

CORE MODULES: BA (Hons) Accounting and Finance

You must take modules worth 120 credits at each level of the course. Each module is worth a specified number of credits.

Year one for full-time students (Level 4)

Introduction to Business Research (15 credits)

- This module aims to equip the student to function effectively as an independent self-learner within the higher education learning environment, with specific reference to the area of business management and business research. Students will be introduced to the learning context and the responsibilities of the individual learner. They will be encouraged to develop practical skills identified as being central to undergraduate business degree programmes. These will include the use of information technology, presentation skills (both singly and groups), critical thinking, report writing, business calculation, logical thinking in numeracy skills, problem solving, research and analytical skills using various database such as academic research databases including Fame, Osiris and Bloomberg. There are two elements of assessment: Group presentation (15 mins and 5 mins for questions) will allow students to demonstrate skills such as research skills, data presentation, data interpretation, oral presentation and team working. A 2,500 word written portfolio covering a series of learning tasks throughout learning stages within the module. This will allow students to demonstrate their understanding of critical thinking, research and analysis. A short academic report is also a part of the portfolio promoting the use of learning skills within the module to gain a greater understanding of the subject areas and their practical applications. This approach is designed to not only gain greater understanding of a range of commercial applications but also to enhance the overall approach of the unit in respect of employability and transferrable skills such as critical analysis, data presentation and interpretation. In addition, this module also supports the practice based curriculum whilst offering a genuinely unique experience of students at the earliest opportunity within their higher education.*

Economics for Managers (15 credits)

- This module is an introductory economics course designed for students with either no background in economics or those with A-level/Higher/High School diploma in economics. It provides an introduction to the fundamentals of economics and focuses on applying key insights to business and management applications. Due to the nature of modern economics the approach of the module is necessarily analytical, but the analysis is non-technical and relies on verbal reasoning and graphical methods. Wherever possible real world examples will be used to illustrate economic principles. The first part of this module focuses on microeconomics - the decisions and behaviour of individuals and firms, and of government within a single industry. The economic principles underlying the determination of price and output, firm costs, industrial structure and market failures are outlined. The second part of the module focuses on macroeconomics - the economy at aggregated national and international levels - and its impacts on business behaviour. We will cover the key macroeconomic variables, how they influence business activity and government macroeconomic policy. Assessment will be by means of two tasks: The first, due midway through the module, is a 40 minute in-class multiple choice test. The second, due at the end of the module, has two parts: a 1,500 word essay and a 500 word applied economics task.*

Foundations of Finance (15 credits)

- This module will introduce students to the financial markets and finance at an introductory level. Students will develop an understanding of the financial markets, financial products and financial players that form our financial system. Once the core concepts are developed, students are introduced to elementary investment appraisal techniques that make use the understanding of time value of money concept. The techniques cover the Payback Period (undiscounted and discounted), the Accounting Rate of Return and Net Present Value. These techniques are used to enhance students' understanding of how companies choose investment projects by evaluating the risks and returns as well as sources of capital financing. Equity and Debt financing are integral to this module and students will be exposed to these core concepts towards the end of the module. This module will be assessed by a short coursework in the mid-semester followed by a longer coursework at the end of the term. Upon the completion of the module, students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of finance and the financial markets at the very basic level. It is expected that students should be able to pick up periodicals such as Financial Times or the Wall Street Journal and be able to provide basic finance understanding about the current events reported in these periodicals. This module also serves as the foundation for students who progress into more advanced finance-related modules in the later years.*

Introduction to Business Law (15 credits)

- *This Module will provide students with an appreciation of the various ways in which law impacts on the domestic and international business environment. The Module is designed to provide a foundation across a broad range of legal issues which students will then have the opportunity to develop further by undertaking specialised law modules, should they wish to do so, in their subsequent studies. The Module will focus on the nature and sources of business law in England; on contract law with regard to both goods and services, on the law of tort, in particular, negligence and vicarious liability. There will also be a brief focus on the role of contract, with regards to the employment law. Assessment is by means of coursework. The coursework represents 100% of the total marks. The Assessment is divided into two questions. The first a range of essay questions covering the aspects of English Legal System and Tort or Employment aspects. The other half of the assessment will be a scenario where the students will be required to apply the law to a given problem, manage this information and communicate appropriately and effectively their advice to the parties.*

Business Analytics (15 credits)

- *The aim of this module is to build and developed students' understanding and application of mathematics and statistics, appropriate for business disciplines at the undergraduate level. The module begins by reviewing various techniques for collecting and presenting data. Some important measures and techniques for making sense of raw data are then introduced which are widely used by businesses when analysing both their internal and external environments. This module supports a range of numerical skills and techniques commonly developed within the modules "Introduction to Accounting and Finance" and "Foundations of Finance" both in a theoretical manner and a practical approach through the use of Microsoft Excel. This module also provides mathematics and statistics skills which are integral to the business finance and economics modules which students will take in future semesters as part of their ongoing development. Students will be helped to develop further their hands-on skills in using Microsoft Excel in computer workshops to handle both small and large business data. This is considered to be an appropriate approach to learning in which relevant statistical techniques and methods will be explored in a practice based manner in keeping with that of other business and finance modules where possible. Careful attention will also be paid throughout the module to the interpretation and application of the various quantitative methods and techniques to the solution of real-world business problems. One of the main focuses for the design of this module has been the further development of relevant employability and professional skills. Such skills are implicit in the learning outcomes. Assessment is by a multiple choice examination (50%) and a computer based examination (50%) which will be taking place during the examination period at the end of term.*

Introduction to Organisations and Management (15 credits)

- *Management in practice comes down to support people to work effectively in different organisational contexts. Regardless of your technical area, type of organisation or job position, to get your work done you will need to manage your relationships with colleagues, managers, subordinates and customers. This module aims to increase your ability to analyse the human side of management and diagnose problems affecting performance and organisational effectiveness. Specifically, we will equip you with knowledge and skills to understand how people and organisations function in individual, group and organisational levels based on the latest academic evidence on topics such as motivation, leadership, teams, organisational structure and culture. Finally, we aim to inspire you to value and continuously use the best available academic evidence on effective management of people and organisations throughout your career. The module will be assessed in two stages. First, you will produce a mind map to illustrate your learning in the module in a systemic and creative manner. The mind map will be accompanied by a short, explanatory reflection about the theories and concepts included in the map. Second, after demonstrating an understanding of relevant management and organisational behaviour theories, you will elaborate a report on a real organisational setting using the latest academic evidence.*

Financial and Management Accounting (30 credits)

- The financial accounting part of this module aims to give students a thorough grasp of the basics of financial reporting (context, purposes, regulatory framework) and builds towards a proficiency in the recording of business transactions. The module introduces the principal concepts of financial accounting, and the way in which individual transactions can be analysed to provide appropriate information for stakeholders. The preparation of principal financial statements will also be explored, together with the interpretation of such statements. Students completing the module will be able to prepare and understand financial statements, and be able to draw conclusions based upon the information. The management accounting part of this module is designed to emphasise the acquisition and application of skills and knowledge necessary to inform managers responsible for planning, decision-making and control and will provide the underpinning skills and knowledge required for more advanced study. The key issues addressed will be the fundamentals of cost data collection, analysis and allocation of costs, costing of products and services, decision making using absorption (including Activity-based costing), marginal costing techniques and cash flows, budgeting and budgetary control. The key techniques and their theoretical underpinning will be explained in lecture sessions and students will be expected to work on practical examples and case studies for discussion and clarification in seminars. One of the main focuses for the design of this module has been the further development of relevant employability and professional skills. Such skills are implicit in the learning outcomes.*

Year two for full-time students (Level 5)

Financial Reporting (15 credits)

- This module develops basic accounting concepts, covered in the pre-requisite modules. The module aims to develop the knowledge and skills required to understand and apply International Accounting Standards in the preparation of financial statements of entities. The module will commence with a consideration of conceptual frameworks for financial reporting. The required accounting treatment for key items appearing in financial statements will follow. The preparation of cash flow statements will be covered. Analysis and interpretation of financial statements concludes the module. The module will provide students with the underpinning skill and knowledge for more in depth advanced study. Key financial accounting standards, their application and theoretical underpinning will be explained in lecture sessions and students will be expected to work on practical examples and case studies for discussion and clarification in seminars. The learning outcomes will be assessed by a single examination during the university examination weeks. The examination will assess the ability to prepare financial statements in compliance with accounting standards. It will also assess the ability to discuss accounting standards and conceptual frameworks. For students registered on the BSc (Hons) Accounting & Finance or BSc (Hons) Accounting & Finance (with placement year), successful completion of this module, together with successful completion of Advanced Financial Reporting, provides exemption against the Association of Chartered Certified Accountant's (ACCA) paper F7 Financial Reporting.*

Performance Management (30 credits)

- Looking forward and planning for the future is essential in any organisation. As organisations develop they must always have an eye on the future and make decisions that influence performance. Planning and decision making is a core aspect of business strategy and this module will look at the accounting and finance information that is used in planning and in support of the decision making process and control against those plans. This module will introduce and demonstrate the accounting techniques which are used in planning and control and short and long term decision making. It will critique the various techniques, discuss the theoretical underpinning and reflect on application and validity. The module will also draw on aspects of organisational behaviour, and the risky, uncertain and quickly-changing environment in which many organisations operate. This module will enable students to develop key skills essential in financial management in organisations, and will ensure that they will be able to apply the various techniques used and interpret the information produced. They will be expected to critique the tools used and discuss their applicability in a service driven global business environment. Given the importance placed on planning and control and decision making in organisations and given that the effects of these are felt on staff at all levels, this module has been designed so that it can assist all those who are planning a wider career in business as well as those wishing to specialise in accountancy and financial management. Assessment will be by way of 3 hour examination covering all aspects of learning and a 3,000 word assignment focused on reviewing the decision making options available to organisations. For students registered on the BSc (Hons) Accounting & Finance or BSc (Hons) Accounting & Finance (with placement year), successful completion of this module provides exemption against the Association of Chartered Certified Accountant's (ACCA) paper F5 Performance Management.*

Project Management (15 credits)

- *Project management is a key skill for any future professional to acquire, at some stage in your career you will be involved in delivering or working on a project. This module focuses on providing a sound basis for managing or working on projects. You may be a future Marketer with managing marketing campaigns in mind, a future HR Professional who may be called upon to manage a recruitment project or indeed, you may be called on to work on another type of business improvement or implementation. In essence, the concept of managing a project hinges on one quite basic principle, managing the triangle of: quality of the project outcomes, cost and time. In practice, this is a complex juggling act. This module first distinguishes a project from other types of operations processes and explores the key skills of a project manager. Then the major process groups, according to the PMBOK (Project Management Body of Knowledge) are applied, these are: initiation; planning; executing; monitoring and controlling and closing a project. The importance of stakeholder management and risk management will be emphasised. Students will use software to schedule and cost projects during the planning phases. The use of monitoring and controlling techniques, including cost control, time management and resource optimisation will be explored. After the main process groups have been covered, the final part of the module is on improving the success of projects. There is exploration of how to measure success and furthermore, the principles of agile project management are discussed. Assessment is by two pieces of coursework: a project schedule and discussion of stakeholders and risks, and a limited time case study problem.*

Financial Management (15 credits)

- *This main aim of this module is to provide a rigorous grounding in the theory and practice of financial management. Financial management is concerned with the assessment of the investment and financing decisions of firms. This module elaborates on the concepts that students were introduced to in the module 'foundations of finance'. Within this module, students will gain knowledge of the theoretical foundations underlying much of financial management practice and learn how those theories should be applied in practice. This module will explore investment and financing functions of an organisation in great detail by covering such issues as: intermediate investment appraisal, risk and return, debt and equity investments, the Capital Asset Pricing Model and Fama-French 3 Factor model and risk management. Students will also be encouraged to critically engage with the subject area by reflecting upon the academic theories that underpin financial management practice such as the Arbitrage Pricing Theory. This module will be assessed by an examination. Upon the completion of this module, students should be able to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the main elements of corporate financial management for students registered on the BSc (Hons) Accounting & Finance or BSc (Hons) Accounting & Finance (with placement year), successful completion of this module provides exemption against the Association of Chartered Certified Accountant's (ACCA) paper F9 Financial Management.*

Auditing (15 credits)

- *The module examines the nature, purpose and scope of assurance engagements, including the statutory audit, its regulatory environment, and introduces professional ethics relating to audit and assurance. The importance of auditing theory underpinning practice is also emphasised. Internal audit will be covered, including the scope of internal audit as well as the differences between internal audit and external audit. The module then covers a range of areas relating to an audit of financial statements. These include planning and risk assessment, evaluating internal controls, audit evidence, computer audit and a review of the financial statements. The final stage deals with reporting, including statutory audit reports, management reports, internal audit report and an evaluation of current issues facing auditing. Students taking this module should have a good foundation in financial accounting. Assessment will be by way of examination at the end of the module. One of the main focuses for the design of this module has been the further development of relevant employability and professional skills. Such skills are implicit in the learning outcomes. Multiculturalism has been considered during the design of this module.*

Financial Sustainability (15 credits)

- This module is an introduction to how sustainability/ESG (economic, environmental, social and governance) issues have become financially material to the global financial market. These issues have a direct impact on risk exposure and the quality of public, private and government debt/equity investments. By the end of the module, you should understand how these issues affect investment decisions made by institutional investors, corporate lenders, insurance companies, asset management funds, hedge funds, venture capitalists and retail investors, as well as business decisions made by corporate managers. They will be exposed to the global sources of environmental/sustainability corporate performance information, how "best-in-class" environmental investment relates to, and is different from, socially-responsible investing (SRI), and differences between European, North American and Asian markets. Risk management aspects of sustainable finance will be addressed, especially in regards to emerging finance areas such as green economy, corporate governance, sustainable development and agriculture/water development projects. SEC Reporting requirements for sustainability risks and opportunities, and the prospect of the issuance of "Integrated Corporate Reports" that combine financial and sustainability reporting will be discussed. The ethics of sustainability issues and their impact on management and finance will also be addressed. This module also provides an introduction to techniques and themes in sustainable investing and examines the relationship between investment return expectations, economic growth and sustainability initiatives. The module aims to provide a set of tools to analyse the monetary value of sustainable investing and to examine the potential and pitfalls of the standard measures of growth, risk and return.*

Corporate Law (15 credits)

- This module will provide students with an overview of the various forms of business association including, sole traders, partnerships, LLP's and companies. In particular, we will consider the legal distinctions between these various forms. This Module will then focus in detail on the law relating to corporates / companies. We will consider the legal consequences of incorporation and undertake an assessment of whether this results in 'an abuse of the corporate form'. We will then undertake a detailed consideration and analysis of the legal effect of the Articles of Association as a form of legally binding contract between the company and its members. Issues concerning the corporate contracts, corporate management and directors duties will be considered within this module. The module will also cover the tensions between the law and ethics, and the increasing role of juridification within the corporate sphere, an issue that has gained prominence following the 2008 financial crisis. Discussions pertaining to governance and responsibility will also be included in order to provide the wider legal context undermining the corporate sector. We will finally consider potential corporate liabilities of companies from a civil and criminal point of view. Discussions pertaining the ethics and governance as well as responsibility will also be included in order to provide the wider legal context undermining the corporate and financial sector. The learning outcomes will be assessed by way of closed book examination at the end of the module.*

Final year for full-time students (Level 6)

Undergraduate Major Project (30 credits)

- This final project module allows you to engage in a substantial piece of individual desk-based/secondary research focussed on a topic relevant to your degree award and subject area under the supervision and guidance of members of academic staff. You will be provided with a list of suitable topics that directly link to your supervisor's research and/or business practice. This module requires you to develop your chosen topic into a specific project with this supervisor over the course of your final undergraduate academic year. Supervisors will discuss with students contemporary research problems and issues based on their research and practice, and then students will be required to conduct literature reviews, evaluate and critically appraise a range of information, investigate and adopt suitable desk-based methodologies and theoretical frameworks to work within, process data, and determine solutions to those problems. This module does not permit you to engage in primary research data generation. Throughout the module your supervisor will support you in terms of content and skills development so that you can work semi-autonomously on your individual research project. This is achieved through group supervisory meetings throughout the year, which will also allow for individual discussions. Your supervisor will set goals for these meetings involving written and verbal tasks that you will need to complete in order to receive formative feedback and develop your project smoothly. Your attendance to meetings and engagement with the proposed tasks are essential to ensure you receive feedback and successfully complete your project. You will be assessed through a 10,000 report at the end of the module.*

Advanced Financial Reporting (15 credits)

- *This module assumes a strong knowledge of financial accounting fundamentals gained from previous financial accounting modules. The module will develop students ability to exercise judgement in a corporate reporting environment. Corporations can operate in exceedingly complex markets. Clear financial reporting requires the ability to interpret complex transactions by applying accounting principles and regulations. This module will include areas of financial reporting difficulty such as business combinations, substance, deferred tax and financial instruments. An international context will be taken to corporate reporting and current issues will be referred to. The module will require students to understand relevant accounting regulations, utilise judgemental skills in the application of these regulations to specific situations and be able to clearly communicate conclusions of their analysis. Assessment shall be by examination at the end of the module. One of the main focuses for the design of this module has been the further development of relevant employability and professional skills. Such skills are implicit in the learning outcomes. Multiculturalism has been considered during the design of this module and will be considered when the assessment brief is written. For students registered on the BSc (Hons) Accounting & Finance or BSc (Hons) Accounting & Finance (with placement year), successful completion of this module, together with successful completion of MOD004498 Financial Reporting, provides exemption against the Association of Chartered Certified Accountant's (ACCA) paper F7 Financial Reporting.*

Taxation in the United Kingdom (15 credits)

- *This module is designed to understand the assessment of tax in the UK. UK taxation can be exceedingly complicated for both companies and individuals in today's worldwide economy. The module assumes a detailed understanding of how accounts have been prepared using UK international accounting standards. This knowledge is then developed to assess individual liability to tax and the profits chargeable to UK Tax on companies and unincorporated businesses. This will involve a full understanding of the UK Tax system. A detailed study will be made of both Income Tax and Capital Gains tax. The impact of both overseas and UK subsidiaries will be studied in detail. This will culminate in the ability to compute the tax burden for individuals, unincorporated businesses and companies and groups of companies with overseas and UK subsidiaries. Tax planning issues will be introduced at the later stage of the module. This module will provide relevant experience for students entering the work place in an accounting, financial or company secretarial role. An assignment and a summative examination will assess learning. One of the main focuses for the design of this module has been the further development of relevant employability and professional skills. Such skills are implicit in the learning outcomes. Multiculturalism has been considered during the design of this module and will be considered when the assessment brief is written. For students registered on the BSc (Hons) Accounting & Finance or BSc (Hons) Accounting & Finance (with placement year), successful completion of this module provides exemption against the Association of Chartered Certified Accountant's (ACCA) paper F6 Taxation.*

Monetary Policy (15 credits)

- *This module encourages students to recognise the importance and special role of money in an advanced industrial society. The module seeks to give students a thorough understanding of monetary theories and of the monetary policies that Governments enact based on these theories. Whilst special emphasis is given to contemporary issues, such as the role of the single currency, the module seeks to understand how we have arrived at the current situation. To this end the module investigates our understanding of money and alternatives to traditional money supplies. The module will then explore how monetary policy works and the links between this policy and the macro-economy as well as the financial markets. Following the most recent financial crisis the role of intermediation in monetary policy is also explored. The theories behind monetary policy, from Keynes to those contemporary alternatives, and their practical application will also be investigated. The role of the central bank in the setting and managing of monetary policy will also be reviewed. Finally, this module will consider the implementation of the single currencies, its aims and impact, as well as the issues surrounding such a monetary union. This module will be assessed via both a one-hour in-class test at the midpoint in the semester, to test students' understanding about difficult concepts early on as a form of a summative feedback and feedforward formative, and a 2,250-word report, intended to develop critical thinking and writing skills.*

Advanced Corporate Finance (15 credits)

- *The main aim of this module is to provide a rigorous grounding in the theory and practice of corporate finance at an advanced level, and a thorough synthesis of the most important current research with an emphasis on the applications of the principles. Both normative and positive aspects of the theory are examined, together with supporting descriptive and empirical evidence. This module extends, develops and applies some of the materials introduced in Financial Management. It focuses on key aspects of the financial operations related to maximising the valuation of a corporation in an international financial environment. Principles that corporations use in their investment and financing decisions making are reviewed and practices evaluated. Students are introduced to the wider financial markets operations, including hedging and financial derivatives. This includes financial leverage & capital structure, mergers & acquisitions, business valuations, foreign exchange market, forward, financial futures, options, interest rate swaps, venture capital & private equity investment strategy. This module is designed as part of a broader programme that supports students studying for the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and the Chartered Institute of Bankers (CBI). Assessment will be by way of a 3-hour unseen examination at the end of semester utilising specialist techniques and knowledge to determine student capabilities in the field of Corporate Finance.*

The Professional Accountant (15 credits)

- *The role and requirements of a professional accountant extend far beyond that of being responsible for the preparation of financial and management accounts. As a professional accountant you will have responsibility for compliance with the statutory requirements of company law, ensuring that accounting standards are adhered to, identifying & managing risk, internal audit and reporting on non-financial elements of company reporting including CSR (Corporate Social Reporting) and environmental issues. This responsibility not only requires knowledge of the statutory and compliance regulations but also Corporate Governance which includes an understanding of the regulatory framework, agency, corporate roles & responsibilities, ethics and CSR. As a professional in any field of expertise you should have personal professional and ethical standards to which you should adhere. This module will provide an overview of the legal and compliance requirements, introduce the concept of corporate governance and its' regulation, risk, internal audit, CSR and personal professional ethics. This module will be assessed by a group presentation on a current topic in governance and an assignment covering all learning outcomes.*

Big Data Fundamentals (15 credits)

- *This module will provide an introduction to Big Data analytics and explain key concepts, theories and issues of working with big data. Students will develop an understanding of the fundamental principles of Big Data Analytics and how the methods employed in analysis of big data differ from those used in analysis of small data sets. This module will equip students with tools and techniques that essential to turn constantly expanding data to meaningful information. Big Data Fundamentals module will help students to enhance their skills in data extraction, interpretation of data structure, identification of patterns and trends within the data, visualisation and interpretation of the empirical results. Students will learn how to extract value from analysis of the data available within enterprise, external, and in variety media resources, to provide better solution of the relevant business problems. At the end of the module students will develop an understanding of the strategic implications of big data analysis, and will be ready to face the challenges of work in contemporary data-rich business environment. The knowledge and skills in Big Data analytics are increasingly in demand, therefore this module will help students become more competitive in job markets. In this module, students will get the opportunity to develop their unique data set that can be used in business reports and scientific research.*