the development of systematic and independent thought and learning
- a all-inclusive knowledge and appreciation of major contemporary issues in banking and financial research
- a methodical knowledge of quantitative methods so that they will have the skills necessary for them to undertake quantitative analyses of relevant problems
- a grounding for the demands of examinations required from professional bodies (e.g. CFA, ACCA, CIMA)

What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

On successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Academic Content:	
A 1	Financial system
A 2	Banking system of advanced and transitional economies
A 3	Banking merging processes

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	to develop rigorous theoretical arguments
B 2	to access a wide range of empirical research literature and critically evaluate it
B 3	Testing financial theories and do predictions

Attributes:	
C 1	to analyse critically problems arising in both academic and practical environment
C 2	to make appropriate use of, especially electronic, learning resources
C 3	to present effectively and effortlessly results and achievements of individual and collaborative projects

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How Will You Learn?

Acquisition of knowledge and understanding is through a combination of lectures, seminars; computer based work and coursework, as well as the pre-sessional programme.
Throughout the whole academic year students are encouraged to undertake independent reading both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught and learnt and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.

Practical and computational skills are developed through coursework, the research project work and through interaction with the other research students and the project supervisor.

Technical reports and presentations are taught and developed through workshops and feedback on written coursework, progress reports of the research project and presentations.
Use of the scientific literature is introduced by the Library during the induction week and then developed by academic staff through lectures, coursework, and reports of the individual supervised special project.

Transferable skills are built up through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Effective communication is taught and assessed through workshops and feedback on the research project reports and oral presentations. It is assessed through coursework, written examinations and project work. Applying knowledge and financial models in real life problems is taught through lectures and is developed during individual research project.

Usage of information and communications technology is developed through workshops, computer based exercises, coursework activities, the research project and other and individual learning.

Management of recourses and time is developed throughout the course within a framework of coursework deadlines and the examination system. Moreover, the programme is structured and delivered in such a way as to promote independent learning and critical enquiry.

Throughout the research project what is being taught and simultaneously assessed is management skills the integration and evaluation of information from a variety of sources, and the transfer of knowledge techniques and solutions from one discipline to another.

How Will You Be Assessed?

The grade for each module is assessed through a combination of assessed group and individual coursework, which counts for 20 per cent of the final marks, and unseen written examinations in May, which counts for 80 per cent of the final marks.

During the autumn period, supervised by an academic member of staff, students will have to complete a 45 credit dissertation. It is assessed, on the basis of the individual literature review main report, initially by the supervisor, then a second examiner and then by the External Examiner and the full Examination Board.

How is the Programme Structured?

The study programme consists of 6 compulsory modules and three electives with a split between semesters. Students study four compulsory modules and one elective in the second semester (January - March) and two compulsory and a selection from a choice of elective modules in the third (May - July). Students will also be offered a two-week pre-sessional course whose aim is to introduce students without a strong quantitative background to the necessary mathematics and statistical concepts.

During the summer period, supervised by an academic member of staff, students will have to complete a 45 credit dissertation project.

The electives are subject to change

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Academic Year of Study 1 Add Module

	Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
X	Commercial and Investment Banking	ECOM049	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 3
X	Investment Management	ECOM050	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
X	Applied Corporate Finance	ECOM104	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
X	Quantitative Methods in Finance	ECOM053	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
X	Risk Management for Banking	ECOM055	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 3
X	Asset Management	ECOM057	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
X	Financial Derivatives	ECOM026	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
X	International Finance	ECOM035	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
X	Behavioural Finance	ECOM038	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
X	Principles of Accounting	ECOM058	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
X	Bond Market Strategies	ECOM074	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
X	Mergers and Acquisitions	ECOM095	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
X	Statistical Machine Learning in Finance	ECOM193	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
X	Regulating the Chinese Financial Syster	ECOM157	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
X	Dissertation	ECOM107	45	7	Core	1	Semester 3

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	Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
X	Real Estate Finance	ECOM138	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
X	Applied Finance with Eviews	ECOM122	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
X	Practical Valuation	ECOM118	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2

What Are the Entry Requirements?

The usual minimum academic qualifications are a good undergraduate (bachelor) degree (UK or equivalent) in economics. We will also consider students with very good undergraduate degrees in related subjects with some economics, but with a strong mathematics and/or statistics component.
Candidates without conventional, and/or formal, academic qualifications may be offered a place on the programme. Candidates with non-conventional qualifications will have to write in the first instance to the Director of the Masters Programmes in the School of Economics & Finance.
Applicants whose first language is not English AND who do not hold a degree from an English-speaking university will need to take an English language test - normally IELTS or TOEFL. The required scores are IELTS 6.5 with no less than 6 in each component, or paper based TOEFL 575 with 4.5 in the TWE (Test of Written English), or internet based TOEFL (iBT) 90.

How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between Schools and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Each school operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in this Committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

Student feedback will be integrated into all curriculum and programme review activities via the mechanisms already established in the School of Economics & Finance. These include regular student evaluations of taught modules (coordinated and overseen the School's Director of Taught Programmes and the Teaching and Learning Committee) and annual student evaluations of the programme. In addition to these formal mechanisms, staff in the department will solicit informal feedback from students where appropriate. All student feedback (both formal and informal) will form an integral part of ongoing curriculum and programme review. Taught postgraduate students are also represented on the School's Teaching and Learning Committee and the School's Student-Staff Liaison Committee, providing additional outlets for receiving and discussing student feedback.

All schools operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. The process is normally organised at a School-level basis with the Head of School, or equivalent, responsible for the completion of the school's Annual Programme Reviews. Schools/institutes are required to produce a separate Annual Programme Review for undergraduate programmes and for postgraduate taught programmes using the relevant Undergraduate or Postgraduate Annual Programme Review pro-forma. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

Academic Support

All taught postgraduate students in the School of Economics & Finance are assigned an advisor, who is the student's primary point of contact for both academic and welfare issues relating to the programme as a whole and the student's experience at Queen Mary. In addition to personal advisors, taught postgraduate students will be assigned supervisors for their dissertations during the second semester of the degree in order to oversee their Research Progress. Supervisors and supervisees will meet on a regular basis (the specifics of which are to be determined by the supervisor and the supervisee) to ensure sufficient progress is being made on the dissertation and that the submitted dissertation will be of a standard required for work at the MSc level.

Programme-specific Rules and Facts

Not applicable

Specific Support for Disabled Students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:
• Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
• Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
• Arranging DSA assessments of need
• Special arrangements in examinations
• Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
• Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
• Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
• Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
• Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

Curriculum development is informed by research active staff, some of whom also work for major employers of banking and finance graduates (such as the Bank of England, Goldman Sachs and the Treasury).

The learning outcomes for the programme include “to provide a solid foundation for a career in finance, econometrics and cognate areas;” they also include “to encourage students to develop the motivation and capacity to manage their own learning, and acquire a range of transferable skills valuable to them in employment or in continued education.”

First destinations of our graduates of the MSc in Banking and Finance, its closest equivalent degree in place, include: employment and/or research at: the InternationalMonetary Fund (IMF), CFA, NYSE¬Euronext, Mazars Pakistan, JS Bank, South Chine Securities (UK) Ltd, ING Wholesale. Other former students work in the City of London in institutions such as Barclays, HSBC, Ernst & Young.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification | Sarah Riley

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Person responsible for management of programme	Alfonsina Iona
Date Programme Specification produced/amended by School Learning and Teaching Committee	29/1/21
Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board	

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