

Programme Specification: BA (Hons) International Finance

Date of Publication to Students: 2010-11

NOTE: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detail on the specific learning outcomes, indicative content and the teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found (1) at <http://www.bcu.ac.uk/bcbs>, (2) in the Module Specifications and (3) in the Student Handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked within independent review processes undertaken by the Quality Assurance Agency.

Awarding Institution/Body:	Birmingham City University
Teaching Institution:	Birmingham City University
Interim Awards and Final Award:	Ordinary Degree Honours Degree
Programme Title:	BA (Hons) International Finance
Main fields of Study:	Finance
Modes of Study:	Full-time
Language of Study:	English
UCAS Code:	N390
JACS Code:	N300

Professional Status of the programme:

None

Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external reference points used to inform programme outcomes:

The programme outcomes have been mapped against the honours degree benchmark statements for Finance, issued by Quality Assurance Agency [QAA] for Higher Education in 2007.

Programme philosophy and aims

Explain the overall approach adopted by the programme and how it leads to the aims shown below

The programme philosophy is to provide a one-year top-up for students with prior knowledge of, and experience in finance and accountancy at an appropriate level. It seeks to enhance understanding of financial management in the context of an increasingly interdependent, international financial and business environment.

The aims of the programme are to:

1. Offer a suite of finance and business-related modules which provide students with the opportunity to negotiate an appropriate programme of study, in line with their aptitudes, interests and career aspirations.
2. Help students develop a considered and detailed knowledge of finance, international finance and business-related subjects at an advanced level, in the context of the challenges and opportunities faced by organisations operating in the global economy.
3. Prepare students for a career within the finance function of an organisation and for further study by developing their intellectual, subject-specific and transferable skills to an advanced level.
4. Create a supportive learning environment within which students obtain good academic and pastoral support and become independent learners.

Intended learning outcomes and the means by which they are achieved and demonstrated:

Learning Outcomes

On completing the programme, graduates should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an in-depth, broad knowledge and understanding of a range of finance, international finance and business-related subjects appropriate to their interests and career aspirations.
2. Apply modern finance and business theory and concepts to relevant finance and international finance issues in order to reach conclusions and make realistic and appropriate policy recommendations, for businesses operating in the global economy.
3. Demonstrate the ability to undertake in-depth finance and business analysis, using appropriate theory and concepts.
4. Synthesise diverse knowledge related to finance and business functions and theoretical approaches.
5. Evaluate finance and business theory and practice in different contexts and demonstrate the ability to formulate critical judgments based on a sound knowledge base.

Learning, teaching, and assessment methods used

Teaching and learning

Academic concepts are introduced through lectures and workshops and explored further during seminars and self-directed study. Case studies are used to explore concepts applied to real-world scenarios. Experiential learning is encouraged via project-based assignments.

Assessment

Formative assessment takes place using classwork, homework and *Moodle*-based activities.

Summative assessment involves a wide variety of approaches. These include the analysis of articles, the preparation of business reports, academic papers, the delivery of presentations, the completion of projects, as well as formal examinations (case-based, open-book and closed-book).

Programme structure and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

The structure of the course, the modules, levels and credit values, and the awards that can be gained are shown in the diagram below.

BA (Hons) International Finance Course Code: US0003-01

Level 6 – 120 credits

Term 1	Module Code: STR6008 International Business Strategy (30 credits)	Option (15 credits)	Option (15 credits)	Option (15 credits)
Term 2		Module Code: STR6009 Globalisation (15 credits)	Option (15 credits)	Option (15 credits)

Level 6 Options

The availability of options is subject to timetabling restrictions. A 30 credit module may be substituted for two 15 credit modules

Terms 1 and 2

FIN6010 Financial Strategy (30 credits)

Term 1 (only)

ACC6011 Comparative International
Reporting (15 credits)

QME6012 Statistical Decision Making
(15 credits)

FIN6012 Global Finance (15 credits)

Term 2 (only)

ACC6013 Current Issues in Company
Reporting (15 credits)

QME6011 Statistical Modelling (15
credits)

FIN6011 Islamic Finance (15 credits)

Support for Learning including Personal Development Planning (PDP)

Students are encouraged to identify and, with guidance, to reflect on their own learning needs and are offered the following support as appropriate to meet those needs.

All first years are invited to take part in an induction programme dealing with orientation and the dissemination of essential information, including an introduction to PDP.

International students are allocated to a personal tutor who will advise and support them, during their time at the University.

Business English support from Staff and Student Development Department.

Sessions are available in the Learning Centre on, amongst many other things, academic writing, revision and examination technique.

There is access to all of the many facilities of the Learning Centre.

There is a dedicated Presentation Rehearsal Rooms and feedback is available on rehearsals, if requested.

A Student Handbook, containing information relating to the University, Birmingham City Business School and the Programme is supplied.

Students have access to academic and administrative staff, the Programme Director, the Undergraduate Programmes Coordinator and the Head of Department.

There is access to all of the many traditional facilities of the Library at Birmingham City University.

Students have access to the Digital Library – UCEEL – through which past examination papers, journal articles, book extracts and student projects may be accessed, using a password protected system, over the Internet.

Students are supported by *Moodle*, the University's virtual learning environment. Entirely web-based, this supports a huge number of activities, all aimed at improving access to, and the dissemination of, programme information and material. These include: free instant messaging between users, discussion forums, video lectures, testing with instant automatic feedback.

There is access to Faculty computer rooms, software, email, Internet and personal user space, via personal secure computer ID.

Students have access to the Students' Union and to the University's Student Services, including those offered by the careers service, financial advisers, the medical centre, disability service, crèche, counselling service, chaplaincy and the Staff and Student Development Department.

Lecturers monitor and discuss progress, during the semester. Following the publication of results, students are counselled, where appropriate.

Criteria for admission

Candidates must satisfy the general admission requirements of the programme.

The current admission requirements can be found under the 'Entry Requirements' tab of the web page for this course.

Methods for evaluation and enhancement of quality and standards including listening and responding to views of students

The views of students are made known and are responded to through the formal committees and mechanisms listed below. Quality standards are evaluated and enhanced through the mechanisms listed.

Committees

- Programme Committees - one for each Level
The membership consists of elected student representatives and the lecturers who teach on the Programme. The Programme Committees report to the Board of Studies.
- Board of Studies [reports to Faculty Board via Associate Dean (Academic)].
This is chaired by the Undergraduate Programmes Coordinator and the membership includes the elected student representatives, Year Tutors, lecturers and the Course Administrator.
- The Field and Routeway Examination Boards.
- Faculty Academic Standards & Quality Enhancement Committee.
- Faculty Learning & Teaching Committee.
- Faculty Student Experience Committee.
- Faculty Board.

Mechanisms for review and evaluation

- Review and re-approval events.
- Annual Monitoring Report.
- Student Module Feedback Questionnaires.
- Annual staff appraisal.
- External Examiners' Reports.
- Programme Team Meetings – core, year and full team.