Programme Specification: MSc Finance, Investment and Risk Management

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

Course record information

Name and level of final award	• Master of Science - Finance, Investment and Risk Management The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible
Name and level of intermediate awards	• Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - Finance, Investment and Risk Management • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - Finance, Investment and Risk Management
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Primary: Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	Finance
Professional statutory or regulatory body	The curriculum is aligned with the CFA - Chartered Financial Analyst syllabus. The curriculum is aligned with the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Finance.
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	• Finance, Investment and Risk Management, Full-time, September or January start - 1 year standard length
Valid for cohorts	From 2027/8

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum entry requirements for all postgraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information. For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements. More information can be found here: https://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply.

Aims of the programme

The MSc Finance, Investment and Risk Management programme is designed to provide students with a programme of study that develops their knowledge of investment and risk management principles, theories, and frameworks and practical skills that will ensure they are qualified to enter or develop careers as investment or risk managers. The programme's focus reflects the needs of private, public, and third-sector employers and enables students to gain advanced knowledge and understanding in the field of study.

The programme recognises the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI), including Generative AI (GenAI) and large language models (LLMs), within contemporary financial services. AI technologies are increasingly transforming areas such as investment management, risk analysis, compliance, fraud detection, digital banking, financial modelling, and customer decision-making.

By completing this course, graduates will be able to comprehend and apply a wide range of conceptual frameworks for investment decision-making and risk management. They will be able to synthesise in-depth knowledge and critical competency in finance. The course is designed to equip students with knowledge and skills aligned with industry and international professional body requirements, supporting graduates who wish to pursue professional qualifications and membership after completing the course. Finally, students will develop the skills to independently produce and present research or consultancy reports, preparing them for continued professional development beyond the course. All of these skills will enhance students' employability and help them succeed in finance careers.

The programme adopts an inclusive and internationally oriented approach to curriculum design and delivery, reflecting the global nature of contemporary finance and financial services.

Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. career/employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students.

Graduates from the programme will be prepared for careers across financial services, banking, investment management, risk management, financial consultancy, sustainability and ESG advisory, wealth management, and related sectors. Graduates may pursue roles such as Financial Analyst, Investment Analyst, Financial Consultant or Risk Analyst, among others.

Graduates will also develop an understanding of how AI and emerging financial technologies are reshaping professional roles and skills within the global finance sector.

The curriculum is designed to develop industry-relevant analytical, quantitative, digital, and professional skills through financial modelling, data analysis, case-based learning, authentic assessment, and engagement with contemporary financial practices and technologies.

Students will also develop transferable skills valued across the sector, including communication, leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, critical thinking, and professional decision-making.

The University of Westminster has a dedicated Careers Service which provides personalised career counselling, resume building, mock interviews, and job search strategies. Our Careers Service offers internships through the talent bank and hosts job fairs and networking events, connecting students with potential employers. The University of Westminster offers a variety of opportunities through professional services, such as WeNetwork, Employability Awards, and Coaching and Mentoring, to enhance your employability and ensure that graduates are not only market-ready but also equipped to excel in their careers from day one.

Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students. Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision. Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Course learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements of what successful students have achieved as a result of learning.

These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

The overall knowledge and understanding you will gain from your course (KU)

Graduate attributes are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA)

Professional and personal practice learning outcomes are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP)

Cognitive Skills, are learning outcomes that help build conceptual understanding that is necessary to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems and comment on research.

Key transferable skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. (KTS)

Level 7 course learning outcomes: upon completion of Level 7 you will be able to:

- CLO 01 Synthesise and apply advanced financial theories, concepts, and frameworks across a range of financial contexts. (KU CS)
- CLO 02 Develop quantitative and critical thinking skills to use technology to implement financial strategies and critically evaluate how this technology is used in the sector. (KU KTS)
- CLO 03 Critically evaluate and adapt advanced problem-solving strategies for making managerial decisions. (KTS)
- CLO 04 Critically assess the regulatory and legal frameworks of financial markets and apply this evaluation to professional decision-making in support of responsible and inclusive business practices. (KU PPP CS)
- CLO 05 Critically appraise sustainability, environmental and ethical issues in the finance industry and evaluate their impacts on the individual, industry and society. (PPP KTS)
- CLO 06 Assess and evaluate financial issues through applied research to integrate diverse perspectives and develop comprehensive insights (KTS CS)
- CLO 07 Develop interpersonal, entrepreneurial leadership and communication skills to collaborate with diverse stakeholders for decision-making. (KTS)
- CLO 08 Critically evaluate contemporary issues in investment and risk management theoretical discourses, techniques or practices which contribute to the financial markets and sustainable economic growth. (CS)
- CLO 09 Assess and evaluate advanced valuation and risk models across major financial instruments for decision-making. (KU CS)
- CLO 10 Synthesise regulatory, macroeconomic and client-related factors to recommend investment strategies. (PPP)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

By incorporating a diverse range of learning methods, the MSc Finance, Investment and Risk Management degree is designed to provide students with a practice-focused understanding of the structure and function of investment and risk management.

Students are exposed to a range of learning methods, including traditional lectures and seminars, computer lab sessions and case studies. Students may have opportunities to attend guest lectures by industry practitioners or take part in external visits, where available. The School has previously organised visits to financial institutions and hosted practitioner-led sessions for related programmes. In class, students can then maximise the use of digital platforms and online resources provided by faculty members to enhance their understanding and gain insights, as well as engage in interactive team activities and discussions, and in real-life case studies and scenarios during workshops or seminars.

Throughout the programme, students will progressively develop the ability to critically evaluate and appropriately apply AI-enabled tools and digital technologies within finance-related contexts. The curriculum also encourages critical consideration of the ethical, regulatory, governance, sustainability, and professional implications of AI use in financial services.

Students are also encouraged to keep up to date with market trends and how the industry is looking to contribute to meeting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Students will further develop their database and computer literacy using appropriate financial databases, such as Bloomberg (or similar), to ensure their experience is truly authentic. The assessments in the degree are designed to be authentic and relevant, to enable students to develop the soft skills employers require, and to provide them with a deep and systematic understanding of finance and banking. Students are encouraged to use Artificial Intelligence to enhance their learning, in line with the University's policy.

Students will engage with financial systems, market practices, regulatory frameworks, and case studies drawn from a range of international and regional contexts, including developed and emerging economies. Learning activities encourage students to critically consider how financial decision-making, banking systems, investment practices, and sustainability challenges may affect different stakeholder groups, sectors, and communities across diverse economic and cultural environments. The course also supports an inclusive learning environment through a variety of teaching, learning, and assessment approaches intended to enable students from diverse educational, professional, and cultural backgrounds to participate fully and develop confidence in advanced financial analysis and decision-making.

Sustainability, responsible finance, and ethical decision-making are embedded throughout the programme, including consideration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors, regulatory impacts, and long-term economic impacts in financial decision-making and financial services practice.

Teaching methods

The MSc Finance, Investment and Risk Management degree is designed to be practice-led. Students are taught using a wide range of practical techniques, including computer lab sessions, case studies, and simulations that incorporate real-world experience, alongside more traditional lectures and seminars.

All these sessions are designed to reflect the latest developments in asset and risk management, thereby ensuring that graduates have the required skills to successfully find employment in these sectors. To meet the needs of employers and given that these areas are becoming increasingly technology-based, students' quantitative and computer skills will be continuously developed and applied throughout the programme using appropriate software, as well as financial databases, such as but not limited to those provided in the Financial Markets Suite.

Teaching activities are designed to reflect developments in the finance sector, including the increasing use of AI, automation, and digital technologies across financial services.

Seminars often involve case studies and student-led discussions to help students develop their problem-solving and analytical skills. The team delivering the course will ensure the student is offered a solid foundation and knowledge of contemporary developments across all areas related to the course. The core modules ensure that students have the desired knowledge and skills to achieve these objectives.

The course team has reviewed the programme to ensure the curriculum is decolonised. We are committed to including diverse voices, perspectives, and case studies in our delivery of lectures and seminars, in the course materials we use, and in the reading lists attached to our modules. This approach ensures that our teaching and assessments are not only relevant to real-world challenges but also accessible and meaningful to students from all backgrounds.

Assessment methods

Assessments on the MSc Finance, Investment and Risk Management programme have been designed to ensure that the module learning outcomes and ultimately the course learning outcomes are achieved and that graduates from the programme have demonstrated the required attributes expected from a Master's level degree.

Students will be assessed using a wide range of techniques, including individual and team-based coursework or presentations. Students may be assessed through a range of methods, including analytical reports, portfolios, presentations, data analysis tasks, among others. These assessments are designed to simulate employment conditions in the finance sector. Teaching activities are designed to reflect developments in the finance sector, including the increasing use of AI, automation, and digital technologies across financial services. Where appropriate, assessments may encourage students to critically engage with AI-enabled tools and technologies in line with University policy and principles of academic integrity.

Assessments are also designed to evaluate students' understanding of contemporary issues and the current challenges and opportunities facing the finance sector. The learning activities in the modules offered in this programme enable students to adapt well to sectoral and societal changes. Scholarly activities that enable students to acquire and apply disciplinary knowledge build students' capabilities. The modules build on students' strengths, enrich their learning, and develop the excellence they need to succeed in the financial industries. Formative assessment opportunities are embedded throughout modules to support student development and provide feedback prior to summative assessment.

Teaching materials and assessment activities are designed, where appropriate, to incorporate varied perspectives and real-world financial scenarios, enabling students to evaluate finance-related challenges beyond a single market or institutional viewpoint. This includes consideration of ethical practice, responsible finance, accessibility of financial services, sustainability, and the broader societal impact of financial systems.

By incorporating authentic learning and assessment methods and guest lectures from a wide range of professionals, we facilitate a truly rich experience that promotes an appreciation of the varied cultures, contexts, and business environments students will encounter as global citizens. We recognise the value in opportunities for students to share from their experiences and unique perspectives.

Graduate Attribute	**Evident in Course Outcomes**
Critical and creative thinker	CLO 01, CLO 02, CLO 04, CLO 08, CLO 09
Literate and effective communicator	CLO 02, CLO 06, CLO 07, CLO 09, CLO 10
Entrepreneurial	CLO 03, CLO 04, CLO 07, CLO 10
Global in outlook and engaged in communities	CLO 05, CLO 08
Socially, ethically and environmentally aware	CLO 04, CLO 05

Course Structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year. Additional free text information on the choices may also be included, for example where students must choose one of two modules.. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

Modules

Level 7

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7FNCE054W	Capstone Project	Core	40	20
7FNCE009W	Financial Derivatives	Core	20	10
7FNCE011W	Financial Markets and Institutions	Core	20	10
7FNCE027W	Financial Modelling	Core	20	10
7FNCE019W	International Risk Management	Core	20	10
7FNCE021W	Modern Portfolio Management	Core	20	10
7FNCE065W	Sustainability in Finance with ESG	Core	20	10
7FNCE058W	Advanced Financial Statements Analysis	Option	20	10
7FNCE031W	Banking Technology	Option	20	10

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. In addition, timetabling and limited spaces may mean you cannot register for your first choice of option modules.

Professional body accreditation or other external references

Course management

In terms of course management, the following personnel are in charge of various aspects of this programme and others within the Business School;

The Head of College holds responsibility for the course and for other courses run by Westminster Business School, and for the overall quality and delivery of the educational process

The Head of School has responsibility for postgraduate programmes in the appropriate disciplines.

The Course Leader has responsibility for the academic integrity of the programme. This includes the day-to-day management of the course, development of the curriculum, and ensuring the delivery in terms of quality control and equivalence of experience for course participants.

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations.

Course specific regulations apply to some courses.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities and additional support available. You will be provided with a Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or equivalent. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part-time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University utilises a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard, where students access their course materials and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students. Further information on Blackboard can be found at https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/studies/your-student-journey/when-you-arrive/blackboard

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. In addition to online resources in Blackboard, students can also attend Study Skills workshops and schedule one-to-one appointments. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development.

Learning support includes our libraries, each of which holds a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services.

Support Services

The University of Westminster's Student and Academic Services department provides a range of advice and guidance. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at https://www.westminster.ac.uk/student-advice

The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at https://www.westminster.ac.uk/students-union

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel. University Panels normally include internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university, a representative from industry and a Student Advisor.

The course is also monitored annually by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that any issues that might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence from various sources, including student surveys, student progression and achievement, and reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course and make necessary changes.

Periodic reviews are also conducted to ensure that the curriculum remains up-to-date and that the skills acquired on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Representative students meet with a panel to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess the course's performance.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University, and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is collected in various ways.

- Through student engagement activities at the course and module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Course representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course representatives.
- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College and University committees.;
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire for each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be improved.
- Final-year undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey, which helps inform the national university league tables. Postgraduate students will be asked to complete the Postgraduate Taught Survey (PTES).

This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student may reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. This specification is supplemented by the Course Handbook, Module proforma and Module Handbooks provided to students.

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