



## **Course Specification Part A**

### **MSc FinTech FBLT128**

### **MSc FinTech (Professional Experience)\* FBLT129, FBLT130, FBLT131**

## **Faculty of Business and Law School of Economics Finance and Accounting Academic Year: 2021/22**

**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.

Coventry University's accreditation with CMI is currently ongoing for the relevant modules and is regularly reviewed and monitored by the CMI through their quality systems. Whilst Coventry University anticipates that these reviews will continue to be successful, if they were to be unsuccessful, the relevant module in this course would no longer be accredited and we would notify applicants and students of this change as soon as possible.

\*The course award title will be MSc FinTech. The reference to Professional Experience is based on 2 taught semesters and up to 3 semesters on a placement followed by 1 final taught semester.

## PART A Course Specification (Published Document)

### MSc FinTech

#### 1. Introduction

The MSc FinTech (and its extended version with Professional Experience) is one of a portfolio of MSc degrees offered by the Economics, Finance and Accounting (EFA) School that have been designed in line with the [University's Corporate Strategy](#). It seeks to develop enterprising and globally-orientated postgraduates who are equipped to cope in a financial world of constant transformation, evolving technology and increasing complexity. Offering an international student experience, a range of internship opportunities (subject to availability and competitive application) and practical integration between theory and practice, the course aims to develop the skills most valued by employers.

By design, the MSc FinTech (including the Professional Experience version) is a specialist course that seeks to educate and prepare students for a range of careers within the finance professions. Financial markets are becoming ever more innovative, dynamic and technologically driven and this presents exciting career opportunities in areas such as: investment banking, financial services, and financial technology. In addition, the nature of finance and its relevance to any and all organisations, means graduates will also be in a position to explore other business careers, public sector jobs or pursue their own entrepreneurial ventures.

With the advances in technology and digitalisation of business processes in the financial services industry, Financial Technology (FinTech) is a rapidly expanding area in the global financial sector. Today's finance graduates not only need to have the knowledge and understanding of finance theories, but also the technical competency and digital fluency to apply them in the workplace. The course thus seeks to develop and expand traditional financial capabilities in areas such as asset pricing, corporate financing, international finance and corporate governance, whilst at the same time, providing a focus on financial technology, big data analytics and the analysis and management of risk in digital environments. It will achieve this by employing a range of student-centred learning approaches, such as, simulations, gamification, case studies and enquiry-based learning.

Academic staff teaching on the programme are a combination of finance professionals with years of experience in practice and industry, and academics with active research interests. Each brings their individual strengths and expertise into the teaching and learning context to enhance the students' learning experience and ensure students benefit from a combination of both theoretical and practical insights. This is in line with the University's strategic approach of providing a high-quality education and learning experience to students.

The curriculum is guided by professional practice and includes modules covering topics such as derivatives, big data, risk management and ethics. As part of this course you will undertake a professional development module which is currently accredited by the Chartered Management Institute (CMI). Upon successful completion of the module, you will gain the CMI Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice at no additional cost.

The extended 2-year MSc FinTech with Professional Experience is only available on a full-time basis and has been designed for those who wish to gain valuable professional experience as part of their study to enhance their employability. It should be noted that professional experience placements are subject to availability and a competitive application and selection process and the host organisation may include the University or Students' Union. Placements may be paid or unpaid, and will depend on what is being offered and agreed with the host organisation. Students will have to successfully complete a significant reflective piece supported by their placement to pass the Professional Experience modules. Although the University will provide support and help source placement opportunities, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to secure a placement. Students who are not successful in finding a placement by the University deadline will continue on the 12-month MSc FinTech.

**Distinctive Features:**

- Hands-on training in Python/R, big data analytics and data mining.
- Access to a state-of-the-art Trading Floor and market leading databases such as Thomson Reuters Eikon, Bloomberg, Fitch Connect and Datastream.
- Embedded employability, achieved via the Entrepreneurial Practice module, Trading Floor training, the option of the extended Professional Experience and the support of the Talent Team.
- The potential for optional international trips both at a School and University (through the Global Leaders Programme) level. Note that these trips are often subsidised but will incur an additional cost.
- An interactive and internationally diverse learning environment.

**2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study**

Title of Award	Mode of attendance	UCAS Code	FHEQ Level
Master of Science in FinTech	Full time - 1 year (2 years with Professional Experience)	Not applicable	Level 7
Postgraduate Diploma in FinTech	Part time - 2 years		
Postgraduate Certificate			

<b>3 Awarding Institution/Body</b>	Coventry University
<b>4 Collaboration</b>	None
<b>5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery</b>	Coventry University
<b>6 Internal Approval/Review Dates</b>	Date of approval: June 2020 Date for next review: Academic year 2025/2026
<b>7 Course Accredited by</b>	Not applicable
<b>8 Accreditation Date and Duration</b>	Not applicable
<b>9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors</b>	<p>There are no specific QAA postgraduate Subject Benchmark statements relating to either FinTech or Finance more generally.</p> <p>However there are QAA generic postgraduate benchmark statements relating to Business and Management which have been incorporated into the design, assessment and delivery of this course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Postgraduate Business and Management Subject Benchmark statements can be found at <a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-business-and-management-15.pdf?sfvrsn=1997f681_14">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-business-and-management-15.pdf?sfvrsn=1997f681_14</a></li> </ul> <p>QAA Master Level Characteristics (2015) <a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf?sfvrsn=6ca2f981_10">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf?sfvrsn=6ca2f981_10</a></p>
<b>10 Date of Course Specification</b>	March 2021
<b>11 Course Director</b>	Dr Graham Sadler

## 12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Course

The MSc FinTech is an innovative, interdisciplinary, degree which aims to develop the next generation of financiers and financial engineers who are proficient in using technology to improve financial application. The course aims to provide students with an opportunity to develop their studies in the area of finance from an applied perspective with an emphasis on financial data, financial analysis and financial technology.

The course aspires to the goals of professional relevance, currency and innovation and seeks to enhance students' knowledge and skills of critical analysis, through an in-depth study of key and contemporary issues in finance. To align with these goals, the course first develops core knowledge of financial markets, asset pricing and derivatives before focussing on building key FinTech capabilities such as Python/R, predictive analytics, algorithmic trading and artificial intelligence. Investment software and databases (e.g. Bloomberg, Thomson Reuters Eikon and Datastream) are also used to expose students to real world financial practices and techniques that they will experience when working in the finance industry. Students can therefore acquire relevant practical skills that should be of great value when seeking future employment.

The course aims to provide students with a range of modules with an international focus, taught within an international and interculturally diverse learning environment. The course thus seeks to produce autonomous learners, able to work with self-direction and originality, with the ability to blend theory and practice in complex situations, and have an appreciation of how properly conducted research can enhance their performance as financial managers.

### Educational Aims

The Educational Aims of this course are to:

- Develop in graduates a critical in-depth understanding of both established and emerging financial principles, models, theories and technologies;
- Provide students with research-inspired, industry-driven and internationally relevant learning experiences to develop scholarship and employment competencies and foster a culture of continuous professional development;
- Develop graduates who can successfully demonstrate creative leadership, analytical capabilities, innovative risk management and strategic decision-making for the increasingly complex and diverse financial sector;
- Encourage in each graduate a commitment to ethical and professional accountability, sound corporate governance and civic contribution.

The aforementioned Educational Aims tie in well with the QAA Framework for Higher Education qualifications descriptors at Level 7 whereby students are required to have a systematic understanding of knowledge and a critical awareness of contemporary issues. In addition, students should develop originality in the application of knowledge and develop conceptual understanding enabling them to critically evaluate current research, as well as develop a range of transferable skills necessary for employment.

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## 13 Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the course a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate critical understanding of financial theories and principles, and the ability to constructively challenge their assumptions.
2. Critique, interpret and apply financial frameworks and models to real-world and unstructured scenarios in global finance.
3. Effectively extract, manipulate and evaluate financial data from multiple sources to develop reasoned conclusions.

4. Evidence the application of advanced mathematical and statistical methods for financial analysis, interpretation and decision-making.
  5. Demonstrate a critical awareness of the role and importance of good corporate governance, ethical responsibility, professional accountability and civic contribution.
  6. Execute research using critical judgement in the selection of methodological approaches, research techniques and tools.
  7. Effectively communicate financial issues and solutions, both orally and written, to diverse audiences.
  8. Critically evaluate the principles for leading and developing people and entrepreneurial practice in strategic contexts.
  9. Critically evaluate risk, both financial and technological, assess its impact on enterprises and financial institutions and develop appropriate risk management strategies.
  10. Analyse, evaluate and employ FinTech applications to solve financial problems.
  11. Utilise computing techniques and machine learning to extract meaningful results and information from large financial data sets.
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#### **14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards**

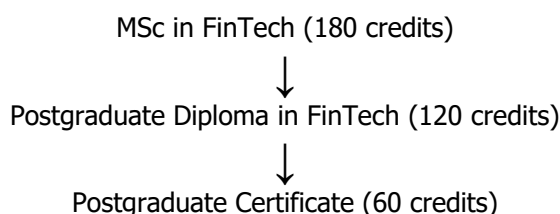
Students must pass all mandatory modules if they are to be awarded a Master of Science title. All modules are assigned 15 credits, except for the Project module (7055EFA) which carries 50 credits and the Entrepreneurial Practice (7050CRB) module which is a Chartered Management Institute (CMI) accredited module and carries 10 credits.

A fall-back award of a Postgraduate Diploma in FinTech can be achieved with 120 credits, whilst a fall-back award of a Postgraduate Certificate can be achieved with 60 credits.

The embedded professional development module has been developed with the Chartered Management Institute (CMI). Students who successfully complete the module and meet the CMI learning outcomes will gain a Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice based on the following CMI units: Leading and Developing People to Optimise Performance (Unit 702); Entrepreneurial Practice (Unit 711). Students who successfully complete this module will be awarded Foundation Chartered Manager status and be able to use the designation 'fCMgr' after their name.

#### **Cascade of Awards:**

In line with University Regulations, the cascade of awards is as follows:



The table below shows how each module contributes to the overall learning outcomes of the course. A maximum of 60 credits can be studied in each semester. This is an indicative pattern of delivery.

Credit level	Module Code	Title	Credit Value	Course Learning Outcomes
7	7002EFA	Corporate Finance	15	1,2,5,7
7	7005EFA	Quantitative Methods	15	3,4,6,11
7	7026EFA	Derivatives	15	1,2,3,4,6
7	7029EFA	Governance, Accountability and Ethics	15	1,2,5,7
7	7075EFA	Introduction to FinTech	15	2,3,9
7	7076EFA	Risk Management for FinTech	15	1,2,9,10
7	7077EFA	Applied FinTech	15	3,4,6,7,10
7	7078EFA	Data Analytics using Python/R	15	3,10,11
7	7055EFA	Project	50	1,2,3,4,6,7
7	7050CRB	Entrepreneurial Practice	10	2,3,7,8

The Project module (7055EFA) provides the possibility for an individual dissertation, an individual project (which could include an internship), or a group project (which could include an internship). Any internships within this module are subject to availability and a competitive application process and any student(s) wishing to undertake an internship must have secured it before the University deadline.

In addition to the above, students undertaking professional experience will complete further modules depending on the length of their placement. A student taking a one semester placement will take module 7034EFA only. A student taking a two semester placement will take 7056EFA in the first semester and 7034EFA in the second. A student taking a three semester placement will take 7056EFA in the first semester, 7057EFA in the second semester and 7034EFA in the third semester. All professional experience modules are zero credit and the professional experience element of the course is assessed based on a pass/fail assessment in module 7034EFA. The professional experience must be undertaken after the first two semesters of taught modules and before the final semester in which the Project (7055EFA) and Entrepreneurial Practice (7050CRB) modules are studied.

Credit level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Value	Course Learning Outcomes
7	7056EFA	Postgraduate Professional Experience 1	0	2,5,7
7	7057EFA	Postgraduate Professional Experience 2	0	2,5,7
7	7034EFA	Postgraduate Professional Experience 3	0	2,5,7

Professional Experience opportunities are subject to availability and competitive application process. They **are not guaranteed** by the University. Although the University will provide support through the Talent Team and help source opportunities, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to secure a placement. Students who are not successful in finding a placement by the University deadline will continue on the standard MSc FinTech programme.

Please note that **Tier 4** students may need to apply and secure a visa extension before they can go on a placement and it will be the student's responsibility to ensure that any placement dates comply with their visa.

## 15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure

The course is subject to the general University admission procedures and access policies. To be accepted for the course students must possess either:

- (a) an Honours undergraduate degree (minimum of 2:2) in an appropriate business, finance or computing background

**OR**

- (b) appropriate work experience in the financial sector together with relevant professional qualifications.

Careful monitoring of applications to ensure that successful applicants are suited to the course takes place. Where necessary, applicants are interviewed, especially those that do not appear to meet standard admissions criteria. Where deemed appropriate, a written exercise may be administered to establish suitability.

- In the case of overseas applicants, an adequate proficiency in English must be demonstrated. This would normally be a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 overall with a minimum of 6.0 in each component or equivalent.
- Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL) is in accordance with University Regulations.

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## 16 Academic Regulations and Regulations of Assessment

This course conforms to the standard [University Academic Regulations](#) Postgraduate Mode R.

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## 17 Indicators of Quality Enhancement

The course is managed by the Economics Finance and Accounting Board of Study of the Faculty of Business and Law.

The Faculty of Business and Law Progression and Awards Board (PAB) is responsible for considering the progress of all students and making awards in accordance with both the University and course-specific regulations. The assurance of the quality of modules is the responsibility of the Boards of Study which contribute modules to the course.

External Examiners have the opportunity to moderate all assessment tasks and a sample of assessed work for each module. They will report annually on the course and/or constituent modules and their views are considered as part of the Course Quality Enhancement Monitoring (CQEM). Details of the CQEM process can be found on the Registry's web site.

Students are represented on the Student Forum, Board of Study and Faculty/School Board, all of which normally meet two or three times per year. Student views are also sought through module and course evaluation questionnaires.

The following are key indicators of quality and standards:

- The course has been designed in accordance with the QAA benchmark statements for Masters in Business and Management (2015).
- Coventry Business School is ranked by EDUNIVERSAL in the 'Excellent Business School' (3 Palme's) worldwide category. EDUNIVERSAL provides a ranking and information system for students in order to help decide which Business School to study at (<http://eduniversal-ranking.com/>).
- Coventry Business School has signed up to 'The Principles for Responsible Management Education' (PRME) initiative <http://www.unprme.org/>. PRME has 6 principles, including; Purpose, Values, Method, Research, Partnership and Dialogue. All 6 principles of PRME are practiced in the course.
- The School of Economics, Finance and Accounting has a strong portfolio of active researchers who regularly publish in peer reviewed internationally recognised publications.
- External Examiner reports have strongly commended the quality of finance related postgraduate courses currently offered within the School of Economics, Finance and Accounting.
- A significant number of professional bodies (e.g. Chartered Financial Analyst Institute, Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, and Chartered Insurance Institute) have recognised degrees offered by the School of Economics, Finance and Accounting.
- The Guardian University Guide 2020 ranked the university 15th overall out of 121 universities.

- Top modern university of the year for seven consecutive years (Guardian University Guide 2013-2019)
- Awarded University of the Year for Student Experience in 2019 by The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide.
- Ranked 2nd in the UK in 2017 for Teaching Excellence by The Times Higher Education metrics, and achieved Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) 2017.
- Awarded 5 stars by QS Stars rating in Teaching, Employability, Facilities, Internationalisation and Inclusiveness (QS World University Ranking 2020).

The QAA's Higher Education Review undertaken in February 2015 confirmed that Coventry University meets the UK expectations regarding the:

- Setting and maintenance of the academic standards of awards.
- Quality of student learning opportunities.
- Quality of the information about learning opportunities.
- Enhancement of student learning opportunities.

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## **18 Additional Information**

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

- Course handbooks available from the VLE Course web page
- Module Guides which are produced for all modules and are available on the VLE Module web page
- Module Information Directory (MID)
  - <https://webapp.coventry.ac.uk/MidWebCurr/Main.aspx>
- Study Support information is accessible from the home page of the Coventry University Student Portal
  - <https://share.coventry.ac.uk/students/Pages/Index.aspx>