



Programme Specification (UG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of award and field of study:	BSc Accountancy
Name of interim award(s):	standard approved UG awards
Duration of study / period of registration:	4 years
QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):	UBSF-QMBUSB1
QAA Benchmark Group:	Accounting
FHEQ Level of Award :	Level 6
Programme accredited by:	The ICAEW
Date Programme Specification approved:	December 2024
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Business & Management

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

School of Business & Management

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and The Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales (ICAEW)

Programme outline

The BSc Accountancy degree is a rigorous and dynamic programme offered by the School of Business and Management. Developed in partnership with PwC and the ICAEW, the program combines academic excellence, professional accreditation, and real-world audit experience, setting students on a fast track to a successful career in accountancy.

Known as the Flying Start degree program, it allows students to excel by completing all certificate and professional level ACA exemptions. Additionally, students will complete three paid work placements with PwC, the UK's leading professional services organization , gaining over half of the required ACA practical work experience days.

Aims of the programme

The BSc Accountancy programme aims to provide an innovative route to fast-track into a career in chartered accountancy, with integrated paid work placements at PwC. The three work placements add up to approximately 250 days of the approved technical work experience required by ICAEW to qualify as a chartered accountant. The student will benefit from both paid work experience and the technical training with PwC while they are studying at Queen Mary University of London.

During the 4 years, students will learn relevant and current accounting and business skills from lecturers who are experts in their field. The modules studied will exempt students from 12 of the 15 ICAEW certificate and professional level exams. In addition, paid work placements in PwC's assurance practice are built into the programme, which means students will get to apply their knowledge in the workplace and continually develop through practical work experience over the four years. If the students were to be offered a graduate position following graduation, it is likely that they will sit the remaining three exams for the Advanced Stage with PwC in that same year.

What will you be expected to achieve?

The new proposed programme (BSc Accountancy 4 year degree) is one of the fastest degree routes to becoming an ICAEW Chartered Accountant in the UK. Aside from gaining extensive business knowledge and practical experience, you can expect to leave university with: A degree in Accountancy from Queen Mary University of London, Associated Chartered Accountant (ACA) qualification well under way and a full-time job offer with PwC, if you impress.

You'll get a fantastic university experience as a full-time student for four years, making new friends, having new experiences, and generally enjoying university life. You'll also benefit from paid work experience and training with PwC. You will be supported every step of the way by a network of staff from both the School of Business and Management and PwC. PwC is one of the best places to start career as a trainee ICAEW Chartered Accountant.

Equally this unique programme expects to remove barriers for you to have access to Higher Education and to prestigious career routes. To create a truly inclusive environment, building on Queen Mary's cherished cultural diversity, where you will be able to flourish and reach your full potential.

Please note that the following information is only applicable to students who commenced their Level 4 studies in 2017/18, or 2018/19

In each year of undergraduate study, students are required to study modules to the value of at least 10 credits, which align to one or more of the following themes:

- networking
- multi- and inter-disciplinarity
- international perspectives
- enterprising perspectives.

These modules will be identified through the Module Directory, and / or by your School or Institute as your studies progress.

Academic Content:

A 1	Understanding the key technical and regulatory aspects (IAS/IFRS) that determines the process of recording financial transactions, publishing and interpretation of the financial information (data) published in Company Annual Reports.
A 2	Gain subject- and sector-specific knowledge.
A 3	Enhance the ability to use technical knowledge in real-life scenarios.
A 4	Develop a critical understanding of complex business issues which challenges students' ability to problem solve, identify the ethical implications and provide an effective solution.

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	Understand a business or accounting situation, prioritise by determining key drivers, issues and requirements and identify any relevant information.
B 2	Structure information from various sources into suitable formats for analysis and provide creative and pragmatic solutions in a business environment.
B 3	Apply professional scepticism and critical thinking to identify faults, gaps, inconsistencies and interactions from a range of relevant information sources and relate issues to a business environment.
B 4	Apply technical knowledge, skills and experience to support reasoning and conclusion and formulate opinions, advice, plans, solutions, options and reservations based on valid evidence and communicate clearer in a manner suitable for the recipient.

Attributes:	
C 1	Apply analytical skills to investigate problems, use numbers confidently and competently, identify information needs appropriate to different situations whilst also grasping theoretical principles and practices in the field of accounting and financial management.
C 2	Develop knowledge and analytical skills that are transferable into employment. Conduct qualitative and quantitative analyses which are grounded in evidence by utilising technologies to access and interpret information effectively and critically evaluate the reliability of different sources of information.
C 3	Acquire new learning in a range of ways, both individually and in collaboration, and possess the skills to influence negotiations and respond appropriately to criticism.
C 4	Build the technical knowledge, professional skills and practical experience needed to become an ICAEW Chartered Accountant.

How will you learn?

The School promotes active learning within a context of clear learning objectives. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning. Most modules have a weekly course element (1 to 2 hours of lectures plus a 1 to 2 hours seminar) and in some this will require collaborative group work. We expect informal work groups to emerge particularly in the more numerically based subjects. Clear guidance on basic and supplementary reading is given. Some of the modules in the programme will be taught with students from other UG accountancy programmes and some will be specifically for Accountancy students.

Where relevant the ICAEW learning materials will be used by students, to support their studies with materials being updated annually. For the four strategic credit bearing exams it is mandatory for ICAEW learning materials to be used by each student. New versions are available in early September for the following calendar year. All ICAEW materials are digital; students can use their ACA student logins to access their materials.

We recognise the value of independent work at final year level for undergraduates. We consider it important to develop the critical and evaluative abilities of students to be able to undertake basic research, through both practical and theoretical means and to develop the ability to write sustained, coherent narratives.

In order to enable students to develop their skills, we will offer modules that require independent work using written and presentation skills.

How will you be assessed?

The School of Business and Management will use a variety of assessment methods based on the suitability for testing the students' learning outcomes and academic skills for each module delivered in the programme across the 4 years. Modules are assessed by a combination of coursework, presentations, and final examinations. Clear guidance on the coursework requirements is given in module outlines and QMPlus, which emphasises approaches to assessment types.

Students are made aware at induction, within the Flying Start student handbook and from the Programme Director, together with rules and procedures. Examinations are typically 2 hours papers, with professional papers between 2.5 - 3 hours undertaken at the end of each semester or during the ICAEW examination schedule. Examination papers set by QM are reviewed by an Internal Moderator and then by External Examiners as required in the academic regulations. Some of the ICAEW exams are run via computer-based assessments off campus, which may differ from university procedure however, all exams are robust and fully invigilated and secure.

All accounting exemption modules have non-standard pass marks (and the assessments within those modules) for reasons of professional accreditation exemptions. The pass marks in use are 40.0, 50.0, and 55.0. Programme specific rules and facts will specify which pass mark applies to each module.

How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

BSc Accountancy Programme is a full-time 4 year degree, taught within the University's modular system.

- Prior to the start date of the programme all students will be expected to attend an early induction activity and the main idea will be to introduce basic accounting concepts to help students to know some of the accounting technical terminology. It is an excellent opportunity to gain and improve knowledge and experience (lay foundations for the first year and the more technical financial accounting modules) in working within a small group of peers before starting the programme and get to know each other before the modules commence.

- Academic year 1 comprised of 8 x 15 and 1 x 0-credit modules, each of which run in either Semester 1 or Semester 2 and are normally assessed by a combination of coursework and/or an examination in January (Semester 1) or May (Semester 2)

- Academic year 2 comprised of 4 x 20-credit modules, each of which run in either Semester 1 or Semester 3 and are normally assessed by a combination of the School of Business and Management assessments (coursework and/or an examination in December) and the examinations held by the ICAEW which are December and June. Semester 2 is comprised of an industry placement at PwC, which is normally assessed by an industry placement report, worth 40 credits (these are non-academic credits).

- Academic year 3 is comprised 2 x 30 and 1 x 20-credit modules, each of which run in either Semester 1 or Semester 3 and are normally assessed by a combination of the School of Business and Management assessments (coursework and/or an examination in December) and the examinations held by the ICAEW which are December and June. Semester 2 is comprised of an industry placement at PwC, which is normally assessed by an industry placement report, worth 40 credits (these are non-academic credits).

The ICAEW hold an additional examination period in September.

- Academic year 4 is comprised 3 x 15 credit modules in Semester 1 and 1 x 35 credit module in Semester 3 and is normally assessed by the School of Business and management assessments (coursework and/or an examination in December and June). Semester 2 is comprised of a 40 credit industry placement at PwC, which is normally assessed by an industry experience report.

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Introduction to Financial Accounting	BUS139F	15	4	Core	1	Semester 1

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Foundations of Finance	BUS149F	15	4	Core	1	Semester 1
Introduction to Economics	BUS163	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Principles of Taxation	BUS167F	15	4	Core	1	Semester 1
Academic and Professional Awareness	BUS168	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Introduction to Management Accounting	BUS140F	15	4	Core	1	Semester 2
Quantitative Methods	BUS164	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Foundations of Assurance	BUS165F	15	4	Core	1	Semester 2
Law for Accounting	BUS166F			Core	1	Semester 2

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Financial Reporting for Business	BUS275F	20	5	Compulsory	2	Semester 1
Audit and Assurance Services	BUS273F	20	5	Core	2	Semester 1
PwC Placement 1 (P1)	BUS276F	40	5	Core	2	Semester 2
Business Strategy and Technology	BUS274F	20	5	Core	2	Semester 3
Tax Compliance	BUS277F	20	5	Core	2	Semester 3

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 3

Programme Title: BSc Accountancy

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Advanced Financial Management	BUS373F	20	6	Core	3	Semester 1
Business Planning: Taxation	BUS374F	30	6	Core	3	Semester 1
PwC Placement (P2)	BUS376F	40	6	Core	3	Semester 2
Advanced Financial Accounting and Reporting	BUS372F	30	6	Core	3	Semester 3

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 4

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Social and Environmental Accounting	BUS363	15	6	Compulsory	4	Semester 1
Employment Relations	BUS320	15	6	Compulsory	4	Semester 1
PwC Placement (P3)	BUS377F	40	6	Core	4	Semester 2
FTSE 100 Company Study 2	BUS375F	35	6	Compulsory	4	Semester 3
Macroeconomic Modelling and Policy	BUS330	15	6	Compulsory	4	Semester 1

What are the entry requirements?

Typical A/L offer: Grades AAA at A-Level. Excludes General Studies, Critical Thinking and Use of Mathematics.
International Baccalaureate Diploma with a minimum of 36 points overall, including 6,6,6 from three Higher Level subjects. This must include a minimum of 4 in Standard Level Mathematics.
BTEC: <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/entry/btec/>
Access HE: We consider applications from students with the Access to Higher Education Diploma. The minimum academic requirement is to achieve 60 credits overall, with 45 credits at Level 3, of which 30 credits must be at Distinction and 15 credits at Merit or higher. Applications are considered on a case by case basis. Due to the high volume of applications, we do not make offers of study purely on the basis of meeting grade requirements.
GCSE: Minimum five GCSE passes including English at grade C or 4 and Maths at grade A or 7.
EPQ: Alternative offers may be made to applicants taking the Extended Project Qualification.
For further information please visit: [qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate/entry/epq](https://www.qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate/entry/epq)
Contextualised admissions: Our standard contextual offer: ABB at A-Level.
Our enhanced contextual offer: BBB
More information on our contextual offer criteria can be found on our contextualised admissions page.
Please note that General Studies, Critical Thinking and Use of Mathematics are excluded from any A-Level offer and cannot be considered.
Applicants will then be required to complete an online PwC application form and it is expected that they will then follow the

standard PwC student recruitment process in relation to offers of temporary employment for the Work Placement. PwC will have the final decision in relation to which students are to receive an offer for the Degree Programme, save that all students must meet the University's eligibility criteria for admission to a the academic programme.

Professional Standards Requirement

QMUL would like to draw students attention to the Professional Standards Requirements for PwC and ICAEW in relation to the work placements for this degree programme. Ahead of the Assessment event PwC will ask students to confirm that they have read, understood and can comply with the policy.

How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The University and the Programme teams will be in regular contact, and a series of meetings between them and individuals nominated by them are established to manage the Degree Programme to ensure that the students are managed and supported throughout the Degree Programme. The structure of the meetings is listed below and the content of the meetings may include but is not limited to the following:

Monthly progress calls: Operational calls to ensure that both parties are updated and actions are being completed between the quarterly meetings. These discussions should include specific updates regarding student performance, and any matters which may impact on a student's current or future work placement and periods of temporary employment with PwC.

Quarterly Meetings: To discuss marketing, recruitment, student progression, placement performance, future developments, induction and transition. As a minimum the meetings will be attended by the Programme Director for the University and Programme Owner for PwC.

Annual Strategy Meetings: To discuss the Degree Programme performance and strategic direction of the programme for the next 12 months, and to consider any changes to the programme design and administrative arrangements for future Annual Intake(s). This will form the annual review and sign off of the Degree Programme. As a minimum the meetings will be attended by the Programme Director for the University and Programme Owner for PwC and the outcome of the meeting will be shared with the University's Head of the School of Business and Management and the Director of Student Recruitment for PwC. The Annual Strategy Meeting should be aligned with Queen Mary University of London's planning cycle.

Annual 3-Way Review (University, PwC and ICAEW): To discuss qualification, programme structure and accreditation and student agreements. The Annual 3-Way Review should be aligned with Queen Mary University of London's planning cycle.

Subject Examination Board (University and External Examiner but PwC may send a representative): To review student progression and university exit awards. July (main board) and September (resits).

Every School and Institute has a Staff-Student Liaison Committee (SSLC). The role of the SSLC is to address matters relating to students' learning experiences – ranging from teaching and learning, to assessment and feedback and learning resources.

What academic support is available?

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 and information is shared

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.

How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

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 and information about access arrangements are shared with the ICAEW to support students' off campus examinations.

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.

Programme-specific rules and facts

The programme contains special regulations regarding pass marks, number of attempts and progression requirements. Students will also be students of the ICAEW on progression to level 5. Information about students necessary for support through the programme will be shared with PwC and the ICAEW.

Non-standard Modules

These Level 4 modules have a pass mark of 50% for credit for prior learning at the certificate level of the ACA.

BUS139F Introduction to Financial Accounting
BUS140F Introduction to Management Accounting
BUS149F Foundations of Finance
BUS165F Foundations of Assurance
BUS166F Law for Accounting
BUS167F Principles of Taxation

These level 5 and 6 modules have a pass mark of 50%.

BUS274F Business Strategy and Technology
BUS373F Advanced Financial Management

These level 5 and 6 modules have a pass mark of 55% and examinations are sat at an ICAEW test centre during the ICAEW examination periods in December, June and September.

BUS273F Audit and Assurance Services
BUS277F Tax Compliance
BUS374F Business Planning: Taxation
BUS372F Advanced Financial Accounting and Reporting

The Work Placements that students will undertake with PwC are an integral part of the Degree Programme. In order to complete this training students will be required to sign a temporary employment contract for each Work Placement, and an ICAEW training contract with PwC, and register as a provisional member of ICAEW. These requirements are identical to the arrangements that would apply to a PwC ICAEW graduate trainee or any other accountancy trainee entering the profession, whilst reflecting that the students will only be employed by PwC on a temporary basis for the duration of each specific Work Placement.

Upon signing these contracts with PwC and registering with ICAEW the student will be required to adhere to the standards of professional conduct as outlined in the PwC Employment Manual whilst on Work Placement and ICAEW regulations.

Students will be asked to declare any issues relating to Independence and Fit and Proper prior to each Work Placement period.

BUS276F PwC Placement 1 (P1)
BUS376F PwC Placement (P2)
BUS377F PwC Placement (P3)

PwC determine if the placement has been passed and there is no resit attempt. If placement is failed a student will not be sponsored for the semester C module(s) and must exit the programme after the placement.

Progression Requirements

Any student failing a core level 4 module but achieving at least 40% will be offered a transfer to an alternative programme with BUS139, BUS140, BUS149, BUS165, BUS166 & BUS167 in the level 4 diet, currently Accounting and Management. Providing the standard progression requirements are met.

If a student fails any core module at level 5 they will be offered a change of programme to Accounting and Management, level 5 starting the following September.

If a student fails any core module in year 3 of the programme they will be offered a programme transfer to BSc Accounting to complete level 6 modules.

All information is correct at the time of writing, due to the nature of the programme it is sometime necessary to make changes to reflect fast paced industry needs.

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

Graduates from this programme will have developed a range of cognitive and practical skills together which will be applicable to different contexts beyond academia.

In relation to supervision during each Work Placement and corresponding period of temporary employment:

- PwC will appoint, for each student, an appropriately experienced and named person who will, alongside the student, be responsible for the student's development during their Work Placements ("Career Coach").
- The Career Coach will guide the student through PwC's annual performance management process in so far as it relates to their temporary employment, which is a standard process for all PwC employees. This will include; working with the student to help with the setting of the Work Placement goals at the outset of each Work Placement and formally signing off the agreed goals on PwC's performance management system. They will also review progress against goals at the mid-way point during the Work Placement, reviewing feedback from any client/project assignments and identifying any issues which the student may be experiencing (escalating to the PwC Programme Manager for resolution). At the end of each work placement the Career Coach will hold a performance meeting with the student to review all feedback received and the student's own self-reflection. The Career Coach will complete a summary review for the student and sign off the process on the performance management system.
- The Career Coach will also work with the student to agree on the resolution path for any problems the student may experience during the Work Placement.
- Throughout their Degree Programme, students will also have access to a named PwC individual who will be introduced at the induction and will be the main point of contact at PwC (the "PwC Programme Manager"). The PwC Programme Manager will meet with the students regularly throughout the Degree Programme and be an additional support they can rely on.
- PwC's Resourcing Team will be supportive to the students throughout the Work Placements and periods of temporary employment, they are responsible for all of the business unit's resourcing issues and requests. They will ensure the students have a well-balanced portfolio of work that promotes their professional development.
- It is expected that the supervision and development of the student will be consistent with that of any member of staff working at an equivalent level within PwC, for each period of temporary employment.

During their time at PwC students will develop adaptability and flexibility skills, problem-solving ability, commercial awareness and effective communication skills, which are highly valued by employers.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Professor Ishani Chandrasekara and Stuart Cadby

Programme Title: BSc Accountancy

Person responsible for management of programme:

Professor Ishani Chandrasekara

Date Programme Specification produced / amended by
School / Institute Education Committee:

9 Dec 2024

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught
Programmes Board:

December 2024