

Course record information

Name and level of final award	• Master of Science - International Finance and Banking The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible
Name and level of intermediate awards	• Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - International Finance and Banking • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - International Finance and Banking
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)	Business and Management (PG).
Professional statutory or regulatory body	Chartered Banker Institute (CBI)
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	• International Finance and Banking, Full-time, September or January start - 1 year standard length
Valid for cohorts	From 2025/6

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 International Finance and Banking arena is fast moving and continually evolving, with financial technology and artificial intelligence fuelling innovation in the international finance and banking sector. Studying international finance and banking in the digital age is inherently fascinating due to its dynamic nature and its direct impact on the global economy. As such, the MSc International Finance and Banking degree aims to create the talent pool to fulfil these needs and provide graduates with practical and technical skills to successfully seek employment in the international finance and banking sectors, and progress to leadership roles.

This degree will be of particular interest to people who do not necessarily have a traditional background in finance but are looking to change careers to pursue a career in the international finance and banking sector or else people who already work in the financial markets but are seeking a further qualification for career progression purposes. Our programme is tailor-made to develop your professional standards and competence in the international finance and banking industry and it is accredited by the Chartered Banker Institute. Upon successful completion of the course, students will get Associate Chartered Banker status with the Chartered Banker Institute.

The MSc International Finance and Banking programme will help students formulate sustainable and cross-cultural perspectives in financial management and investments. Our programme aims to provide students with the ability to demonstrate originality and innovation in implementing complex and unpredictable tasks at professional level, and to continue advancing their knowledge in the international finance and banking industry. Students graduating from this programme will be able to demonstrate their systematic understanding of knowledge as well as transferable skills necessary for employment in the international finance and banking and related industries.

Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. 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.

The University of Westminster has a dedicated Careers Service (using the Engage platform) 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 you with potential employers.

The University of Westminster offers a variety of opportunities through professional services such as the WeNetwork, Employability Awards, Coaching and Mentoring to enhance your employability and ensures that graduates are not only market-ready but also equipped to excel in their careers from day one. Students subsequently join a global network of successful alumni who provide mentorship, job referrals, and career guidance. Our active alumni association offers continuous support and opportunities for professional growth.

The Chartered Banker Institute also offers a number of key benefits to our students including a professional network, mentoring (connect with professionals working within the desired role/organisation), professional insight, jointly branded events and the professional recognition – helping distinguish graduates in an incredibly competitive market.

The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that skills employers are looking for are embedded in all our courses. Through our Engage platform, students can access part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities. Through membership of MSDUK for example, 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. The meetings convened to discuss this programme for example, highlighted a number of topic areas and skills required by industry. Staff make use of up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which inform the service delivered to our students. Our graduates have gone on to work for large financial institutions, international financial services corporations, and government agencies.

Professional skills are embedded in key aspects of the MSc International Finance and Banking course. For example, through the authentic assessments students engage with practical, real-life scenarios that help them develop and hone critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Teaching and assessment within modules provide practice and training for students that prepares them for the challenges they will encounter when applying for jobs and within the workplace. The course team are actively engaged in research on recent developments in the Banking and International Finance industries.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Course learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the 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)

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:

- CLO1 Demonstrate a deep understanding within the fields of international finance and banking, and the complex interrelationship of these disciplines with other relevant disciplines and apply this knowledge appropriately using appropriate frameworks. (KU)
- CLO10 Systematically organise and communicate ideas within different contexts applying advanced interpersonal, team, and networking skills and providing expert advice for informed decision-making in the area of international finance and banking. (KTS)
- CLO2 Critically analyse and evaluate existing theoretical discourses, techniques or practices in international finance and banking, generating effective approaches to address financial problems or challenges in complex contexts. (KU)
- CLO3 Formulate a cross-cultural perspective to the operational and strategic position of an organisation with personal, corporate, and professional responsibility in the area of finance and develop lifelong learning opportunities with international professional bodies and standards. (KU)
- CLO4 Critically evaluate the legal and regulatory framework that underpins professional decision-making in the international finance and banking environment. (SS)
- CLO5 Design and undertake substantial investigations to address significant areas of theory and/or practice and propose recommendations and inclusive business practices in international finance and banking. (PPP)
- CLO6 Systematically apply knowledge in unfamiliar contexts, and synthesise information in innovative ways to generate transformative solutions in the highly specialised and fast-evolving area of international finance and banking. (PPP)
- CLO7 Investigate, critique and propose solutions to sustainability issues, the related impact on organisations in the area of international finance and banking. (KTS)
- CLO8 Reflect and adapt advanced problem-solving strategies that are important for employability, work effectively with others from diverse backgrounds on solutions and resolve likely conflict situations before they arise. (KTS)
- CLO9 Critically discuss contemporary issues in international finance and banking theoretical discourses, techniques or practices which contribute to the financial markets, address the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and economic growth. (KU KTS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

By incorporating a diverse range of learning methods, the MSc International Finance and Banking degree is designed to provide students with a greater practice-focused understanding of the structure and function of the areas of international finance and banking.

Students are exposed to a range of different learning methods, which in addition to the traditional lectures and seminars, also include computer lab sessions, case studies, guest lectures by practitioners, a review of current events from trade publications, such as the Financial Times, as well as external visits to different financial institutions. We incorporate a flipped-classroom approach so that students study content independently (often online) before coming to class. In class, students can then maximise the use of the digital platform and online resources provided by the faculty members to enhance their understanding and gain insights as well as engage in interactive activities and discussions in teams, real-life case studies and scenarios during the workshops or seminars.

Students are also encouraged to keep up-to-date with market trends and how industry is looking to contribute to meeting the UN's Sustainable Development goals.

Students will further develop their database and computer literacy using the Financial Markets Suite (Bloomberg Terminals), where they have a virtual trading room and access to one of the largest financial databases. The assessments in the degree are also designed to ensure that they are as authentic and relevant as possible and enable students to develop the soft skills that employers actually require in addition to providing them with a deep and systematic understanding of the areas of international finance and banking. Students are encouraged to make use of Artificial Intelligence to enhance their learning in line with the University's policy.

Where possible, we also take our students to visit and learn first-hand from various financial institutions and businesses. Previous visits have included a guided tour of the Bloomberg Headquarters in London and the Bank of England Museum.

EDI strategy

Both students and staff on the MSc International Finance and Banking course come from diverse backgrounds, thus creating a vibrant and inclusive learning environment. The course is designed to be a safe space where diverse

perspectives are not only welcomed but actively integrated into teaching and learning. Students are encouraged to draw on their unique experiences, fostering an atmosphere of respect and collaboration. By reflecting on their varied experiences, students contribute to a more equitable and diverse society while developing critical skills to navigate and lead in the diverse global business landscape.

The course team has reviewed the programme with a view to ensuring that the curriculum is decolonised. We are committed to including diverse voices, perspectives, and case studies in our delivery of lectures and seminars and in the course materials we make use of as well as 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. By incorporating authentic learning and assessment methods and guest lectures from a wide spectrum of professionals, we facilitate a truly rich experience that promotes an appreciation of the varied cultures, contexts and business environments that students will encounter as global citizens.

Modules like International Financial Management, Global Banking and Lending and Global Entrepreneurial Finance provide students with perspectives that embrace views from a number of countries with rules, regulations and practices that promote diversity and inclusion. Our guest speakers will be drawn from banks like ABC (Bahrain) and HSBC. We recognise the value in opportunities for students to share from their experiences and unique perspectives.

Teaching methods

The MSc International Finance and Banking degree is designed to be as practical as possible, students are taught using a wide range of practical techniques, such as computer lab sessions, case-studies and simulations incorporating real-world experience in addition to the more traditional lectures and seminars. All of these sessions are designed to reflect the latest developments in the banking or international finance areas, thereby ensuring that graduates have the required skills to successfully find employment in the finance and banking sector. To meet the needs of employers and the fact that these areas are becoming more technology based, students' quantitative and computer skills will be continuously developed and employed throughout the programme via the use of appropriate computer software, such as EViews, R or SQL, as well as financial databases, such as that provided in the Financial Markets Suite. Seminars will often involve the use of case studies and student-led discussions to allow students to develop their problem solving and analytical capabilities.

The team delivering the course will seek to ensure that the student is offered a good fundamental grounding and knowledge of contemporary developments in all areas related to this course. The core modules ensure that students have the desired education and skills to achieve these objectives. The option modules will allow students to concentrate on areas of particular interest to them.

Students will be provided with the relevant study materials each week via Blackboard. Students will also be given a reading list which outlines the required and further readings. In addition to meeting the needs of employers', the advanced, up-to-date and relevant study materials are also designed to challenge students and encourage them to bring their own experience to the learning process. Students will evaluate the importance of climate risk, sustainability and UN Sustainable Development Goals in the international finance and banking context.

Each student will have a personal tutor who will provide the pastoral support they need to do well on their programme of study.

Assessment methods

Assessments on the MSc International Finance and Banking 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 Masters level degree.

Students on the programme will be assessed using a wide range of techniques, including time-constrained case study based tests with unseen scenarios, individual and team- based coursework and presentations. These assessments are designed to mimic employment conditions in the banking and international finance areas, including, but not limited to, the need to write consultancy or strategic reports and present to clients, or the need to answer unseen questions under time-constrained conditions in assessment centres during the job application process. Assessments are also designed to test students understanding of contemporary issues as well as the current challenges and opportunities facing the international finance and banking sector.

The learning activities designed in the modules offered on this programme, enable students to cope well with sectoral and societal changes. The scholarly activities that enable students to acquire and apply disciplinary knowledge build the students' capabilities. Modules like Global Banking and Lending promote strategic understanding whilst the Capstone module and Financial Risk Management enable students to develop and hone their research skills. The work involved in studying and undertaking assessments for Ethics and Sustainability in Finance extends the authentic approach from assessment to the wider student experience. The modules build on the students' strengths, enrich their learning and develop the excellence they need to do well in the Finance and Banking industries.

Inclusive and Further Learning, Teaching and Assessment Support

To ensure that learning on the programme is as innovative and inclusive as possible so as to maximise student engagement, the programme is designed to:

- Use a variety of innovative teaching methods, such as online pop quizzes and voting, practical sessions involving the use of relevant technology, to enable regular knowledge and skills checks.
- Encourage students to work in an inclusive and engaged manner, such as group discussions or group work, which builds their ability to follow instructions as well as the confidence to suggest their own ideas / solutions to problems.
- Provides students with clearly defined opportunities to prepare for the workplace, such as CV and interview preparation sessions run by the Career and Employability Service and guest lectures in which practitioners (often alumni) are invited to discuss a current topic/issue in international finance and banking.

The teaching methods on the MSc International Finance and Banking degree are designed to as inclusive as possible and provide the maximum level of support to students, in that:

- Learning materials for the week are uploaded on Blackboard in advance of any teaching sessions (lectures, seminars, computer labs, etc.).
- Lectures are either recorded or comparable alternatives, such as annotated slides or summary videos, are provided.
- Any technical language, symbols and key terms are clearly defined and the background information for these is clear.
- Tables and summaries are used to link ideas and highlight key concepts.

In terms of assessment, the degree is designed to ensure that:

- A variety of assessments are offered to provide flexible ways of meeting the learning outcomes, and to ensure that assessments cater for the needs of students in need of further support, such as those with dyslexia, dyscalculia or dyspraxia.
- Assessments test 'real world' problems that are socially, culturally and globally relevant and that these take into account students' different identities.
- Clear and contextualised marking descriptors are available to both students and staff before any assessments.

Graduate Attribute	Evident in Course Outcomes
Critical and creative thinker	CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO4, CLO5, CLO6, CLO7, CLO8, CLO9
Literate and effective communicator	CLO1, CLO2, CLO4, CLO5, CLO7, CLO8, CLO9
Entrepreneurial	CLO10, CLO3
Global in outlook and engaged in communities	CLO5, CLO9
Socially, ethically and environmentally aware	CLO3, CLO7, CLO9

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

Students are required to study all the core modules on the programme and one option module in order to obtain the 180 credits required for the MSc qualification.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7FNCE054W	Capstone Project	Core	40	20
7FNCE026W	Financial Risk Management	Core	20	10
7FNCE035W	Financial Statement Analysis and Valuation	Core	20	10
7FNCE015W	Global Banking and Lending	Core	20	10
7FNCE037W	Global Entrepreneurial Finance	Core	20	10
7FNCE034W	International Financial Management	Core	20	10
7FNCE028W	Wealth Management	Core	20	10
7FNCE031W	Banking Technology	Option	20	10
7FNCE004W	Behavioural Finance	Option	20	10
7FNCE032W	Compliance and Banking Law	Option	20	10
7FNCE027W	Financial Modelling	Option	20	10
7FNCE065W	Sustainability in Finance with ESG	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

The MSc International Finance and Banking programme is accredited by the Chartered Banker Institute (CBI). Graduates of the MSc International Finance and Banking course with the required option module of Compliance and Banking Law will qualify for the Associate Chartered Banker Status.

Course management

The Head of the Westminster Business School is ultimately responsible for all courses run within the College, including MSc International Finance and Banking. The MSc International Finance and Banking course sits within the School of Finance and Accounting within the College.

The MSc International Finance and Banking management team consists of a Course Leader supported by the Senior Leadership Team of the School. The MSc International Finance and Banking course team is responsible for the academic integrity as well as the management and day-to-day running of the programme.

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](https://www.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, additional support available and to your Campus Registry. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. 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 uses 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. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development).

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding 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. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught in their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith 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 each year by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course and make changes where necessary.

A Course revalidation takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through student engagement activities at Course/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 before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate, if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification is supplemented by the Course Handbook, Module proforma and Module Handbooks provided to students. Copyright in this document belongs to the University of Westminster. All rights are reserved. This document is for personal use only and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose, either in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the University of Westminster. All copies of this document must incorporate this Copyright Notice – 2022©