Programme Specification for

MSc Investment and Finance

Middlesex
University
London

1. Programme title	MSc Investment and Finance
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body	
5. Final qualification	Master of Science PGDip PGCert
6. Year of validation **Year of amendment**	
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full-time/ Part-time/ Distance Learning

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9. Criteria for admission to the programme

Applicants must have a good honours degree from a UK University or the equivalent from a recognised overseas University, in the field of finance, banking, economics, accountancy or business studies with an applied quantitative element in the field of statistics, mathematics, engineering, physics, computing or science.

Students whose first language is not English will need to demonstrate English language proficiency in addition to the other entry requirements. A minimum score of 6.5 IELTS (with a minimum of 6.0 in each component) or a TOEFL score of 575 for the written test or 230 for the computer test or an equivalent qualification recognised by Middlesex University must be obtained.

The equivalence of qualifications from outside UK will be determined according to NARIC guidelines.

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10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- provide students with the knowledge and skills to equip them for a career in investment banking, private equity and corporate financial management;
- develop students' competence in applying quantitative skills to the practice of financial investment and analysis;
- develop students' critical and analytical powers to evaluate and understand the theoretical underpinning on which finance relies;
- provide the theoretical concepts to critically analyse the causes and consequences of financial and banking crises, and in particular the 2008 Crisis, in mature economies and emerging markets;
- develop students' ability to undertake academically rigorous independent research and enhance the students' capacity to communicate ideas, arguments and research findings effectively in written form.

11. Programme outcomes	
A. Knowledge and understanding On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of : 1. Current developments and issues in the practice of investment and finance. 2. Operation of global capital markets and risk management techniques. 3. Complex issues related to asset allocations, valuation techniques and measures of investment performance. 4. Advanced statistical and mathematical techniques used to analyse financial data. 5. Highly specialised analysis and evaluation of financial situations taking into account relevant contemporary advanced research methods.	**Teaching/learning methods** Students gain knowledge and understanding through: - guided reading of textbooks and academic journals; - in-class exercises; - lectures, workshops and seminars. **Assessment methods** Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by: - presentations; - examinations; - written assignments; - research and writing undertaken to complete their dissertation.
B. Cognitive (thinking) skills	**Teaching/learning methods**

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:

1. Apply modern financial theory to practical investment problems and situations.

2. Critically evaluate and solve complex problems.

3. Develop sophisticated arguments and challenge assumptions.

4. Effectively organise, structure and manage a research project at an advanced level, including undertaking critical appraisal of relevant literature.

5. Assess and critique existing evidence through the interpretation of information and data.

Students learn cognitive skills through:

- working through a series of real life problems and seeking solutions;
- reading and interpreting research articles;
- listening and discussing a series of topics and theories;
- identifying suitable research articles to support their learning and their dissertation;
- applying theory to a specific problem and producing a significant piece of work based on their analysis.

Assessment methods

Students' cognitive skills are assessed by:

- coursework which requires them to access data, analyse, and interpret it and write reports;
- planning, implementation and production of a dissertation which will give students ample opportunity to think, plan and identify their weaknesses and work through these to solve specific problems.

C. Practical skills

On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:

1. Retrieve financial information from a range of different sources including electronic databases and use this to support his/her learning.

2. Analyse and interpret a range of financial data.

3. Demonstrate numeracy, computer and IT skills for complex problem solving situations.

4. Plan, design and implement a structured piece of work.

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn practical skills through:

- looking at research material and identifying suitable support research to develop their own ideas;
- completing coursework;
- practising for examinations.

Assessment methods

Students' practical skills are assessed by:

- individual assignments;
- examinations;
- production of their dissertation.

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

The MSc in Investment and Finance is designed to be taught over one year full-time or two years on a part-time basis. The programme consists of six taught compulsory modules, two of 30 credits and four of 15 credits. The modules complement and reinforce each other and are designed to provide a platform to undertake the dissertation module.

Students are expected to work on the dissertation over the summer period after successfully completing all taught modules. The dissertation has a value of 60 credits and should address a specific financial or investment issue. To further prepare students for the dissertation work, a number of dissertation workshops are delivered during the taught period. At the end of these workshops, students will be required to submit a dissertation proposal. This will be used to allocate dissertation supervisors.

The deadline for submitting the completed dissertation will be the end of September, 12 months after the start of the programme.

12.2 Levels and modules

Level 7

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

Students must take all of the following:		Students must pass 120 credits to progress to dissertation.
FIN4410 *30 credits* **FIN4440** *30 credits* **FIN4450** *15 credits* **FIN4460** *15 credits* **FIN4470** *15 credits* **FIN4480** *15 credits* **FIN4430** *60 credits*		

12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)	
Module level	**Module code**
	None

13. Curriculum map
See attached.

14. Information about assessment regulations
Middlesex University Assessment Regulations apply to this programme, without exception.

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)
N/A

16. Future careers (if applicable)

The teaching team works closely with the Employability Office to provide dedicated specialist as well as generic advice. Our past students have either gained an internship or have been recruited by top financial institutions such as, for example, Abbey, HSBC and the Bank of America.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

- Learner Development Unit
- Learning Resources
- Programme Handbook and Module Handbooks
- Induction and orientation programme
- Access to student achievement advisors
- Student e-mail and Unihub

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)	N300
19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	Business and Management

20. Reference points

- QAA Guidelines for programme specifications
- QAA Qualifications Framework
- Middlesex University Regulations
- Middlesex University Learning Framework – Programme Design Guidance, 2012

21. Other information

Indicators of quality:
- Student achievement
- Buoyant enrolment
- Student feedback evaluation forms
- External examiners reports
- Student employability

Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of learning are:
- External Examiner reports
- Quality Monitoring reports

- Board of Study
- Student focus group
- Module evaluation and report
- Peer teaching observations
- Student evaluation
- Validation and review panels

See Middlesex University's Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook for further information.

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

Appendix 2: Curriculum Map

Curriculum map for MSc Investment and Finance

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding		Practical skills	
A1	Current developments and issues in the practice of investment and finance.	C1	Retrieve financial information from a range of different sources including electronic databases and use this to support his/her learning.
A2	Operation of global capital markets and risk management techniques.	C2	Analyse and interpret a range of financial data.
A3	Complex issues related to asset allocations, valuation techniques and measures of investment performance.	C3	Demonstrate numeracy, computer and IT skills for complex problem solving situations.
A4	Advanced statistical and mathematical techniques used to analyse financial data.	C4	Plan, design and implement a structured piece of work.
A5	Highly specialised analysis and evaluation of financial situations taking into account relevant contemporary advanced research methods.		
Cognitive skills			
B1	Apply modern financial theory to practical investment problems and situations.		
B2	Critically evaluate and solve complex problems.		
B3	Develop sophisticated arguments and challenge assumptions.		
B4	Effectively organise, structure and manage a research project at an advanced level, including undertaking critical appraisal of relevant literature.		
B5	Assess and critique existing evidence through the interpretation of		

	information and data.		

Programme outcomes													
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C3	C4
Highest level achieved by all graduates													

Module Title	Module Code by Level	Programme outcomes													
		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C3	C4
Financial Theory & Application	FIN4410	X		X		X	X			X	X	X	X		X
Financial Modelling	FIN4440				X	X					X	X	X	X	
Portfolio Theory	FIN4450		X	X	X			X				X		X	
Investment Management	FIN4460		X	X	X			X				X		X	
International Financial Markets	FIN4470	X	X						X			X			X
International Risk Management	FIN4480	X	X			X			X		X		X		X
Dissertation	FIN4430	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X