**MSc Finance and Investment**

**Business, Law and Social Sciences**

**Department of Accountancy and Finance**

This document is presented in three sections:

## Section One

This section will provide students with key information on their learning experience and how it will be continuously enhanced this will include;

* Programme Philosophy and Aims
* Programme Learning, Teaching and Assessment strategy
* Statements of Intent for key learning experience themes

This section aims to address Quality Enhancement and Learning & Teaching excellence across the student learning experience.

## Section Two

This section addresses regulatory and quality assurance requirements for the purposes of programme validation and mapping of the student learning experience.

## Section Three

This section collates the Module Guides from across the programme.

## Section One

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| Programme Philosophy | |
| The MSc Finance and Investment is a one year programme focused on the practical application of finance in the investment world that will enable you to take up finance, business and management careers within the finance industry or commerce.  With the focus clearly on the world of investment finance the programme furthers your academic and professional development by advancing your knowledge and skills towards the requirements of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)\* Program which is arguably the most respected and recognised investment qualification in the world. This means that you will receive a sound academic grounding in investment finance alongside a range of employability skills, attributes and attitudes for you to become an investment finance professional.  The finance specialism and professional alignment of the programme promotes progression into a career as a fund manager, financial analyst, investment banker or financial manager.  The course will encourage your intellectual and moral development and your personal commitment to the social purpose of becoming a finance professional. As you progress you will become more effective and creative as problem solvers and be able to critically advise individuals and companies in the UK and internationally on a range of investment related matters.  The first trimester of the programme will provide a solid grounding in finance and supporting practices and its importance in business as well as ensuring you are fully prepared to make informed decisions as to your study route in trimesters two and three.  In the second trimester of the programme, there will be more flexible learning opportunities that will enable you to specialise in particular subject areas, and to tailor your programme to a particular career aim. This will be followed by a Research Skills and Dissertation/Project module in trimester three that will allow you to research and critically examine a specific area of finance in depth to produce conclusions and recommendations.  The ‘CITY Trading Room’ at BCU will provide the opportunity for you to get hands-on practical experience during your studies using the Thomson Reuters ‘Eikon’ software and will provide a rich data source for your research through use of ‘Datastream’ software. You’ll develop your teamwork, IT, analytical and presentation skills whilst boosting your commercial acumen and awareness as you progress through this programme which has employability at its heart and aims to equip you with the skills required of a demanding postgraduate role.  \* Trademark Disclaimer: CFA Institute does not endorse, promote or warrant the accuracy or quality of the products or services offered by Birmingham City University. CFA® and Chartered Financial Analyst® are registered trademarks owned by CFA Institute | |
| Programme Aims *This section articulates the programme level aims framed by the five themes of the Academic Plan.* | |
| 1. Pursuing Excellence | You will study modules that are designed to meet the high standards set by the professional finance bodies and by the UK Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. |
| 1. Practice-led, knowledge-applied | Your course will prepare and equip you for a career as a fund manager, financial analyst, investment banker or financial manager by relating your studies to the latest research led developments in business. Your studies will make use of the latest business software applications that will provide you with opportunities to gain experience and develop skills relevant to the work place. |
| 1. Interdisciplinarity | You will study on a programme within a department that is part of a larger Business School. You will cover a range of investment disciplines and supporting practices on your programme and you’ll have to consider their interrelationship for both internal and external stakeholders in the decisions you make and the advice you provide. |
| 1. Employability-driven | Your programme will provide you with an opportunity to apply your developing knowledge and skills in workplace scenarios. You’ll work on real world case studies acting in postgraduate level roles gaining experience of the workplace environment. The University Careers and Employability team will support you throughout your studies with the aim of enhancing your employability prospects on graduating. |
| 1. Internationalisation | Your course will consider the study of finance and business from an international perspective. You’ll also be able to participate in international business games and competitions as you progress through your programme of study. |

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| Programme Learning Outcomes |
| **Subject-specific knowledge and skills**  On successful completion of the MSc Finance and Investment degree programme you will have the following; |
| 1. An appreciation of the nature of the contexts in which finance can be seen as operating, including knowledge of the institutional framework necessary for understanding the role, operation and function of markets and financial institutions. |
| 1. An understanding of the major theoretical tools and theories of investment finance, with the ability to critically appraise their relevance and application to theoretical and practical problems for financial investments. |
| 1. An understanding of the relationship between financial theory and empirical testing. |
| 1. An understanding of the financing arrangements and governance mechanisms and structures of business entities in an international context. |
| 1. An understanding of the factors influencing the investment behaviour and opportunities of private individuals. |
| 1. An understanding of mathematical and econometric techniques and their application to the solving of financial decisions and problems. |
| 1. An understanding of advanced investment decision-making techniques and their application to a range of investment criteria. |
| 1. An understanding of financial investment activity in the economy, and the factors that are changing these activities over time. |
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| **Cognitive abilities and generic skills**  On successful completion of the MSc Finance and Investment degree programme you will have the following abilities and skills; |
| 1. Critical evaluation of arguments and evidence |
| 1. Independent and self-managed learning |
| 1. Analysis, filtering and evaluation of data, and drawing reasoned conclusions concerning structured and, to a more limited extent, unstructured problems from a given set of data and from data acquired by the student |
| 1. Location, extraction and analysis of data from multiple sources, including acknowledging and referencing of sources |
| 1. Numeracy, including the processing and analysis of financial and other numerical data and the appreciation of statistical concepts at an appropriate level |
| 1. Using contemporary information and communications technology for the acquisition, analysis and communication of financial information |
| 1. Communication, including presenting quantitative and qualitative information, together with analysis, argument and commentary, in a form appropriate to the intended audience, and oral as well as written presentation |
| 1. Working with others (such as through small group projects). |

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| Programme Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategy |
| *This section explains the learning and teaching approaches, activities and experiences that your programme will offer, the range of assessments and types of feedback and feedforward you will encounter, and explain how these will support your continuous learning throughout the programme, and explain the expectations we have of you in this learning partnership.*  A variety of delivery approaches will be utilised throughout the programme. All modules will be delivered via a blended learning approach, mixing face to face with online activities and independent study. Whilst face to face sessions will vary in format including large, medium and small group interactive sessions and workshops, you will be expected to arrive to sessions fully prepared and to participate throughout. You will be expected to examine and research the material presented and to question ideas and theories and to challenge your tutors. As a practice based course, sessions will usually involve the application of academic concepts and themes to real world scenarios and case studies.  Online delivery will also be provided via the University’s virtual learning environment. In addition to electronic copies of materials used during face to face sessions, the virtual learning environment will enable opportunities to engage with additional content including eLearning packages, quizzes and discussion forums. Modules will require students to engage with online study to prepare for, participate in and further develop skills and knowledge explored during face to face sessions. Approximately 20% of learning on each module will be delivered by the use of online resources.  A variety of assessment methods will be used and throughout the programme students will be expected, with the appropriate support, to deliver, both individually and in groups, reports, presentations, essays, project plans, proposals and to complete examinations. This balanced approach to assessment furthers the programme aims to develop progressive graduates with employability skills, attributes and attitudes relevant to the modern business world.  A key component of your course will be the engagement of you and your tutors in the formative assessment process. This process will involve you and your tutors working together to identify any gaps in your knowledge and finding appropriate learning activities and feedback that will enable these knowledge gaps to be closed. A variety of formative learning activities will be used to suit your individual needs. These activities may include for instance, asking you to provide a short written piece on your understanding of a topic or idea or requiring you to keep a reflective journal on your studies to date. There is strong evidence linking formative assessment with improved student motivation and achievement within and beyond the programme.  Regular feedback and feedforward will be provided on a formative basis throughout your studies by your academic and personal tutors. Formal individual or group feedback will automatically be provided on assignments and will also be available upon request for examinations completed as part of the programme. |

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| The Whole Experience We recognise that there are key aspects to every programme that need to be addressed to ensure we are inclusive, holistic and open about how your programme fits into your wider university experience and your ambitions for your future – below are Statements of Intent to explain how you will experience these critical learning themes. Each section offers a brief explanation of the theme, why it is important, and how your programme addresses these. |
| Widening Participation Higher education has a vital role in improving social mobility and BCU’s Strategic Plan highlights the importance of our responsibilities in regards to supporting economic, social and cultural improvement in the city region. We are committed to providing access, retention and progression for students from disadvantaged backgrounds and underrepresented groups. We do this by forging strong relationships with UK and international colleges and partners, providing defined and clear progression routes to facilitate lifelong learning. The International Partnership team plays an important role here in ensuring that talented students are attracted to the right programmes, regardless of their background. They work proactively with colleges and partners to provide master classes and campus visits.We also go to great efforts to support students during their time at BCU. All students are allocated a personal tutor and students can access a range of additional support through ASK, the University's integrated and confidential student enquiry service. Essentially, ASK is a one-stop-shop for student queries, linking students with advice on health and wellbeing, careers, finances, visas, and student records.Inclusivity We make every effort to ensure that BCU is an inclusive environment, where explicit consideration is given to the full diversity of our students. We provide an environment which is compliant with the requirements of the Equality Act (2010). Our curriculum is designed to ensure that all students succeed to their potential, regardless of any protected characteristics (disability, sexuality, religion, gender and/or other socio-cultural identities). Most importantly, we recognise that diversity leads to a richer learning experience for all.Information & Digital Literacy  JISC define digital literacies as 'those capabilities which fit an individual for living, learning and working in a digital society'. This goes beyond the ability to use technology effectively and asks us to consider the journey of many of our students as 'digital natives', in addition to supporting the development of those students who have not yet acquired these skills. As a student, you are expected to have high levels of Digital & Information Literacy both at University and outside; it is an essential ‘life skill’ to be able to access, process and assimilate information in the broadest sense. The ability to articulate that information and to construct new understanding is also critical to graduate success. Through your programme, you are encouraged to recognise different types of information and resources, to develop your ability to question the validity of that information or resource, and to recognise the importance of both print and online resources to facilitate development of your own knowledge.Sustainability & Global Citizenship  BCU is committed to integrating sustainability into the curriculum. The notion that we should all seek to find ways to support reduce waste, increase recycling, and lower levels of environmental impact will be familiar, but this is a narrow view of sustainability. Our curriculum also considers sustainability in terms of its connection with Global Citizenship. The United Nations define Global Citizenship in education as; 'enabling students to develop the attributes, behaviours and skills needed to work and live in a way that safeguards ecological, social and economic wellbeing, both in the present and for future generations’. We encourage our students to live and work more sustainably whilst recognising the impact that their decisions, and actions, have on the local, national and global communities to which they belong.We have made a commitment as an institution to create graduates with a global outlook (Graduate Attributes) and each of our programmes will now include an internationalised programme aim - the inclusion of sustainability within that is a logical connection. The Faculty and Programme demonstrates internationalisation by:  * + Using cultural and international experiences or knowledge as a learning resource   + Encouraging intercultural experiences, partnerships and collaborations   + Contributing to international scholarly activity and knowledge exchange   + Embedding and debating global exemplars and perspectives in the curriculum   + Providing and promoting a range of accessible opportunities for the international and intercultural learning   + Facilitating on going intercultural and international dialogue and partnerships   + Proactively developing inclusive learning outcome, practices, skills, and/or attitudes appropriate for diverse societies, culture and individuals.   + Adapting the content, language pace and modes of delivery and assessment to the learning context and the diversity of learners   + Viewing and utilising the diversity of the academic community (whether differences in cultural and educational backgrounds, country of origin or languages spoken) as a key learning resource   + Using flexible and inclusive approaches that appreciate and respect individual differences in knowledge, education and culture.  Student Engagement  BCU is renowned across the sector for its commitment and approach to Student Engagement, which aligns with Aim 5 of BCU’s Strategic Plan ‘we will become recognised as the sector leader for student engagement’. We are committed to the notion that your full participation in all aspects of University life facilitates a more coherent, active and vibrant learning community, which increases your sense of ownership of your learning experience (both at programme and institutional level) which in simple terms, leads to better student satisfaction levels. For example, there are significant opportunities for you to participate in OpportUNIty student engagement initiatives, which operate through a partnership between the University and Students’ Union. The aim is to enable students to work as co-designers and collaborators with staff on projects that strengthen the development of the University learning community and enhance the student experience; offering support for Student Academic Partner (SAP) projects and for initiatives around Student Academic Mentoring (StAMP). Our Student Engagement Policy gives further insights to the University's expectation of what engagement should like and feel like for students at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.Partnership Engagement  Engagement with partners is a key BCU priority which features strongly in BCU’s 2020 Strategic Plan. Our partners are students, as are the wider educational community, and external stakeholders such as employers and cultural/social organisations. Through our partnership working, we aspire to be recognised in the region as a collaborator supporting economic, social and cultural improvement in the city region. Our students are our most important partners and we try to involve students in every level of decision making within the University. We are committed to building on the strong partnerships with education providers in the city and region and try to be pro-active in developing relationships with our local schools and colleges. Employers are particularly valued partners, advising us on our curriculum developments, providing work experience opportunities for you and contributing to your learning and teaching activities. Our overseas partnerships often result in opportunities for you to mix with students from different countries and to gain different perspectives.Induction & Transition Coming to University for the first time is exciting but it is also very different from attending school or college. Our induction and transition support helps you to adapt to the different experiences you will have, enabling you to develop independent learning skills that enable you to be successful on your programme and prepare you for graduate level employment/further study. If you’re new to the University or programme, you’ll participate in an interactive induction which will give you a chance to get to know your fellow students, your personal tutor, your programme and your University. Throughout the course, but especially during the first few weeks of study your tutors will use their wealth of experience to support you in developing your study skills and settling into your programme and university life. Progression & Retention  We want all students to succeed to the best of their ability so that you stay at BCU and progress through the different stages of your programme. We try to provide the best learning and assessment experiences we can to help you achieve this. Your education is a partnership. We can provide you with learning materials, guidance and stimuli, but you won’t succeed unless you engage with the University and take full advantage of everything it has to offer. For this reason, we do monitor your attendance and try to help if we notice you are not attending regularly.Support & Personal Tutoring  Every student has a Personal Tutor. Your Personal Tutor is there to advise you on your academic progress and can also direct you to additional help, if you need it. You can expect to meet your Personal Tutor for formal meetings three times a year but he or she will also be available if you need additional help or guidance. In addition, every School also has a Student Success Adviser, a recent graduate who has also experienced life as a BCU student. If you are having any problems, your Student Success Adviser can also help you. The University as a whole offers an array of support, such as the Centre for Academic Success, Careers, Chile Care, Finance/Money Matters, Health and Wellbeing, Visas and Immigration, and Student Mentoring. All of these services can be accessed direct or via our ‘one stop shop’, ASK.Personal Development Planning Personal Development Planning (PDP) enables you to be in control of your own future by reflecting on your progress so far and making changes for the future. In BCU, we provide structured opportunities for you to become more self-aware, more aware of how to learn and how to improve personal performance, and more able to cope with the transition to your chosen career.Employability (incl. Birmingham City University Graduate Attributes)  BCU programmes aim to provide graduates with a set of attributes which prepare them for their future careers.The BCU Graduate:  * + is professional and work ready   + is a creative problem solver   + is enterprising   + has a global outlook  The Faculty of Business, Law and Social Sciences is committed to practice-led learning and teaching that will give you experiences of the world of work through a range of activities which could include work placements, voluntary work, live projects, problem-solving, case studies, visits to businesses and social enterprises (there are no extra costs to students for trips of this nature). These experiences will provide you contribute towards the BCU Graduate Attributes that will prepare you for graduate level employment.In addition, the University has introduced the BCU Graduate+ programme, which is an extra-curricular awards framework that is designed to augment the subject based skills that you develop through your programme with broader employability skills and techniques that will enhance your employment options when you leave university. The key components of the programme are:  * + A personalised approach for each student;   + Each student to complete a range of activities and build CPD points towards completion of the award. Recognised activities will include cross-university opportunities, careers development, ‘employability’ activities delivered within Faculties, part-time work experience, volunteering and community action.   + All elements will be clearly linked to the University’s new graduate attributes |

## Section Two

This section addresses the key regulatory and quality assurance requirements for validation. The programme learning map tracks the programme level learning outcomes, credit structure and (where appropriate) KIS data, assessment and feedback scope and forms, module delivery mode and module learning outcomes, and any exit awards that are possible from the programme.

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| **Level 7 Trimester 1**  Core Modules | **Applied Financial Econometrics** | **Portfolio Management and Analysis** | **Financial Strategy** |  |  |  |
| Credit level (ECTS value) | 20 (10) | 20 (10) | 20 (10) |  |  |  |
| Study Time (%) S/DI/PL | 35/65/00 | 35/65/00 | 35/65/00 |  |  |  |
| Assessment method | Report (100%) | Group Video presentation (50%)  Individual report (50%) | Individual Report (30%)  Examination (70%) |  |  |  |
| Assessment scope | 3,000 word report plus outputs from relevant software | 2,000 word report | 2,000 word report  3 hour closed book exam |  |  |  |
| Assessment week | Report: 12 | Presentation: 10  Report: 13 | Group Report: 7  Examination: 14/15 |  |  |  |
| Feedback scope | CWK: 20 days | CWK: 20 days | CWK: 20 days  EXM: On request |  |  |  |
| Delivery mode | Standard Blended | Standard Blended | Standard Blended |  |  |  |
| Learning Outcomes | 1 Construct, apply and assess various financial econometric models. | 1 Assess the importance of strategic asset allocation in portfolio management and performance. | 1 Critically evaluate the financing requirements of an entity and recommend appropriate strategies for meeting such requirements. |  |  |  |
| 2 Compare and contrast financial econometric models including their application to the field of finance, banking and economics. | 2 Compare different benchmarks and market indexes and the use of an index as a benchmark. | 2 Appraise strategic financial management policy decisions. |  |  |  |
| 3 Prepare an independent data empirical analysis including critical thinking and analysis. | 3 Critically analyse fixed-income and equity portfolio management and performance evaluation using appropriate theory and models. | 3 Evaluate opportunities for acquisition, merger and divestment. |  |  |  |
|  |  | 4 Critically apply appropriate valuation techniques to value a business. |  |  |  |
| Programme Aim Links | 1🗹 2🗹 3🗹 4🗹 5🗹 | 1🗹 2🗹 3🗹 4🗹 5🗹 | 1🗹 2🗹 3🗹 4🞏 5🗹 |  |  |  |
| Linked PSRB (if appropriate) |  |  | ACCA, CIPFA, IFA, CPA Australia, ICAS. |  |  |  |

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| **Level 7 Trimester 2**  Optional Modules | **Derivative Investment** | **Strategic Risk Management** | **Behavioural Finance** | **Investigating Finance Practice** | **Global Finance** |  |  |
| Credit level (ECTS value) | 20 (10) | 20 (10) | 20 (10) | 20 (10) | 20 (10) |  |  |
| Study Time % S/DI/PL | 35/65/00 | 35/65/00 | 35/65/00 | 10/90/00 | 35/65/00 |  |  |
| Assessment method | Report (100%) | Report (25%)  Examination (75%) | Essay (100%) | Report (100%) | Examination (100%) |  |  |
| Assessment scope | 3,000 word report | 1,250 individual assignment  2 hour closed book exam | 3,000 word essay | 5,000 word report | 2 hour closed book exam |  |  |
| Assessment week | Report: 12 | Report 12  Examination: 14/15 | Essay: 12 | Report: 15 | Examination: 14/15 |  |  |
| Feedback scope | CWK: 20 days | CWK: 20 days  EXM: On request | CWK: 20 days | CWK: 20 days | EXM On request |  |  |
| Delivery mode | Standard Blended | Standard Blended | Standard Blended | Standard Blended | Standard Blended |  |  |
| Learning Outcomes | 1 Assess derivative contracts and their appropriateness and suitability for investment and management of different risks. | 1 Evaluate the risk management process, risk governance, risk reduction and risk management systems of organisations. | 1 Critically compare and contrast traditional and behavioural finance perspectives on portfolio construction and the behaviour of capital markets. | 1 Appraise a specific area of finance in order to make relevant and appropriate conclusions and recommendations. | 1 Critically discuss prominent theories about the dynamic relationships between currency values, inflation and interest rates. |  |  |
| 2 Construct derivative contracts to get exposure to investments in different markets & asset classes. | 2 Evaluate a company’s or a portfolio’s exposures to financial and non-financial risk factors. | 2 Critically evaluate how new theories are developed to account for new empirical evidence. | 2 Critically appraise literature relevant to a specific area of finance. | 2 Measure the exchange rate risk inherent in a transaction or business operation and determine the effective management of the risks identified using financial instruments and other techniques. |  |  |
| 3 Evaluate different risks associated with investments & financing and use derivative contracts to hedge the relevant risks. | 3 Estimate and evaluate value at risk (VaR) and other credit risks of investment positions or financial derivatives such as forward contracts, swaps, and options. | 3 Critically evaluate how behavioural biases can lead to market characteristics, affect investment policy, asset allocation decisions and recommend approaches to mitigate their effects. | 3 Communicate information appropriately and express ideas effectively in a business context. | 3 Critically evaluate sources of finance available to a multinational corporation. |  |  |
|  | 4 Prepare a risk adjusted capital budget and evaluate the outcome for a business. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Programme Aim Links | 1🗹 2🗹 3🗹 4🗹 5🗹 | 1🗹 2🗹 3🗹 4🞏 5🗹 | 1🗹 2🗹 3🞏 4🗹 5🗹 | 1🗹 2🗹 3🗹 4🗹 5🗹 | 1🗹 2🗹 3🗹 4🞏 5🗹 |  |  |
| Linked PSRB (if appropriate) |  | CIMA |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **Level 7 Trimester 3**  Core module | **Research Skills & Dissertation/Project** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Credit level (ECTS value) | 60 (30) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Study Time % S/DI/PL | 35/65/00 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assessment method | Proposal (20%)  Dissertation/Project (80%) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assessment scope | Research Proposal  Dissertation/Project report |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assessment week | Ongoing |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Feedback scope | CWK: 20 days |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Delivery mode | Standard Blended |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Learning Outcomes | 1 Demonstrate a competent understanding of research methods, methodological and philosophical understandings applicable to research and applied projects, within the broad field of Accounting and Finance. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 Formulate a research study with clearly defined aims, objectives, research problem/questions and its underlying challenges and limitations |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 Critically review existing literature on the topic, identify gap and formulate testable research proposition(s) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 Robustly analyse data using appropriate qualitative and/or quantitative research methods to evaluate the stated research propositions and produce a well-written dissertation that can stand the test of academic rigour. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Programme Aim Links | 1🗹 2🗹 3🗹 4🞏 5🗹 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Linked PSRB (if appropriate) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **Level 7 Programme** | | | | | |
| Entry Requirements and pre-requisites, co-requisites & exclusions | Accreditation of Prior Experience or Learning (APEL) | Study Time Breakdown | | | Exit award(s) |
| A good honours degree in a Finance or business related area with significant finance related content. (UK institution or equivalent)  Or:   * A pre-Master’s programme approved by Birmingham City University      * A pre-Master’s programme with a minimum of 55 per cent average   For mature students, appropriate experience may be considered.  EU/International students  In addition to the above requirements, where English is not your first language, you must be able to furnish satisfactory evidence of a level of attainment in English language commensurate with study at Master’s level at Birmingham City University.  In most cases, a TOEFL score of at least 575 or an IELTS score of at least 6.5 average or 6.0 in all bands, or an alternative qualification evidencing an equivalent competence in English will be required. | Where students are fully exam qualified from an appropriate professional body APL will be awarded where appropriate. | **Scheduled** learning and teaching activities  (including time constrained blended or directed tasks, pre-sessional and post-sessional tasks) | | 35% | Post Graduate Certificate  Post Graduate Diploma  MSc Finance and Investment |
| **Guided Independent** learning (including non-time constrained blended tasks & reading and assessment preparation) | | 65% |
| **Pl**acement (including external activity and study abroad) | | 0% |
| **Impact of options** (indicate if/how optional choices will have a significant impact) | Option choices will impact on professional exemptions available. | |

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| Additional Information |
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## Section Three