

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Financial Economics
Award	MSc
School	School of Arts and Social Sciences
Department or equivalent	Department of Economics
Programme code	PSFINE
Type of study	Full Time Part Time
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Aims

The aim of this programme is to develop your critical and analytical abilities in the discipline of economics, with particular reference to finance. More specifically, on completion of the programme, you should be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate an advanced understanding of modern economic theory relevant to financial topics.
- 2) Critically interpret current research in financial economics and evaluate its relevance to financial practice.
- 3) Understand the roles and obligations of the major financial institutions especially as seen from the point of view of financial regulators and policy makers.
- 4) Show detailed understanding of the working of financial markets.
- 5) Perform routine financial calculations using widely available computer software for the purpose of forecasting, regulation and analysis.
- 6) Undertake empirical investigations in the field of financial economics, employing appropriate quantitative methods.
- 7) Demonstrate a deep understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the relevant empirical and theoretical research methodology.

Upon leaving the programme you can expect one of the following awards, depending on your level of achievement as outlined below:

Postgraduate Certificate

To obtain a Postgraduate Certificate you will have successfully passed sufficient modules of the programme worth a total of 60 credits. You should have an understanding of the main challenges in this field.

Postgraduate Diploma

To obtain a Postgraduate Diploma you will have successfully passed sufficient modules of the programme worth a total of 120 credits. You will have a basic knowledge of the analytical, quantitative and modeling skills required to work as a financial economist.

MSc

Following a successful completion of the MSc in Financial Economics, you will have, on top of the above, expanded your expertise either by contributing to the knowledge of financial economics by using the analytical and/or quantitative tools learned through the degree or by critically summarizing an area of the financial economics literature.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Apply economic and mathematical analysis to solve problems of a type that face policy-making and decision-making in public bodies and finance-related organisations.
- Select appropriately between different models of finance, such as models used to determine the fundamental price of assets.
- Demonstrate knowledge of quantitative and probabilistic techniques for conducting and interpreting empirical tests.
- Understand the operation of financial markets and instruments and identify potential market failures and the need for government intervention and regulation.
- Recognise the risks and returns of different financial operations and understand the application of techniques for constructing efficient portfolios and profitable trading strategies.
- Recognise and hedge the risks and returns of different financial portfolios.

Skills:

- Communicate and interact with other members of a team.
- Operate econometric software to solve financial problems and empirically test economic models.
- Apply economic analysis in logical and deductive fashion to assumption-based models in economics and finance.
- Apply key financial concepts, like risk premium, risk diversification etc, to asset pricing.
- Identify and solve financial problems using mathematical and statistical methods.
- Assess the strengths and weakness of different theoretical and empirical financial models.
- Manage information of both a qualitative and quantitative sort.
- Recognise and apply the appropriate mathematical techniques to problem solving.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical foundations of the quantitative methods applied in the field of finance.
- Identify the links between economics and the development of financial markets.
- Understand the application of techniques for constructing efficient portfolios and profitable trading strategies.
- Either take responsibility for the design and delivery of a research project by studying and conducting research independently, or to research an area sufficiently well so as to write a critical review.

Values and attitudes:

- Conduct positive analysis without normative bias.
- Show critical awareness and understanding of ethical issues in financial transactions.
- Correctly reference the work of other people to avoid plagiarism.
- Show consideration for the rules and regulations of City.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

The teaching strategy is based on a flexible combination of lectures, class and computer lab sessions. Lectures will be used to introduce key theories, concepts and economic models. In classes you will have the opportunity to solve financial problems and numerical exercises, to

analyse case studies, to make presentations of research published in academic journals. The computer labs will provide you with the practical experience of using computer software to perform calculations and conduct simulations of a sort likely to be encountered in practise. In addition, econometric methods will be taught in lab sessions, thus you will have the opportunity to apply econometric software to empirical research and financial market estimations. When appropriate, "practitioner slots" will be incorporated into module delivery, such as research seminars conducted by external financial experts, presentation by invited academics, etc.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

You will be assessed by different methods to ensure that they have met the learning outcomes.

(a) In each module an unseen written exam will be used to assess your knowledge of key concept and theories.

(b) The coursework will take on different forms, as appropriate:

- i) Essays: you will prepare an individual written report based on research and reading about an assigned financial or economic topic
- ii) Presentations: in some modules you will make formal presentations to the class, either individually or in groups. The presentation will be assessed by the module lecturer and formal feedback will be given to you.
- iii) Computer-based exercise: for some modules you will need to use software packages to solve financial problems or to perform econometric estimations.
- iv) Class room test: some modules will require you to take an in-class test which could be instead of or in addition to other forms of coursework.

(c) You will be required to undertake a dissertation or a literature survey.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade- Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at:
https://www.city.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68921/assessment_and_feedback_policy.pdf

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits.

The weight of coursework and exam are normally 30% and 70% respectively. Where modules use a different weighting scheme it will be made clear in the handbook what the correct weighting scheme is.

The Pass mark for each module is 50%. A minimum mark of 40% is required in each assessment component.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

1. Compensation: where you fail up to a total of 20 credits at first or resit attempt (15 for a Postgraduate Certificate), you may be allowed compensation if:
 - Compensation is permitted for the module involved (see the What will I Study section of the programme specification), and
 - It can be demonstrated that you have satisfied all the Learning Outcomes of the modules in the Programme, and
 - A minimum overall mark of no more than 10% below the module pass mark has been achieved in the module to be compensated, and
 - An aggregate mark of 50% has been achieved overall.

Where you are eligible for compensation at the first attempt, this will be applied in the first instance rather than offering a resit opportunity.

If you receive a compensated pass in a module you will be awarded the credit for that module. The original component marks will be retained in the record of marks and your original module mark shall be used for the purpose of your Award calculation.

2. Resit: where you are not eligible for compensation at the first attempt, you will be offered one resit attempt.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the pass the requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:

http://www.city.ac.uk/data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Master's Degree:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Dissertation OR Literature Survey and 2 additional elective modules	7	60	33	With Distinction With Merit Without classification	70 60 50
Taught	7	120	67		

Postgraduate Diploma:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	120	100	With Distinction With Merit Without classification	70 60 50

Postgraduate Certificate:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	60	100	With Distinction With Merit Without classification	70 60 50

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Taught component

You are required to take 2 x 30 credit taught modules, 4 x 15 credit taught modules and have to accrue 60 extra credits through one of the following routes:

- a. Take 2 extra elective taught modules of 15 credits each and a literature survey (Economics Literature Survey) worth 30 credits;
- b. Write a 60 credit dissertation (Economics Research Project).

There are two routes, with the students choosing these from the outset of the course. On each route there are two core modules:

- 1) Dissertation route: core - Financial Markets, Econometrics, Asset Pricing; electives - 1 module from Group 1, 2 modules from Group 2.
- 2) Literature Survey route: core - Financial Markets, EITHER Quantitative Methods OR Econometrics, Asset Pricing; electives - 1 module from Group 1, 2 modules from Group 2; 2 further electives, including possibly 1 from each of Groups 1 and 2.

Students in the LR path who wish to take ECM308 instead of ECM303 are strongly advised to consult with their programme director as well as to attend preliminary lectures in each module before making a final choice

Module Title	SITS Code	Group	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Financial Markets	ECM300		30	C	N	7

Financial Derivatives	ECM168	1	15	CE	Y	7
Asset Pricing	ECM171		15	C	Y	7
Corporate Finance	ECM152	1	15	CE	Y	7
Quantitative Finance with Matlab	ECM169	2	15	CE	Y	7
International Macroeconomics	ECM158	2	15	CE	Y	7
Corporate Investment under Uncertainty	ECM166	2	15	CE	Y	7
Economics of Regulation and Competition	ECM159		15	E	Y	7
The Economics of Micro-Finance	ECM153		15	E	Y	7
Cognitive and Economic Science of Rational Choice	PEM102		15	E	Y	7
Dissertation Route						
Econometrics	ECM308		30	C	N	7
Literature Survey Route						
Quantitative Methods OR Econometrics	ECM304/ ECM308		30	CE	N	7
Economics and Business Strategy	ECM160		15	E	Y	7
Business Economics	ECM151		15	E	Y	7

Literature Survey/Dissertation component

In order to achieve a distinction overall for the MSc, a minimum mark of 70% overall has to be achieved.

To progress to dissertation you are normally required to have passed all modules.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Economics Literature Survey	ECM307	30	C	N	7
Economics Research Project	ECM306	60	C	N	7

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

Students completing this programme normally aspire to a career in investment banking, hedge funds, economic think tank, central banks of the government.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to:
<http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

Dissertation Route:

You should have a:

*2:1 (or 2.2 with evidence of compensating strengths) from a UK university or its foreign equivalent in Economics or related subjects with intermediate level exposure to economic theory, econometrics, and mathematical methods;

OR a 2.1 (or foreign equivalent) undergraduate degree in a quantitative discipline (such as mathematics, engineering, computer science or a natural science) with exposure to probability theory, optimisation and advanced calculus. If you have a good 2.2 in one of the above disciplines, you might be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Literature Survey Route:

You should have a:

*a 2:2 (or foreign equivalent) in Economics, Finance or a quantitative discipline (such as mathematics, engineering, computer science or a natural science).

OR a 2.1 or high 2.2 (or foreign equivalent) in Business Studies, Accounting, Management without exposure to core economic theory or econometrics but with at least introductory economics and statistics and mathematical methods;

OR a very good 2.1 degree in arts, social science, or humanities related subjects, such as Law, History, Psychology, Sociology, Political Science or Journalism with clear motivation to study for the degree to which application is made.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

For students whose first language is not English, the following qualifications will meet the English language requirement for entry to a postgraduate course of study:

- * A first degree from a UK university.
- * A first degree from an overseas institution recognised by City as providing adequate evidence of proficiency in the English language, for example, from institutions in Australia or the USA.
- * GCE O-level/GCSE English language or English literature, grade C minimum.
- * Cambridge ESOL CPE (Certificate of Proficiency in English) at grade C or above.
- * An overall score of 6.5 in the English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a minimum of 6.0 for each subtest.
- * Satisfactory standard in the verbal section of the Princeton Test (GMAT).
- * US SAT with 500 in verbal performance.
- * Warwick English Language Test (WELT) with pass grades of BBC minimum.

* Other evidence of proficiency in the English language which satisfies the board of studies concerned.

OVERSEAS QUALIFICATIONS

Equivalent qualifications from an overseas university will be considered

IT SKILLS

All students are expected to be computer literate.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Programme is committed to equal opportunities. The admissions decision will rest on the qualifications, needs and aspirations of the applicant.

RPL/RPEL Requirements

RPL/RPEL: Students may apply for RPL/RPEL for a minimum of one module and a maximum of 25% of the overall credits for the programme (taught modules only).

Exemptions are not awarded for programmes/qualifications that were awarded five years ago or longer, prior to the enrolment date for the intended programme of study at City.

Programmes/qualifications which were awarded over five years ago may be considered towards RPL/RPEL requests if the candidate can provide supporting evidence which gives an account of ways in which learning achieved through the programme/qualification has been applied actively and updated within the past five years.

Former students of City who have been withdrawn from a programme due to academic failure are not normally permitted to RPL/RPEL any awarded credits back onto the same programme within the School.

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