Studying BSc Finance (BIF/IFRM/Finance) courses at Cass

This Online Chat session is for prospective students interested in studying our Finance courses, that is: N3N3 Finance N390 Investment & Financial Risk Management (IFRM) N302 Banking & International Finance (BIF) The session will be run by current students and academic staff, giving you the opportunity to ask questions about your chosen course and life at as a Cass student, societies and clubs, extra-curricular activities, free language classes, placement & study abroad and lots more. As this is a typed chat group session, you will be able to see the answers to your questions by other applicants.

Hi everyone! Welcome to our Finance Chat! Today’s session is for applicants interested in:
BSc (Hons) Banking and International Finance (N302 and N312)
BSc (Hons) Investment and Financial Risk Management (N390 and N319)
BSc (Hons) Finance with foundation year (N3NF)

I am a Marketing and Recruitment Officer at City – looking forward to answering your questions! :)

Hi Everyone! My name is X and I work for Cass Undergraduate Admissions. I’m looking forward to answering your questions :)!

Hi, I am Ian Marsh, I am the Course Director for the various finance degrees - happy to answer any questions you might have

Welcome to the chat - feel free to ask any questions you might have :)

Hi everyone. My name is X and I currently a second year undergraduate studying BSc Banking and International Finance. Feel free to ask any questions you have :)

Hi! I want to ask whether City’s Finance course was in clearing this year (2019)?

Hi Yen, yes it was however, there is no guarantee that it will be next year :)

Welcome to the chat! Ask any questions you might have :)

Hi, do you need A-Level maths to partake in any of these finance courses?

Hi , no it is not a requirement to take A level maths for the finance courses
Hi, do you need A-Level maths to partake in any of these finance courses?

We do need mathematical ability though - finance uses a lot of numbers so you need to be comfortable with maths. A good GCSE grade is enough.

I participated yesterday, and I was informed by Nikki that (for American Schools) I need to have 4 AP at scores of 5555. Is it the same for Investment and Financial Risk Management (N390 and N319)?

Hi, we ask for 3 AP subjects with AP score of 555.

How much of a disadvantage would you be at if you do not take A-Level maths?

I'll let X reply regarding applications but once you are on the course, while you will find some modules more of a challenge without A level maths you will be fine. My son did A level maths last year and what he did was way harder than we need on the degree.

Hi, are there any scholarships available for international students?

Hi. Here is the full list of scholarships that the university offers. Please use the web link to find more info about which ones you are eligible for.

[https://www.city.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding/scholarships-and-bursaries](https://www.city.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding/scholarships-and-bursaries)

Scholarships and bursaries
Funding support available for students studying at City, University of London.

How much of a disadvantage would you be at if you do not take A-Level maths?

Hi, we ask that you have a minimum of grade 6 at GCSE to take this course. As long as you meet this, your application isn't at a disadvantage.

Hi. I have known CASS business school from its Master degree courses. Will the professors teaching the Bachelor degree be the same as those teaching the Master?

I teach on both, as do many of my colleagues but we do specialise in our teaching so some faculty prefer just to teach undergrads (and some only masters or MBA students). Our Dean currently teaches on the undergraduate program, as does our associate dean, two of the “superstars” we have at Cass (and the Dean doesn’t teach on the MSc degrees at all).

I'm currently leaning towards the Business with Finance course, however at the start of the course if I don't feel the course is for me would I be able to switch to any of the finance courses?

Hi, it is possible to switch after year 1 if you decide that you prefer to do the finance course.
I’m currently leaning towards the Business with Finance course, however at the start of the course if I don’t feel the course is for me would I be able to switch to any of the finance courses?

But there are conditions – you need to pass with a certain overall grade and we look at your peerformance in some key modules too. So not guaranteed, but possible.

Hi. Does Cass do interviews? If yes then what topics and type of discussion should I expect?

Hi, we do not hold interviews as part of the application process. We mainly base our decision on academic performance.

Also, does the campus have facilities such as trading room simulation as those in the Northampton campus?

In the Northampton Square campus, we do have a Bloomberg terminal in the library.

Also, does the campus have facilities such as trading room simulation as those in the Northampton campus? and we have a Bloomberg room and a Reuters room in the Bunhill Row building you can acess. Our student-led invetsment societies run trading competitions in those, I understand.

Also, what are the main characteristics the school look for in a student applying for Finance?

Hi, we mainly look at academic performance so we will be looking at your predicted grades. We also look at your personal statement which should have a focus on the course you’re applying for.

Hi. How employable is the Finance degree and what careers have recent graduates gone on to? :)

This link is great as it shows you where our graduates have gone on to work after graduating with us :) https://www.city.ac.uk/careers/your-career/destinations-of-city-graduates

Where City graduates work

Hi, Does AP Calculus AB count as one of the 3 AP? Or do you require AP Calculus BC?

Hi, yes Calculus AB counts as one of the 3 AP subjects.
Hi. How employable is the Finance degree and what careers have recent graduates gone on to?:)

We had our first graduating cohort from the BSc Finance this summer as it is quite a new degree, but our other finance courses - Banking and International Finance and IFRM - have a much longer history. We place graduates in all the top banks, investment banks and investment houses. Students may also go into smaller banks and funds where jobs can be more varied. Plus many go on to non-finance jobs such as accounting, general management, real estate etc. The finance degrees give you the skills to get good jobs in the finance sector but also the general skills needed to succeed in all areas of business.

I’m interested in IFRM and also Data Analytics and Actuarial Science courses. However, I wonder which should I apply if I want to be able to write the program and carry out a backtesting and become a fund manager?

IFRM is exactly the degree that will let you do just that. There is a final year project that I am running for ten or so students this year which will involve active investment across a bunch of major equity markets based on quantitative trading rules. These rules will be evaluated based on past performance and a report written up advising a fund manager whether they are worth further investigation (it is based on a piece of consulting work I have just completed for a global hedge fund looking to move into top-down international equity investments). BUT, funds also hire actuaries and data analytics grads so they are perfectly acceptable choices.

Thanks! Also, I saw on the website that the entry requirements are AAA for Finance, and my predicted grades are AAA. Would I still be able to get a place if I don’t quite get the grades, say, I got AAB?

Hi, we are able to be a bit flexible with this. If you pick us as your firm choice we normally offer you a flexible offer where you can achieve slightly lower grades.

Hi! How have you found the course so far – what are the teaching/ facilities/support like?

I will be teaching X next term so teaching will improve from its already high level!!!!!!

Hi, I am applying for 2020 and wanted to know if you accept BTECs?

Hi, yes we do accept BTECs. We ask that you achieve DDD and in addition you will need GCSE maths grade 7 and English grade 5.

I have checked the course details and the IFRM doesn’t have the programming courses like Python and R. So, if I would like to write a program, will I need to enrol for courses optional for IFRM but compulsory for Data Analytics degree?

We do not have programming on the course as a credit module at present but we run non-credit bearing programing courses. The data analytics degree is explicitly for those who want to write code as part of the degree. But many of our better students learn coding themselves and use it during their modules, especially the final year dissertations.
Hi Yen, Thanks for your question. I am loving my course so far. It’s got a mixture of different modules to choose from and there is support along the way. One module e.g. Business Skills helps you develop skills you need for the industry (super cool). If you need any interview prep or CV checks, you can always book an appointment. All lecturers have office hours where you can ask any questions you have about the module which I find super helpful.

So, after all, those graduated from IFRM are in front-office and data analytics will be in the back-office of the investment company?

I don’t think it is so clear cut. IFRM and DA students would likely find a natural home in the back/middle office based on their training. Front office jobs call for a range of skills, some finance-related and some more based on personal skills. These roles can be filled by the better IFRM students but also by history graduates - the houses will train people and a good motivated history grad can develop into a good front office person. As can a good data analytics person.

Also, if I took 4 A level subjects, and one of them are below the entry requirements, say A*AAB, would that matter?

Hi, no as we’re only looking for 3 A levels. So if you got A*AAB for example, you still meet the entry requirements because we only ask for AAA.

For the professional placement, what percentage of students each year are offered with this?

Placement years are for any students who want to work in the industry in between their second and third year. It entirely depends on your application and whether or not you are successful.

Is there any age issue as well since by the time the term starts, I will only be 17 years and a half?

Hi, that’s not an issue, this year about 5% of the students who joined Cass were 17 at the start of term.

Looking in 10 years time, what skills will the market prefer having the based that I’m good at Maths. And so, which degree would you recommend?

I was at an event where a guy from Goldman Sachs spoke to schoolkids deciding on their A level choices. He said something along the lines that the jobs that the students will be doing in ten years time do not even exist today. So doing a specific set of A levels or choosing a specific degree with the intention of having a particular career is silly, because that career might not exist or there might be better new alternative careers. He recommended the students do what they are interested in and what will teach them valuable skills. Numeracy, presentation skills, how to think logically, how to be analytical. these (and other) skills will always be valued, so his recommendation was to think about the generic skills, not the specific knowledge. I have to agree. My advice would be to do a degree in something that fascinates you. Do not do a degree because it will possibly get you into a specific job in three years’ time. That job might not exist in three years time (maybe AI will take over fund management?). Finance is, I think, fascinating so can be a good choice. But so could Psychology or Italian.
How important is the personal statement when applying for a course?

Hi, it’s quite important as we look to see you have a keen interest in the course you’ve applied for. It’s great to include any work experiences, interests and skills that you’ve gained that you feel might support your application too.

Thank you everyone for your questions! We hope that you found the session useful. We will be emailing a copy of this chat transcript to all of you in the next couple of weeks so that you can read through the questions again, and find links and useful contacts.

If you do think of any other questions please do contact our team at cassug@city.ac.uk and we’ll be happy to help!

You can also book onto the Campus Tours which take place most Tuesdays at 11am and Thursdays at 2pm: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/visit-us/campus-tours

For now though, thank you for participating! For those of you awaiting a decision on your application I have my fingers crossed for you, and good luck to you all in your current studies! I look forward to meeting you at Cass in September when the degrees start! :)

Campus tours
A campus tour led by a current student is a great way to see City, University of London. Tours run on Tuesdays at 11:00.

Which courses have higher acceptance rate?

That’s one for, but I doubt there is any difference across finance as our entry requirements are the same.

Which courses have higher acceptance rate? @Professor Ian Marsh

It doesn’t work in that way. if you meet the entry requirements then there’s no reason why you won’t be accepted :)