

Programme Specification: MSc Accounting and Financial Management

1. Awarding Institution/Body	University of Gloucestershire
2. Teaching Institution	University of Gloucestershire
3. Recognition by Professional Body.	N/A
4. Final award and level of qualification	<i>MSc Accounting and Financial Management</i>
5. Modular Scheme or other	<i>PMS</i>
6. Programme title (name on certificate)	<i>Accounting</i>
7. UCAS code	N/A
8. JACS code	N/A
9. QAA subject benchmark statement(s) where relevant	Related Standard: Business and Management
10. Date of initial validation	April 2009
11. Date of revision	

12. External and Internal reference points

The educational aims and outcomes of the programme have been written with reference to the following reference points.

12a) External

- the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) – masters level;
- the QAA Benchmark statement for Management and Business – masters level (B);
- Other external reference point: ACCA: The ACCA Qualification: New Professional Qualification Explained (www.accaglobal.com), CIMA and AIA websites

Further details for the above are available at the relevant website(s).

12b) Internal

- University of Gloucestershire PMS regulations;
- University of Gloucestershire TLA policy including PDP and Skills;
- Other specified policies e.g. AWP and Student Charter.

Further details for the above are available at the University website

13. Main educational aims of the programme

The main educational aim of the Masters stage of the MSc Accounting and Finance are to provide you, the student, with opportunities to:

- Develop your intellectual capacity consistent with the demands of a Masters award
- Build on prior learning and / or experience to enhance theoretical and conceptual learning and improve effectiveness and enhance career opportunities for practising or potential Financial Managers or Accountants
- Develop as a reflective practitioner
- Develop advanced practical skills and insightful theoretical knowledge in the functional aspects of accounting
- Apply knowledge and concepts acquired to produce an in-depth investigation on an accounting / finance topic
- Enhance lifelong learning skills and personal development that enable you to work with self-direction and originality and to contribute to organisational development.

14. Programme outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for you, the student, to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

14a) Knowledge and understanding of:

The programme has been designed for graduates who hold a cognate degree and holders of ACCA Fundamentals (papers 1-9), CIMA Advanced Diploma or Papers 1-12 of the AIA Examination Syllabus. Students will therefore enter the programme with significant underpinning knowledge and skill in accounting and related topics. The following specific objectives relate to the MSc in Accounting and Financial Management. Students should have the ability to:

- Consolidate and extend knowledge and understanding of the theory and conceptual foundations of accounting
- Demonstrate a critical, ethical and reflective approach to the field of Accounting and review the impact of recent developments on corporate governance
- Evaluate, synthesise and apply advanced and contemporary theories and techniques to a range of complex and open-ended issues, problems and situations in the field of Accounting
- Apply with a degree of creativity and sophistication, intellectual, transferable and subject/professional skills to a range of complex and open-ended problems and situations in the field of Accounting
- Critically review the causes and impacts of endogenous and exogenous risk
- Undertake sophisticated financial analysis with regard to company performance, corporate valuation, investment appraisal, interest rate and currency risk management
- Make informed judgements on problems or opportunities in the field of Accounting
- Critically assess the dynamic nature of changed business practice as a result of global competition, sustainable growth, world class operations, continuous improvement, customer service and vendor relationships
- Extend the use of appropriate tools and techniques to judge how an organisation can secure the greatest return for the smallest amount of risk

14b) Intellectual/ thinking skills – able to:

- Research, synthesise and critically evaluate theoretical models; apply these to accounting and financial issues and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- Demonstrate self direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level
- Continue to advance your knowledge and understanding and to develop new skills to a high level
- Formulate independent judgements and articulate reasoned arguments through reflection, review and evaluation
- Acquire and analyse data and information, evaluate relevance and validity
- Be creative and critical in the rigorous analysis of issues
- Integrate and evaluate information and data from a variety of sources; and acknowledge appropriate references

14c) **Subject specific /Practical and professional skills – able to:**

- Plan and organise work tasks and the work of others with a reflective perspective
- Demonstrate an awareness of the range of techniques in assessing the implementation and effectiveness of Accounting techniques
- Demonstrate appropriate and dextrous use of numeracy as a means to display competence in the use of financial models
- Learn interdependently and independently and accept responsibility for subsequent career and continuing professional development
- Develop self study and self improvement skills appropriate for continuing professional development including critical self awareness, self reflection, self management and empathy to others

14d) **Transferable/key skills – able to:**

The key skills are taken from the “Masters awards in business and management – skills for all Masters programmes” benchmark statements and state that you should be able to demonstrate:

- A. *Critical thinking and creativity*
- B. *Problem solving and decision making*
- C. *Information and knowledge*
- D. *Numeracy and quantitative skills*
- E. *Effective use of Communication and Information Technology (CIT)*
- F. *Two-way communication*
- G. *Personal effectiveness*
- H. *Effective performance within a team environment*
- I. *Leadership and performance management*
- J. *Ethics and value management*
- K. *Ability to conduct research into business and management issues.*
- L. *Learning through reflection on practice and experience*

15. Teaching, learning and assessment

The teaching, learning and assessment strategies and methods used in the programme to enable learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated by you, the student are outlined in 15 a) and b).

15a) **Teaching and learning methods**

Teaching and learning has been designed to ensure its adherence to the requirements expected of a University and the subject benchmark statement for Masters Degrees in general business management. These include the provision of accessible high quality learning environments that are innovative, challenging and enterprising which will encourage active, reflective, lifelong learning; and contribute to developing confident, competent and skilled postgraduates.

Teaching and learning strategies and expected standards of achievement are in accord with benchmark requirements; and that the skills development required for all master’s programmes are built in.

Entry requirements stress that you must hold a cognate degree; have passed a degree-equivalent level of an accounting professional qualification; or have completed the pre-session course. It is assumed therefore that you will arrive equipped with high level cognitive and transferable skills, a good underpinning knowledge of the fundamentals of accounting and in most cases, are familiar with the requirements of professional training including examinations in accounting and cognate disciplines. The learning format will be lecture and seminar based. Seminars will initially be predominantly teacher led but will include group work, individual research-led student presentations and discussion sessions as appropriate. Input will become progressively more student-led as each module progresses. You will be encouraged to think through the relationship between theory and practice.

You will be given access to on-line library resources and will be expected to complete formative work using those resources. You will also be given web access and be expected to develop your own solutions to problems and issues using online data resources, including the University's full text database resources.

Teaching methodologies provide opportunities for interaction and reflection with one another and with the tutors.

Prior to the Dissertation stage, you undertake a course in Research Methods. This will consist of tutor led inputs on relevant epistemologies and ontology, research traditions in the principal sub-disciplines, alternative research designs, empirical methods and analysis of literature. The course will also provide an opportunity for you to consider and discuss options for the Dissertation component of your studies and the methodological underpinnings you need to know for undertaking research at this level.

15b) **Assessment**

The assessment strategy employed reflects the aims of the Programme and the learning outcomes of the individual modules. The assessment regime is standardised across all of the taught modules. It permits in-depth coverage of each module. The focus is on your ability to improve your knowledge base and ultimately apply this in the workplace.

Each taught module will consist of two elements of assessment.

An Assignment, weighted at 40% per assessment. The character of the assignments will differ, according to the needs of each module, thus ensuring diversity, flexibility and variety. The emphasis will be upon critical evaluation of current research, evaluation of methodologies and where appropriate, development of new hypotheses.

A Three Hour Examination which may take different forms.

- The examination may be closed book
- The examination may be open book (students are permitted to take a specific number pages of pre-prepared notes into the examination)

The exam marks will account for 60% of the total assessment weighting.

Each examination will require you to demonstrate cognitive, technical and reflective skills at an advanced level. For open book examinations, it will be expected that you are able to underpin answers with evidence from relevant, high quality resources, particularly literature based.

A Dissertation of approximately 18,000 words (60 CAT points) is required from all students progressing to the Masters award, for which you will have to submit a proposal (P3). The Dissertation can be of any topic within the cognate area.

16. Current Programme Map

Accounting and Financial Management Course Map

Course Leader: Angela Lorenz

You must pass 60 CAT points for each award stage and meet the following requirements:

Postgraduate certificate: Pass 60 CAT points

Postgraduate Diploma: Pass 120 CAT points

Masters: Pass 180 CAT points including AFM401, AFM402 and AFM408

Code and Title	CAT Points	Study Period
AFM401 Governance, Ethics and Risk Control (compulsory)	30	SEM 1
AFM402 Corporate Financial Reporting (compulsory)	30	YEAR
AFM403 Corporate Finance	20	SEM 2
AFM404 Advanced Performance Management	20	SEM 2
AFM 405 Strategic Business Analysis	20	SEM 1
AFM406 Advanced Taxation	20	YEAR
AFM407 Advanced Auditing	20	YEAR
AFM408 Dissertation (compulsory)	60	SEM 3

17. Programme Overview

The programme is offered in the following modes of study: Full-time, Part-Time, The language of study is English.

17a) Structure, key features and modules

This section of the programme specification should be read with reference to section 16, the programme map. Modules may be compulsory, core or optional and may have specific pre-requisites.

Please see Programme map for details of compulsory and option modules. It is possible to follow a “professional body” stream where the modules taught have some relevance to the Professional stages of ACCA, CIMA and AIA examinations.

17b) Credit and award requirements

For the award of a Postgraduate Certificate in Accounting you should: Pass 60 module credits.

For the award of a Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting you should: Pass 120 module credits.

For the award of an MSc in Accounting and Financial Management you should: Pass 180 module credits including all compulsory modules and the dissertation.

18. Additional information

Further information on Assessment; Quality Assurance including Evaluation; Disability and Learning support provision; Criteria for Admission/Recruitment and Careers can be found at the University website.

The National Recognition Information Centre (NARIC) provides details of comparative information on all Higher Education programmes.