



**Course Specification
Part A: Course Design**

**MSc Financial Technology (FinTech)
(LONT042)**

**MSc Financial Technology (FinTech) with Extended
Professional Practice
(LONT054)**

Coventry University London

Academic Year: 2020/2021

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

We regularly review our course content, to make it relevant and current for the benefit of our students. For these reasons, course modules may be updated.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Module Information Directory (MID), student module guide(s) and the course handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

PART A: Course Design

MSc Financial Technology (FinTech)

1. Introduction

The financial services industry, including the banking sector, has witnessed major transformations in recent years, fuelled by advances in digital platforms and cutting-edge financial technologies, known widely as "FinTech". With the development of fast-growing financial technologies and the fact that businesses are becoming more consumer-oriented, there is a pressing recruitment need in the financial industry, government and regulatory bodies and businesses across all economics sectors for experts who possess a wide range of FinTech skills.

The MSc Financial Technology (FinTech) is a specialist, master's level course with an innovative and interdisciplinary curriculum that aims to fulfil the labour market and skills gap in the FinTech industry by equipping students with the most in-demand hard and soft skills relevant in the sector. In addition to traditional finance and IT programming skills, our course provides real business, relevant and practical blended knowledge within a FinTech landscape as well as a well-balanced critical awareness of macroeconomic, ethical and regulatory constraints and the hottest trends in technologies and wider implications of FinTech issues in the sector. Students will also be equipped with technical IT and data analytical skills. In particular, this course will develop their investment decision making skills as well as their entrepreneurship, innovation, marketing, strategy, design thinking and agile skills in the context of the FinTech sector. These are the skills most in-demand by FinTech companies, traditional and challenger banks, start-ups, enterprises, consulting companies and regulators.

The course will be of interest to students looking for a master's level FinTech course that is not heavily structured around technical computing and software engineering, but is more focused on entrepreneurship, business, finance, regulation and operational risk aspects of FinTech development.

By choosing this course students also benefit from:

- Coventry University London being in the City of London, at the heart of the No.1 global FinTech Hub. Students will be studying on the doorstep of the FinTech industry where they will have many opportunities for placements/employment and continuing personal development with FinTech employers.
- A course committed to teaching and research excellence and taught in a thriving academic environment by experienced academics with sound FinTech knowledge who are qualified academically and professionally, for instance as Chartered Accountants and Chartered Financial Analysts and practitioners.
- Exposure to financial analysis software such as Bloomberg Terminals, S&P Capital IQ, STATA and Python and access to widely used economic and financial database services like Quandl and CRSP/WRDS.
- Tailored talks by experts from academia, the City of London and the real world of entrepreneurship touching various areas of finance, technology, big data and leadership and held at regular intervals over the academic year to inspire and offer students vast networking opportunities within the community.
- Internship opportunities with reputable companies, including FinTech start-ups, in industries attractive to students and with whom the university has existing relationships.
- Business start-up advice and support during the course from both the Coventry University London Enterprise Hub and the academic staff within the Entrepreneurial Team to students seeking to create their own businesses.
- A course reflecting the latest developments and best practice in FinTech pedagogy and infused with real-life experience opportunities.
- An opportunity to participate in field trips, both within the UK and internationally. Previous field trips have included New York and various places in London, such as the Bank of England and London Stock Exchange.

Future Prospects:

Students will emerge from Coventry University London's MSc Financial Technology (FinTech) with a set of highly employable behaviours, attitudes and competencies (technical skills: quantitative, analytical, programming, cybersecurity, regulatory and soft skills: problem-solving, creativity, communication, teamworking, agile) which are in high demand among employers and are indispensable qualities within the FinTech industry.

Typical career routes for graduates from this course will include: banking professionals, innovation experts (joining a FinTech start-up, developing a new technology or idea), entrepreneurs (creating own or returning to a family

business), consultants for challenger banks, financial analysts, data scientists, corporate analysts, working for international financial and government institutions and academia, including further PhD study.

2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study

Title of Award	Mode of attendance	UCAS Code	FHEQ Level
• MSc Financial Technology (FinTech): (LONT042) (180 Credits)	FT – 1 year	N/A	Level 7/M Level
• MSc Financial Technology (FinTech): (LONT042) (180 Credits)	PT – 2 years	N/A	Level 7/M Level
• MSc Financial Technology (FinTech) with Extended Professional Practice: (LONT054) (180 Credits)	Extended – 5 terms		
• Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Technology (FinTech) (120 Credits)			
• Postgraduate Certificate in Financial Technology (FinTech) (60 Credits)			
• Postgraduate Certificate (60 Credits)			

3 Awarding Institution/Body	Coventry University
4 Collaboration	None
5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery	Coventry University London
6 Internal Approval/Review Dates	
7 Course Accredited by	N/A
8 Accreditation Date and Duration	N/A
9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors	FHEQ LEVEL 7 Framework (2014) QAA Subject Benchmark Statement in Finance (2016) QAA 'Master's Degree characteristics' (2015)
10 Date of Course Specification	15 April 2019
11 Course Director	Zeenat Soobedar and Rudan Wang

12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Course

The MSc Financial Technology (FinTech) aims to provide students the knowledge and skills required to work in the new and emerging FinTech sector. The course's central goal is to develop the skills applicable to FinTech and to produce specialists who possess the scientific, business and innovative thinking skills needed for the future of technology driven finance. Graduates will possess a systematic understanding of how finance is changing, as well as how banking, accounting, business information systems and analytic methods are adapting to the internet as a delivery channel. Students will gain a comprehensive skill-set in technology, finance and business creation.

The course follows a sequential learning progression. The first term mandatory modules provide students with a systematic understanding of financial, technological and regulatory concepts including quantitative analytics and programming. This is designed to give students an in-depth knowledge of finance and analytical methods within the context of big data developments in FinTech practice and application. The second term extends these core skills: students will progress through "learning by doing" in a number of practice-enhanced modules that focus on business analytics, entrepreneurship, business strategy and current AI technologies. There are 2 pathways from which students can choose their specialist area: FinTech Innovation and Enterprise and FinTech Quantitative Finance. Final term project modules provide scope for a deeper level of knowledge and application of FinTech principles through the Dissertation, Internship or FinTech Entrepreneurship Project modules.

The course also offers:

- research-inspired teaching, with modules comprising a strong academic theoretical base and industrial evidence;
- a set of employable behaviours, attitudes and competencies (such as risk management, networking, curiosity, self-efficacy, resiliency, creativity and innovation, leadership, financial awareness) to enable sure future career paths to students;
- creativity, enterprise and innovation as cornerstones of the entire course;
- a focus on international cohorts with an internationalized approach and in full compliance with equality and diversity expectations;
- a critical assessment of the impact entrepreneurial agency has on communities and the environment.

General aims at award level:

PG Certificate

- Provide the framework within which students can develop analytical understanding of general business in the context of a rapidly evolving financial industry;
- Foster in students a commitment to personal development, a reflective style of management and a responsibility for their own learning.

PG Certificate in Financial Technology (FinTech)

- Provide the framework within which students can develop analytical understanding of finance, technology and regulation including basic knowledge of business analytics and programming in the context of a rapidly evolving financial industry;
- Foster in students a commitment to personal development, a reflective style of management and a responsibility for their own learning.

PG Diploma in Financial Technology (FinTech)

- Provide students with the opportunities to develop a wide range of FinTech skills and the ability to apply a variety of technical and business tools and techniques in real-world business and financial services scenarios;
- Stimulate a proactive approach to organisational issues that illustrates an understanding of the impact of a rapidly evolving financial industry within which organisations, including FinTech companies, operate.

Masters in Financial Technology (FinTech)

- Encourage students to demonstrate the ability, knowledge and skills to be competent innovation experts, banking professionals, entrepreneurs, financial engineers and effective leaders of international organisations in the rapidly changing financial services environment;

- Provide students with frameworks to understand the core business, data analytics disciplines and methods of working in the FinTech sector, and be able to apply these in practical contexts;
- Equip students with well-developed powers of analysis, strategic approaches and communication skills to meet data analytical, entrepreneurial and leadership challenges of the rapidly changing financial services industry;
- Provide students with the ability to appraise the current and future environments in which FinTech companies operate, as well as to develop a competitive, strategic response;
- Enable students to define, investigate, analyse, evaluate and respond to tactical and strategic issues of concern, including financial disruption and transformations, to organisations in the financial industry;
- Encourage students to adopt an analytical and creative approach to problem solving through independent judgement and critical self-awareness, working as individuals or as part of a team;
- Prepare students to communicate ideas clearly, demonstrating a capacity for logical and coherent thinking;
- Encourage students to manage their own learning and self-development and use a range of personal skills and competencies that will enable them to operate effectively in their industry.

It is the Mission of Coventry University London to partner with employers to deliver 21st century learning through a real business experience in the heart of London. In terms of its teaching, learning and assessment this means:

1. Each of the courses and modules that have been designed have been approved as career relevant by a range of key stakeholders.
2. Courses are delivered by respected academics and practitioners who are passionate about teaching.
3. Learning success is enhanced by the clear communication of course and module outcomes and these underpin all teaching and assessment activities which take place.
4. Academic and business technology is employed where it assists in the achievement of the learning outcomes.
5. Courses include a range of level specific work experience opportunities, which are explicitly linked to the learning outcomes of the course.
6. Courses and modules are internationally orientated to develop participants' intercultural fluency as a reflection of the growing importance of international business.
7. Assessment is career relevant in its style and format.
8. Students have the ability to shape their MSc to include an exposure to and a detailed development of areas of FinTech as both a knowledgebase and a skillset, to identify and develop opportunities that will create new business solutions or develop existing ones.

13 Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- L01** Evidence an advanced understanding of the main pillars of FinTech relating to the structure, transformation, disruption, risk and regulations to better operationalise their current and future impact on the global finance and banking industry.
- L02** Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and critical awareness of current technological problems, developments and/or new insights within the financial industry.
- L03** Demonstrate critical awareness of the economic, political, regulatory and social environments in which FinTech operates and the ethical considerations embedded in these global and societal operations.
- L04** Critically assess various finance theories and techniques and practical skills of interpreting models to apply them to different asset classes in the context of FinTech.
- L05** Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of sources and content of financial data and evidence and independently use appropriate programming, statistical and econometrics skills for sound decision-making.
- L06** Consolidate and blend business knowledge and technical skills required in a range of areas in FinTech in order to generate and evaluate financial innovative ideas.
- L07** Demonstrate effective, rigorous and reflective skills of self-management and independence in terms of planning, behaviour, motivation, individual initiative and enterprise in order to meet the demands of the field of study in FinTech, while taking responsibility for personal learning and continuous professional development against clearly identified personal career-related goals.
- L08** Critically analyse a range of complex and pervasive issues with the use of quantitative and qualitative research and techniques in a systematic, creative and innovative manner to generate sound judgements and recommendations that are communicated effectively to both a specialist and non-specialist audience in the areas of banking, finance and accounting.

14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards

The course has been devised primarily as a one-year full-time course, but it may also be taken part-time over two years. There is also a full-time option with Extended Professional Practice, the duration of which is two years. The course is constructed of a modular framework of 180 credits and is comprised mainly of core modules with a number of mandatory modules.

The first term is comprised of mandatory modules that equip students with a set of highly employable skills that are in high demand among employers; all modules are assigned 15 credits each. In the second term, students take two 15-credits mandatory modules and choose two 15-credit optional modules to graduate with either the MSc Financial Technology (FinTech) – FinTech Innovation and Enterprise or Fintech Quantitative Finance pathways.

The course offers a wide range of final project options in the final term to give students the opportunity of preparing for their individual career path after graduation:

- M161LON Dissertation for Accounting, Finance and Economics
- M138LON Internship
- M173LON FinTech Entrepreneurship

In the Extended Professional Practice route, all modules are assigned 15 credits, except in Terms 3 to 5 with two non-credit bearing modules and one 60 credit module. The three modules in Terms 3 to 5 that will provide students with opportunities for professional experience and their career path after graduation are:

- Term 3 – M123LON Extended Professional Practice Module 1 (non-credit)
- Term 4 – M124LON Extended Professional Practice Module 2 (non-credit)
- Term 5 – M125LON Extended Professional Practice Project (60 credits)

Students on the Extended Professional Practice course are offered a postgraduate Extended Professional Practice Project as their final project in the fifth term.

The course also features an innovative and stimulating teaching and learning environment, ensuring students have experience of manipulating and interacting with businesses during the course in each term.

Awards Requirements:

The award conditions below are in addition to Coventry University London Academic Regulations.

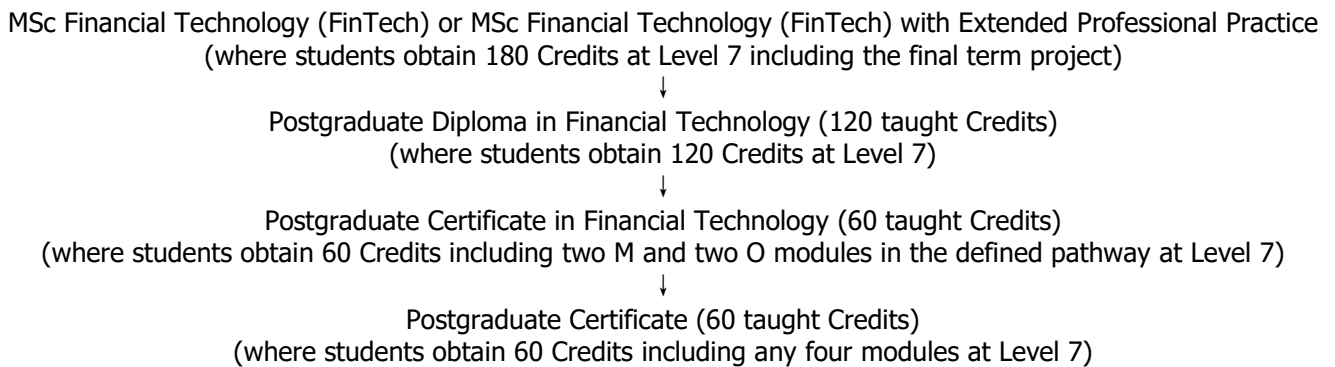
To achieve a full Master's degree in Financial Technology (FinTech), students must have passed all level 7 modules on the appropriate course (including the modules specified as Mandatory and the final term project), achieving a total of 180 credits.

For a Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Technology (FinTech), students must have passed 120 Level 7 credits.

For a Postgraduate Certificate in Financial Technology (FinTech), students must have passed 60 Level 7 credits, including two mandatory (M) modules and two of the options (O) in the defined pathway.

For a Postgraduate Certificate, students must have passed 60 Level 7 credits overall, calculated from any four modules.

Cascade of Awards:



Modules within the course, the levels at which they are studied, their credit value, status (whether mandatory or options), and pre/co requisites are identified in the table below. Also indicated are the course learning outcomes that are served within each module.

MSc in Financial Technology (FinTech)

Level	Term	Module Code	Title	Credits	Status	Course Learning Outcomes	Pre/Co-requisite
7	1	M175LON	FinTech Landscape and Transformations in Financial Services	15	M	1, 2, 3	None
7	1	M172LON	Entrepreneurial Finance	15	M	1, 4	None
7	1	M171LON	Business Analytics and Python Programming	15	M	2, 4, 5	None
7	1	M176LON	Risk & RegTech	15	M	1, 2, 3	None
7	2	M094LON	Empirical Finance and Accounting Research Methods	15	M	4, 5, 6	None
7	2	M170LON	Artificial Intelligence in Finance	15	M	2,4,5,6	None
7	2	FinTech Innovation and Enterprise pathway (2 from 2)					
7	2	M169LON	Financial Technologies for Business	15	O	1,2,3,4,5	None
7	2	M174LON	FinTech Innovation Strategy and Entrepreneurship	15	O	1,2,3,4,5,7	None
7	2	FinTech Quantitative Finance pathway (2 from 2)					
7	2	M118LON	Algorithmic Trading	15	O	2,3,4,5,6	None
7	2	M099LON	Risk Analysis and Financial Modelling	15	O	2,3,4,5,6	None
7	3	M161LON	Dissertation for Accounting, Finance and Economics	60	O	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	None
7	3	M138LON	Internship	60	O	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	None
7	3	M173LON	FinTech Entrepreneurship	60	O	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	None
Key M = Mandatory O = Option							

MSc in Financial Technology (FinTech) - Extended Professional Practice

Level	Term	Module Code	Title	Credits	Status	Course Learning Outcomes	Pre/Co-requisite
7	1	M175LON	FinTech Landscape and Transformations in Financial Services	15	M	1, 2, 3	None
7	1	M172LON	Entrepreneurial Finance	15	M	1, 4	None
7	1	M171LON	Business Analytics and Python Programming	15	M	2, 4, 5	None
7	1	M176LON	Risk & RegTech	15	M	1, 2, 3	None
7	2	M094LON	Empirical Finance and Accounting Research Methods	15	M	4, 5, 6	None
7	2	M170LON	Artificial Intelligence in Finance	15	M	2,4,5,6	None
7	2	FinTech Innovation and Enterprise pathway (2 from 2)					
7	2	M169LON	Financial Technologies for Business	15	O	1,2,3,4,5	None
7	2	M174LON	FinTech Innovation Strategy and Entrepreneurship	15	O	1,2,3,4,5,7	None
7	2	FinTech Quantitative Finance pathway (2 from 2)					
7	2	M118LON	Algorithmic Trading	15	O	2,3,4,5,6	None
7	2	M099LON	Risk Analysis and Financial Modelling	15	O	2,3,4,5,6	None
7	3	M123LON	Extended Professional Practice 1	0	M	7,8	None
7	4	M124LON	Extended Professional Practice 2	0	M	7,8	None
7	5	M125LON	Extended Professional Practice Project	60	M	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	None
Key M = Mandatory O = Option							

15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure

The course is subject to the Coventry University London admission procedures and access policies.

To be accepted for entry onto Masters' courses applicants should hold a good honours degree (2.2 or above) from a quantitative subject such as Finance, Economics, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics or Engineering. Other applications, where the entry requirements have not been met but industry experience can be evidenced, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Where English is not the applicant's first language an adequate proficiency in English must be demonstrated. The requirement is a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 with no component below 6.0 (or an equivalent English language test).

Accreditation for prior learning (APL) is in accordance with Coventry University London Academic Regulations for taught postgraduate courses.

16 Academic Regulations and Regulations of Assessment

This Course conforms to the General Regulations and Academic Regulations for courses at Coventry University London.

17 Indicators of Quality Enhancement

The University has well established mechanisms for the review and evaluation of teaching, learning, assessment, and the curriculum and outcome standards.

The University's quality procedures were confirmed by a QAA HE Audit in February 2015. The QAA review team formed the following judgements about the higher education provision at Coventry University that it meets UK expectations for:

- The setting and maintenance of the academic standards of awards meet UK expectations.
- The quality of student learning opportunities meets UK expectations.
- The quality of the information about learning opportunities meets UK expectations.
- The enhancement of student learning opportunities meets UK expectations.

The arrangements for quality assuring courses and monitoring academic standards at Coventry University, London reflect those in place at the University, suitably modified to take account of the size of the campus and the business-facing nature of the academic content. Established arrangements at Coventry University London include:

- Academic Board at Coventry University London
- Assessment Boards
- Student feedback mechanisms upon enrolment and graduation/exit, and for courses and modules
- Assessment processes, including benchmarking, anonymous marking of work (wherever practicable), pre-marking benchmarking, moderation or double marking for the Project modules and the appointment of External Examiners
- Processes for the internal approval of modules and courses prior to submission to Coventry University boards
- Arrangements for accreditation of courses by a suitable professional body
- Processes for monitoring teaching quality including open access to teaching material, as well as managerial and peer observation
- Provision of a pre-sessional English course.

18 Additional Information

Enrolled students also have access to additional, key sources of information about the course and student support including:

Course pages on Moodle which contain:

- Course Handbook.
- Discussion Forum.
- Guest lecture schedule.
- Links to sources of further support and guidance.
- Information on careers and professional bodies.

Module pages on Moodle which contain:

- Teaching and learning materials.
- Assessment briefs and rubrics.
- Guest lecture schedule.
- Discussion forum.
- Links to sources of further support and guidance.
- Handout exercises.

The Coventry University London's Website and Student Portal contain references and signposts to:

- Student welfare support.
- Study Support information.
- IT and Library provision on and off the University.
- Medical and dental centres.
- Travel guides.
- Personal safety advice.
- Financial guidance.
- Accommodation options.
- Student Central facilities
- Module Information Directory (<https://webapp.coventry.ac.uk/MidWebNext/Main.aspx>).

Employability and Enterprise team's support for extended professional practice:

- Coventry University London will offer internship options to all eligible students.
- Students undertaking an internship must meet the selection criteria for securing an internship.
- Internships are subject to a competitive selection process by both the university and the host organisation offering the internship.
- The Coventry University London Employability team will be involved for the final term projects as per all courses at Coventry University London and provide guest lectures and live projects in the classroom with partner employers from term.
- Before their internship or Extended Professional Practice Project students will engage with extra curriculum projects such as SUPER (Special University Project and Entrepreneurial Resource – a Coventry University London student team initiative, guided by academics, providing research and insights to SME), with employability working at modular level to make sure students are introduced to entrepreneurs organically as part of their classroom engagement in terms 1 and 2.

Anticipatory adjustments for disability and inclusivity:

- Using Echo 360 to record lectures with subtitles/transcripts (or key concepts/information) and using multi-sensory materials/ variety of activities.
- Providing learning materials, notes and slides before the lesson, in accessible formats
- Providing additional notes with key points highlighted after the lesson, in accessible formats
- Providing examples of well written essays and assignments for students
- Promoting office hours with module leaders for one to one support
- Providing clear written directions and checklists for assignments to help students break it down, organise and plan their time
- Visually highlighting important information and instructions
- Within lessons, new terms and concepts should be visible on either a board or projector
- Any text should be large and clear, so that students can read it

Whiteboards to be used to elaborate a point, or to note key words, concepts or names. They will not be used for extensive note making.