

Programme Title: MSc in Banking and Finance



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
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.

Aims of the Programme

The MSc. in Banking and Finance will provide students with:

- a specialization 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	Critically evaluate advanced theories and frameworks in banking and finance, incorporating insights from contemporary research to inform decision-making.
A 2	Apply quantitative and qualitative analytical tools to complex financial problems, emphasising data interpretation, statistical techniques, and financial modelling.
A 3	Being able to formulate and execute comprehensive financial strategies that align with organisational goals and regulatory requirements
A 4	Demonstrate expertise in the operational, regulatory, and risk management aspects of financial institutions and markets globally.
A 5	Integrate principles of corporate finance, investment management, and portfolio optimisation into strategic planning and performance evaluation.
A 6	Evaluate the impact of emerging technologies and innovations, such as blockchain and machine learning, on the financial services sector.

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	Synthesize and critically analyse financial data from multiple sources to develop robust and evidence-based conclusions.
B 2	Develop advanced problem-solving strategies for real-world financial challenges using interdisciplinary approaches.
B 3	Collaborate within multidisciplinary teams to address banking and financial sector challenges, employing effective interpersonal and leadership skills.
B 4	Design and execute empirical research projects, including hypothesis formulation, data collection, and statistical testing, with an emphasis on practical application
B 5	Present complex financial analyses and strategies effectively through professional communication formats, including reports, presentations, and visualisations.

Attributes:	
C 1	Demonstrate high-level adaptability and resilience in response to evolving global financial trends and challenges.
C 2	Exhibit ethical awareness and responsibility in financial decision-making, adhering to international regulatory and professional standards.
C 3	Employ self-directed learning and critical thinking to engage with continuous professional development and research in finance.
C 4	Apply creative thinking to innovate within the banking and finance industry, identifying opportunities for value creation and sustainable growth.
C 5	Build and maintain a global perspective on financial systems, recognising cultural and contextual influences on business practices.

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 resources 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 and presentations, and unseen written examinations in May

During the summer period, supervised by an academic member of staff, students will have to complete either a 45 credit Dissertation or 30 credit Applied Project in Valuation or 15 credit research project. 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?

Students are offered a two-week pre-session course whose aim is to introduce students without a strong quantitative background to the necessary mathematics and statistical concepts.

All students take four compulsory modules in Semester A [=60 credits]; two compulsory modules and three 15-credit elective modules (from a predefined list) in Semester B [=75 credits]. During the summer period (Semester C), supervised by an academic member of staff, students will have to complete 45 credits, either by completing:

- i) 7,000 word Dissertation (ECOM107); or,
- ii) Applied Project in Valuation (code tbc) and Further Topics in Valuation (ECOM154); or,
- iii) Research Project (ECOM200) plus two 15-credit elective modules (from a predefined list).

The predefined list of elective modules, submitted annually to the Academic Registry, are subject to change year-on-year due to operational needs, staff availability, etc.

Academic Year of Study

1

Add Module

	Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
X	Investment Management	ECOM050	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
X	Applied Corporate Finance	ECOM104	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
X	Practical Valuation	ECOM118	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
X	Applied Econometrics with R	ECOM216	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
X	Commercial and Investment Banking	ECOM049	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
X	Risk Management for Banking	ECOM055	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
X	Dissertation	ECOM107	45	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 3
X	Research Project	ECOM200	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 3
X	Applied Project in Valuation	tbc	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 3
X	Further Topics in Valuation	ECOM154	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 3

What Are the Entry Requirements?

Degree requirements

A 2:2 or above at undergraduate level in any subject, provided the degree contains satisfactory study of Mathematics and Statistics. Subjects likely to contain sufficient quantitative elements include Mathematics, Sciences, Engineering, Computer Science, Economics and Finance.

Students from less quantitatively oriented degrees, such as Accounting, Management and Politics, are welcome if they have focused on the more quantitative elements of those degrees.

Other routes

Candidates that do not currently meet the set entry requirements may also have the option to study the Graduate Diploma in Finance and Economics. Meeting the required grades on completion of this programme will provide a pathway to study MSc Banking and Finance.

The English Language requirements for entry to postgraduate taught and research programmes in the School of Economics and Finance falls within the following English band:

Band 4: IELTS (Academic) minimum score 6.5 overall with 6.0 in each of Writing, Listening, Reading and Speaking

We accept a range of English tests and qualifications categorised in our English bands for you to demonstrate your level of English Language proficiency. See all accepted English tests that we deem equivalent to these IELTS scores.

How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The Student Voice Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes 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. Student Voice Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Each school/institute operates an Education 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 the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate a Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. PR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery. School/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the PTES 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 International Monetary Fund (IMF), CFA, NYSE–Euronext, Mazars Pakistan, JS Bank, South China 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
Person responsible for management of programme	Alfonsina Iona
Date Programme Specification produced/amended by School Learning and Teaching Committee	29 Oct 2024
Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board	