

Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Economics and Finance

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NOTE: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course 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/business-school>, (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:	CertHe / DipHE / BA / BA (Hons)
Programme Title:	BA (Hons) Economics and Finance
Main fields of Study:	Economics and Finance
Modes of Study:	3 years FT and 4 years S/W
Language of Study:	English
UCAS Code:	LN13
JACS Code:	LN13

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

QAA Economics benchmark

QAA Finance benchmark

University Teaching and Learning Strategy

Faculty Teaching and Learning Strategy

Faculty Mission Statement

Programme philosophy and aims

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

For Economics:

The study of Economics provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the environment in which business operates and the factors that impact directly upon market activities at both a macro and micro level.

For Finance:

The ethos of the programme is one of practice-based learning, common to programmes at Birmingham City Business School in which an in-depth, broad knowledge and understanding of a range of finance, international finance and business-related subjects is developed. The course focuses on the application of modern finance and business theories to relevant national and international financial issues in order to reach conclusions and make realistic and appropriate policy recommendations, for businesses operating in the global economy.

The aims of the programme are to:

Provide students with:

- A theoretical underpinning of finance.
- Knowledge of the institutional and legal frameworks within which the world of finance operates.
- The necessary analytical skills related to financial decision making and risk assessment.
- To develop an in-depth understanding of economic theory.
- To enable students to apply economic theory in a variety of business situations.
- To critically evaluate dynamic economic situations which require cross-functional business solutions.
- To facilitate the development of key transferable skills, essential to a career in economics and finance.
- A knowledge of potential careers open to a graduating finance and economics pathway student.

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

Learning Outcomes¹

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. Economic theory and its application to a range of business environments.
2. Financial decision making both personal and corporate in various circumstances.
3. An understanding of financial environment both national and international.
4. Finance related quantitative methods.
5. Financial decision making both personal and corporate in various circumstances.
6. An understanding of financial environment both national and international.
7. Finance related quantitative methods.

B. The ability to:

1. Analyse and critically evaluate financial and economic models, principles and concepts.
2. Access, interpret and use information from a variety of sources to solve business challenges and problems.
3. Analyse multi factor situations and synthesise information to solve complex business problems.
4. Analyse and apply financial theory.
5. Interpret financial statements from a wide range of businesses.
6. Apply and evaluate the techniques of financial management.
7. Apply various mathematical techniques to financial decision making.
8. Evaluate the regulatory framework of finance.
9. Utilise economics models and concepts to analyse a variety of business scenarios.

C. The skills necessary to

- 1 Design observation and data collection activities to support creation of activity models and simulations for economics and financial situations.
- 2 Evaluate the business environment and make judgements as to how business activity might be adjusted to respond to those changes.

- 3 Act independently in constructing own learning models, plan and undertake tasks, and accept accountability for own learning decisions.
- 4 Identify accurately those issues which require research, and apply appropriate methodologies using a variety of sources.
- 5 Analyse business performance using accounting information involving the use of a wide range of ratio or other performance indicators.
- 6 Perform a variety of calculation and apply formulae relating to financial decision making.
- 7 Produce analyses and evaluations of various aspects of the financial environment.

D. The following transferable skills:

- 1 Communicate in writing appropriate for specific academic and professional audiences.
- 2 Reference all source materials consistently and accurately using the Harvard referencing system.
- 3 Present effectively for specific academic and professional audiences.
- 4 Productively use appropriate information and communications technology.
- 5 Work independently.
- 6 Numerical skills.
- 7 Problem solving skills
- 8 Research skills and the use of modern online electronic sources and databases.
- 9 Work with, and relate effectively to, others.
- 10 Manage time and prioritise workloads.
- 11 Show confidence and self-awareness, reflect on own learning, be self-reliant and constructively self-critical.

Learning teaching, and assessment methods used

The application of key concepts during 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. Analysis, synthesis and evaluation are developed as themes throughout the programme.

A wide variety of assessment approaches are used across the programme. These include portfolios, articles, business reports, presentations, projects and 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 which can be gained are shown in the diagram below.

BA (Hons) Economics and Finance Full Time

Level 4 CertHE

Autumn	Accounting and Finance (30 credits)	Economic Environment (15 credits)	Marketing in Business (30 credits)	Managing Organisations People and Self (30 credits)
Spring		New Venture Creation (15 credits)		

Level 5 DipHe

Autumn	Microeconomics (30 credits)	Macroeconomics (30 credits)	Business Finance Decisions (15 credits)	Tax and Financial Planning (30 credits)
Spring			Financial Markets – Risk & Returns (15 credits)	

Level 6 - Ordinary and Honours Degree

Autumn	Economics Option Module or project/ dissertation* (15 credits)	Economics Option Module or project/ dissertation* (15 credits)	Comparative Financial Systems or project/ dissertation* (15 credits)	Financial Management (30 credits)
Spring	Economics Option Module or project/ dissertation* (15 credits)	Economics Option Module or project/ dissertation* (15 credits)	International Corporate Finance or project/ dissertation* (15 credits)	

Option Modules

Autumn Term Two (All 15 Credits)	Spring Term Two (All 15 Credits)
Money & Banking	International Economics
Empirical Economics	Industrial Organisation
Comparative Financial Systems	International Corporate Finance
Modules that run across both terms-only one can be chosen*	
Business Start Up Project (30 credits) or	
Management Consultancy Project (30 credits) or	
Dissertation (30 credits)	

BA (Hons) Economics and Finance Sandwich

Level 4 CertHE

Autumn	Accounting and Finance (30 credits)	Economic Environment (15 credits)	Marketing in Business (30 credits)	Managing Organisations People and Self (30 credits)
Spring		New Venture Creation (15 credits)		

Level 5 DipHe

Autumn	Microeconomics (30 credits)	Macroeconomics (30 credits)	Business Finance Decisions (15 credits)	Tax and Financial Planning (30 credits)
Spring			Financial Markets – Risk & Returns (15 credits)	

PLACEMENT YEAR

Level 6 - Ordinary and Honours Degree

Autumn	Option Module (15 credits)	Option Module (15 credits)	Placement Project (30 credits)	Financial Management (30 credits)
Spring	Option Module (15 credits)	Option Module (15 credits)		

Option modules worth a total of 60 credits should be chosen from the following:

Autumn Term Two (All 15 Credits)	Spring Term Two (All 15 Credits)
Money & Banking	International Economics
Empirical Economics	Industrial Organisation
Comparative Financial Systems	International Corporate Finance

Support for Learning including Personal Development Planning (PDP)

Students will receive assistance for their own development through co-curriculum activities including dedicated activity weeks and extended induction programmes. They 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:

- Course Administrators.
- Departmental Undergraduate Coordinator for academic support.
- Personal Tutors for academic and personal support and guidance.
- Module tutors and module coordinators are available for individual student support and guidance.
- Academic study skills from Learner Support tutors.
- Business English support.
- Placements Office.
- Student services including Careers, Disability Services, Health and Child Care, Financial advice and Counselling Services.

To increase the employability of our graduates, co-curriculum activities will be implemented utilising the Future Proof Graduates Employability Skills Framework as a method of benchmarking the skills needed.

Criteria for admission

Candidates must satisfy the general admissions requirements of the programme, which are as follows:

Normally, a minimum offer of 280 points, with a minimum of 2 subjects at A2 level, two 6-unit or one 12-unit VCE. (Any) remaining points may be made up with AS qualifications.

International Baccalaureate 32 points, including internationally accredited Foundation courses.

Students whose first language is not English must also have an English Language qualification such as IELTS score of 6.0 average (minimum of 5.5 in each band) or TOEFL (minimum score 550). All non-UK students are required to take the BCU English Language Diagnostic Assessment on arrival at Birmingham City University.

Satisfactory completion of a full-time Foundation Course of an appropriate type.

Qualifications must include a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade C or above. These must include Mathematics and English language or an equivalent qualification.

The programme welcomes applications from mature students and from students with business experience. Each application is considered on its individual merit.

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

All Business School degrees are subject to a range of quality assurance and enhancement procedures. A full review of the programme is conducted every five years, by a panel of internal and external experts. Within these five-year periods internal annual monitoring of the operation of the programme is undertaken.

The programme is subject to a number of mechanisms to ensure academic standards. All awards and assessments are subject to a rigorous system of internal marking and moderation, and to the approval of a team of external examiners who ensure that awards are comparable with those made by other universities.

Student feedback on their experience is sought in a number of ways. A Board of Studies comprising academic staff teaching on the programme and student representatives meets at least once each term and is supplemented by course representative meetings. Students are also asked to complete module feedback questionnaires, and random samples of them are asked to participate in the University's annual student satisfaction survey. Final year students are encouraged to participate in the National Student Survey (NSS). Actions taken to address issues raised by students through these various mechanisms are discussed in the Board of Studies and in annual monitoring reports.