



Course Information Form

This Course Information Form provides the definitive record of the designated course

Section A: General Course Information

Course Title	MSc Financial Economics
Final Award	MSc
Route Code	MSFECAAF
Intermediate Qualification(s)	
FHEQ Level	7
Location of Delivery	University Square Campus, Luton
Mode(s) and length of study	Full Time over 1 Year (MSc)
Standard intake points (months)	October, November, February, April, June, August
External Reference Points as applicable including Subject Benchmark	QAA (2015), 'Subject Benchmark Statement: Master's Degrees in Business and Management' QAA (2014), 'UK Quality Code for Higher Education' QAA (2015), 'Master's Degree Characteristics Statement'
Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation or endorsement	NA
HECoS code(s)	100451

UCAS Course Code	NA
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Course Aims	<p>This course is developed at the interface between Economics and Finance. A central goal of the course is to demonstrate the use of ideas and tools in contexts of financial economics where they are indispensable and widely exploited. You will explore the global role of financial systems in modern economics and learn to analyse the impact of economic events on financial markets. You will become a user of financial/econometrics software and complex data sources which will enable you to better understand the impact and reach of economic decisions. You will further develop the necessary quantitative, research, and presentation skills required for a successful career.</p>
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Course Learning Outcomes	Upon successful completion of your course you should meet the appropriate learning outcomes for your award shown in the table below		
		Outcome	Award
	1	Demonstrate a critical understanding of accounting principles behind important economic and financial decisions.	MSc
	2	Critically analyse various microeconomic and macroeconomic models and practical skills of applying economic models in financial industry.	MSc
	3	Demonstrate a critical understanding of investment, asset pricing, derivatives and financial engineering through the coherent lens of financial economics and develop the ability to apply techniques in portfolio management to meet the required return and minimized risk.	MSc
	4	Critically apply strategic information and tools to evaluate and develop appropriate strategic options in a complex environment.	MSc
	5	Demonstrate effective, rigorous and reflective skills of self-management and independence in terms of planning, behavior, motivation, individual initiative and enterprise in order to meet the demands of the field of study in MSc Financial Economics, while taking responsibility for personal learning and continuous professional development against clearly identified personal career-related goals	MSc
	6	In the absence of complete data, analyse a range of complex and pervasive issues in a systematic and creative manner to generate sound judgement and recommendations that are communicated effectively to both a specialist and non-specialist audience.	MSc
	<p>Learning and Teaching</p> <p>CRe8 articulates the University of Bedfordshire's approach to creating an environment that supports effective learning and teaching. Its elements, appropriate curriculum design, personalized and realistic learning, employability and suitable assessment strategies, are the basic ingredients of our approach to teaching and learning. The MSc Financial Economics has been developed based on those principles.</p> <p>In its structure this course recognizes the importance of regulation in underpinning the world of financial reporting and its varied impact on published results and capital markets. At the same time we realize that although knowledge of economic and finance is</p>		

a necessary condition when trying to understand the world we live in, it needs to be applied in a concrete way in order to avoid consuming itself in analyzing theoretical models. Therefore, this course is structured in a way that uses risk management and financial theory as the driving force and at the same time it links its concepts with other pillars of knowledge through the holistic approach the global economic and financial environment require.

This Course will provide students with a unique learning experience. It will be intense but also very rewarding. Students will start with a week-long induction where, apart from being introduced to the University and the Faculty, the first interaction with the area of Financial Economics will prepare them for the rest of their studies. The delivery method followed is that of Block teaching. Students will undertake one Unit at a time for six weeks and that will be a block of delivery. At the end of four blocks they will progress to their chosen master's capstone experience which demands students to demonstrate an ability to apply current literature and thinking to address a topical research question of practical problem. Research methods appropriate to the enquiry context of the chosen unit will be embedded within the chosen capstone unit.

Each Unit will include significant direct contact time but it will also require and provide time for individual reading and preparation for assessment. That will take place in weeks 3 and 6 of each block. By the end of this course learners will appreciate the importance of developing a deep understanding regarding the structure of our economy and in particular the financial world and the need to explain, interpret and judge institutional and corporate behavior.

A number of taught Units where direct contact will be blended with independent learning have been designed to offer an interesting, current and innovative curriculum. Students will undertake four 30 credit Units in the areas of International Finance, Financial Regulation, Risk Management and Strategic Management. These are four areas of cognitive knowledge that provide a sound background for a graduate and will be the basis for a successful career. They will provide our students with a clear understanding of a very dynamically evolving environment and will equip them with a holistic awareness of the world we live in and with qualities that are highly sought by employers.

A number of transferable skills will be further developed. The need to understand key developments in global markets require a range of technical and analytical skills. Today's demanding labor markets, in the UK and internationally, require a number of other abilities and proficiencies. The ability to conduct sound research, computer literacy, relevant software use, professionalism, presentation skills are some of the attributes that our graduate will possess at the end of their course.

The knowledge and concepts acquired during the first four taught periods of block teaching along with a number of highly important transferable skills will be combined and evaluated during the writing of the final piece of work, master's capstone experience unit. Whether the students opt for a traditional research dissertation or an experiential learning option (professional placement, internship or live project), an appropriate research methods element will introduce the students to the idea of postgraduate and /or action-based research. This final unit will enhance student ability to produce an independent piece of work and it will provide them with an opportunity to show the creativity and independence required in the workplace by holders of postgraduate degrees.

With no doubt, being active participants in the learning process, instead of members of a passive audience, improves the student learning experience and increases knowledge. At the same time, and throughout the course, students will be working on building up on a number of additional transferable skills. Those are the ability to conduct high quality academic enquiry, to identify questions that need to be addressed in both a professional and scientific way, to think critically when analyzing, deduct when synthesizing, and to present argument in a clear and concise manner as it is required for their success in this course but also as it will be expected by future employers.

Student contribution to own learning is pivotal. It is essential that, in order to maximize the educational benefit and to derive the

Teaching, learning and assessment strategies

best experience, students must make optimum use of the time provided for individual learning. Direct contact times will be highly interactive and student preparation in advance is a key element for success. Starting in induction week students will prepare for what will be an intensive delivery which will then be followed by their own individual learning and assessment. The welcome week itself constitutes the first week of the professional achievement planning (hereinafter PAP) non-credit bearing unit that is an integral part of your course and is run in-between each of the four blocks of teaching and the Capstone. The PAP unit is designed to support your professional development and to provide you the skills to succeed in the workplace after graduation.

The Lecturers who will deliver this Course are active researchers and most are former practitioners with some still active in practice. They will guide students through this process by exposing them to the latest developments of the relevant subjects. Research informed teaching is the basis for transforming a course into a unique student experience in a very dynamic way in its evolution and always relevant area of knowledge. Although the main concepts and theories might be following the structure of a textbook, students will be expected to do a substantial amount of reading themselves. There will be both guided and independent reading and the information will be available through BREQ and Unit Handbooks. The University's Virtual Learning Environment will be essential in this effort given the delivery method.

Besides the knowledge of theories and concepts and their application to real life business situations, four basic elements have been used in developing this course. Critical and creative thinking should be part of every postgraduate course. Students will be encouraged to receive, discuss and evaluate across all Units. They will also participate greatly in developing their own learning through independent and guided reading and they will be encouraged to share their views, ideas and knowledge. Systemic thinking will be greatly promoted. A postgraduate student in Financial Economics should understand that all theoretical ideas and their applications are not independent of the world we live in and should be interconnected when trying to analyse financial information and explain business behavior. The ability to decompose and synthesize will be a key factor in achieving this and it will be developed in all Units. Finally, collaboration at all stages of this course will be required, either informally in the context of class discussions, or when formative group assessments have to be prepared. Along with sharing their ideas and contributing to their team, students will learn to appreciate the importance of being dependable.

Assessment

The assessment strategy for this course is designed in a way that will contribute to student development and will help them achieve their goals and enhance their employability. An essential element of this process is that feedback will be provided in due time so it is integrated in the learning process. When group work is required, the marks given will be individual following the University of Bedfordshire's regulatory scheme. The different kinds of assessment are listed below and in some cases they will be used in combination, making sure however that there are no hidden tasks. In addition to the assessment strategies followed in each Unit, student knowledge and skills will be also formatively assessed through problem solving sessions or case study discussions, in order to ensure that development of their comprehension of the underlying concepts is appropriate to the level of studies and continuously supports the overall student achievement. A full list of how each Unit will be assessed is presented in the previous section. Please refer to the relevant section of this form regarding Academic Integrity.

The intensive character of this Course's delivery as it is outlined in its Teaching and Learning philosophy is consistent with the needs of today's world for graduates who accumulate knowledge fast and are able to express the outcome of this process in a

	<p>way that is meaningful and comprehensive. After induction, a week of intensive direct contact time followed by students own contribution through individual learning, will take them to the first assessment point. The process will repeat and at the end of the six-week block, the final assessment will be due. This will be a demanding but very rewarding experience.</p> <p>As mentioned above, the MSc Financial Economics is designed to develop a number of transferable skills which along with the knowledge and understanding of the relevant theories and concepts will provide our graduates with all those abilities required for a successful career. The different methods used to assess student performance are designed to evaluate the following: Research and literature review skills, data handling, application, numeracy, computer literacy, ability to contextualize and evaluate, presentation skills and professionalism, and collaboration.</p> <p>The Course's Assessment Strategy includes:</p> <p>Written Examination or Class Test: Questions in these exams always promote critical thinking and help gradually develop student ability to apply, analyse, synthesize and evaluate.</p> <p>Individual Written Report or Essays: The ability to perform literature informed research, to review and evaluate the relevant sources and to use an appropriate methodology in order to analyze, and evaluate the relevant concepts is being assessed. At the same time, student academic integrity is developed.</p> <p>Case Study Examination: Students will apply their knowledge in the context of specific cases.</p> <p>Oral Presentation: A number of transferable skills will be developed</p> <p>Reflective Report: Own work and that of peers will be evaluated</p> <p>Dissertation / Professional Placement / Internship / Live Project: Regardless of which master's capstone experience students opt for, they will have to produce an individual, independent piece of work. They will be asked to identify the research question or problem under investigation, review the relevant literature, develop a sound methodology in order to explore the problem, proceed with the analysis, discuss their findings and make recommendations. It is the capstone of this course and builds on the knowledge and skills acquired in all Units. It will be one of the most challenging but yet enjoyable and rewarding experiences they will encounter.</p>
Learning support	<p>The University's comprehensive student support service includes: Student Information Desk, a one-stop shop for any initial enquiries; Student Support team advising and supporting those with physical or learning needs or more general student well being; Study Hub team providing academic skills guidance; Personal Academic Tutoring system; a student managed Peer-Assisted Learning scheme; support from your lecturers</p>
Admissions Criteria	<p>https://www.beds.ac.uk/entryrequirements</p> <p>Approved Variations and Additions to Standard Admission</p> <p>NA</p>
	<p>https://www.beds.ac.uk/about-us/our-university/academic-information</p>

**Assessment
Regulations**

Note: Be aware that our regulations change every year

Approved Variations and Additions to Standard Assessment Regulations'

NA

Section B: Course Structure

The Units which make up the course are listed below. Each unit contributes to the achievement of the course learning outcomes either through teaching (T), general development of skills and knowledge (D) or in your assessments (A).

Unit	Unit Name	Level	Credits	Core or Option	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
AAF038-6	The Global Economic Context	7	30	Core		D12													
AAF040-6	Financial Markets and Portfolio Management	7	30	Core			D12												
AAF044-6	Accounting and Finance	7	30	Core	D1 2														
BSS050-6	Strategic Management	7	30	Core				D12											
BSS072-6	Performance Achievement Planning	7	0	Core															
MAR040-6	Professional Practice	7	60	Option	A1 2	A12	A12	A12	A12	A1 2									
MAR041-6	Business Live Project	7	60	Option	A1 2	A12	A12	A12	A12	A1 2									
MAR042-6	Business Dissertation	7	60	Option	A1 2	A12	A12	A12	A12	A1 2									

Section C: Assessment Plan

The course is assessed as follows :

MSFIEAAF-

Unit Code	Level	Period	Core/Option	Ass 1 Type code	Ass 1 Submit wk	Ass 2 Type code	Ass 2 Submit wk	Ass 3 Type code	Ass 3 Submit wk	Ass 4 Type code	Ass 4 Submit wk
AAF038-6	7	TY	Core	PR-ORAL	3	WR-I	6				
AAF040-6	7	TY	Core	CW-CS	3	WR-I	6				
AAF044-6	7	TY	Core	CW-CS	3	WR-BUS	6				
BSS050-6	7	TY	Core	WR-I	3	CW-CS	6				
MAR040-6	7	TY	Option	WR-I	3	WR-WB	12				
MAR041-6	7	TY	Option	WR-I	3	PJ-PROJ	12				
MAR042-6	7	TY	Option	WR-I	3	PJ-DISS	12				

Glossary of Terms for Assessment Type Codes

CW-CS	Coursework - Case Study
WR-BUS	Coursework - Business Report
WR-I	Coursework - Individual Report
WR-WB	Coursework - Worked Based Report

Administrative Information

Faculty	University of Bedfordshire Business School
School	Department of Law and Finance
Head of School/Department	Karl Knox
Course Coordinator	Ourania Dimitraki