

Course record information

Name and level of final award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Science - Investment and Financial Risk Management <p>The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible</p>
Name and level of intermediate awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - Investment and Financial Risk Management • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - Investment and Financial 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)	Business and Management
Professional statutory or regulatory body	Chartered Institute of Securities and Investment (CISI) (pending – see below for further details)
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment and Financial Risk Management, 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 MSc Investment and Financial Risk Management programme has been designed to provide students with a programme of study that develops their knowledge of investment and risk management principles, theories and frameworks as well as the practical skills that will ensure that they are qualified to enter or develop careers as investment or risk managers. The focus of the programme reflects the needs of private, public and third sector employers and allows students to gain advanced knowledge and understanding in the field of study. The formally stated aims of the course are to enable students to:

- Comprehend and apply a wide range of conceptual frameworks in the discipline of investment management and risk management for investment decisions.
- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and critical competency in finance.
- Enhance interpersonal and analytical skills to provide advice in the areas of investment and financial risk management to key decision makers in various business sectors and communities in need.
- Gain membership of industry and international professional bodies to enhance employability of graduates and promote lifelong learning experiences.
- Develop and present quality research or consultancy reports as outputs that require self-learning ability after completion of the program.

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 MSc course team aims to develop student's knowledge and analytical skills through experiential learning that fosters an application-orientated approach. As part of the programme, the course team seeks to develop and implement targeted employability initiatives tailored to students from diverse backgrounds and characteristics and seeks to enhance their engagement with these opportunities. By taking advice from the industry advisory board, the team seeks to ensure that the course offer is regularly refreshed and remains relevant to the needs of industry.

Career development skills are embedded in all courses in view of the need for graduates to have good degrees as well as skills that are relevant to the modern workplace. Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are made available to students through our Engage platform. Staff continue to work on widening and strengthening the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in the design of the curriculum and encouraging their participation in activities such as World Cafes and guest lecture sessions. Besides, building connections with alumni through course social events can provide career advices to current students.

Graduates of the MSc Investments and Financial Risk Management programme are well-prepared to excel in various roles in the finance sector. Previous alumni have successfully secured positions as financial analysts, investment advisors, traders and research analysts in investment banks, retail funds, pension funds, hedge funds, private banks and financial consultancy firms.

The course structure benchmarks with the CFA curriculum. Students will be well-equipped to prepare the professional examinations for enhancing their employability and facilitating further study opportunities in a globally recognised professional credential.

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:

- CLO01 Apply comprehensive knowledge of investment theories and financial risk management techniques in various financial contexts (KU)
- CLO02 Apply quantitative, critical thinking and decision-making skills to develop and implement investment strategies and evaluate their suitability for different stakeholders (KU KTS)
- CLO03 Evaluate the effect of regulatory and legal frameworks in financial and investment markets and apply ethical frameworks, contributing to responsible and inclusive business practices (KU PPP CS)
- CLO04 Critically apply financial technologies in investment and risk management disciplines to adapt to the evolving financial landscape (KU CS)
- CLO05 Critically evaluate contemporary issues in investment and risk management theoretical discourses, techniques or practices which contribute to the financial markets and sustainable economic growth (KU KTS)
- CLO06 Apply interpersonal and communication skills to collaborate effectively with different stakeholders from diverse backgrounds and cultures to drive successful financial outcomes (KTS)
- CLO07 Critically evaluate and adapt advanced problem-solving strategies for making investment and managerial decisions (KTS)
- CLO08 Apply entrepreneurial leadership and high performing teamworking skills in working collaboratively. (KTS)
- CLO09 Analyse sustainability issues in the investment industry and evaluate their impacts on the individual, industry and society. (SS CS)
- CLO10 Analyse and evaluate finance issues through applied research to integrate diverse perspectives and develop comprehensive insights. (KTS SS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

Learning and knowledge skills will be acquired through materials delivered in lectures, exercises, case study work covered and debated in seminars and tutorials. The coursework completed by a student (either individual, or in a group) is expected to develop deeper understanding of the subject. By this process students will begin to realise that the subject area is evolving and it is their responsibility to acquire further information in order to continue with lifelong learning experience.

Each module encourages use of different learning styles and experiences of individual lecturers responsible for the module. In addition, the lectures followed by seminars or tutorials will aim at encouraging group discussion of a topic in order to stimulate learning and to encourage independent learning. The use of computer packages and financial technology will be promoted in various modules for analysing various capital market scenarios. Market research skills will be developed through seminar sessions held in the Financial Markets Suite. In addition, students are encouraged to widen reading by spending their spare time covering course reading material and exercises provided in adopted texts and peer-reviewed journal articles.

Students will also be encouraged to develop presentation skills through report submissions, while oral presentation skills will be developed through interchanges of communication in seminar discussions. The coursework in different modules will emphasise the communication of technical ideas to professional practitioners.

Students are required to submit a project at the end of the program. Under the direction and supervision by a member of staff, as far as possible students will be encouraged to aim to produce work that may ultimately lead to sustainable development of the academia and/or industry.

The curriculum developed for our postgraduate courses across the School of Finance and Accounting is designed to empower students, promote wellbeing and inclusion and facilitate a high level of collaboration, criticality and creativity.

Teaching methods

The programme will use various teaching methods including lectures, seminars and workshops. Students will be expected to develop a high degree of competence in data handling, security analysis and financial problem solving, using appropriate computer software packages and financial technology as required.

The teaching methods employed on this programme of study, create benefits that facilitate a strong ability to cope with the complexities of the contemporary context in investment and financial risk management. A great deal of emphasis is placed upon the application of knowledge so that the real benefits that accrue from studying this course are made more tangible early in the student journey. The Financial Modelling and Financial Derivatives modules for example, emphasise application in real world settings. There is scope for working with external clients in undertaking assessments so that students gain an awareness of what is required in the Finance and related industries and can thus prepare more adequately for the future.

Practical examples will be emphasised, and students' own experience will be drawn upon where appropriate. Various modules will provide detailed exposure to the facilities available in our purpose-built Financial Markets Suite (FMS) utilising the state-of-the-art database and analytics provide by Bloomberg. The coursework set for each module together with training on the Bloomberg database and capital markets system will promote learner independence and self-development.

The teaching approaches ensure that the student is offered a good theoretical and practical grounding in all areas of finance related to this course. Students will learn about investment and risk management principles and develop an ability to be able to use financial products to solve investment management problems or to mitigate financial risks. The common core together with selection of an option module offered on the course will ensure that students have their desired skills sets to achieve these objectives.

Besides, various authentic learning approaches, e.g. guest speakers talk and off-campus company visits, will be used to enrich the students' learning experience and support the learning of different modules in the course.

EDI strategy

The academic staff teaching on the MSc Investment and Financial Risk Management programme endeavour to ensure that the programme reflects their strong commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion to ensure that each student is able to maximise their potential. This is evidenced through the inclusion of reading and learning materials from a very wide variety of sources; the use of real-world examples; and the employment of academic staff and guest speakers from diverse backgrounds. Our assessments are designed to be accessible and authentic, making them suitable for students from all backgrounds. They are representative of requirements our research indicates employers seek, to enhance the students' employability. As well as running a module in International Risk Management on the MSc in Investment and Financial Risk Management programme, we seek to ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion are integral to the content of all modules on the programme, whatever the topic. Within the School of Finance and Accounting, there is professional development for academic colleagues on topics such as inclusive approaches to teaching and learning; and curriculum and learning design; and also, on decolonising the curriculum.

We actively promote the range of support available in terms of academic writing skills and workshops outside of the curriculum. These workshops are intended to aid reflective and independent learning; they also enable those who are new to study or whose first language is not English to improve their written work, specifically in relation to assessment.

The University aims to create a welcoming space for all students. Our disability learning support service gives advice to academic staff on supporting students through their studies, both in the classroom and in terms of assessed work. Learning materials are uploaded onto Blackboard (our virtual learning environment) in advance of classes. Materials are modifiable so that students can adjust the format to suit their particular needs. We are continuing to develop the use of a wider range of culturally inclusive materials where students can recognise their own identities.

Assessment methods

Different varieties of assessment methods will be adopted in the course such as business consultancy projects, investment proposals, analytical reports and group presentations. Students are required to make use of market data from the Bloomberg financial database and will use financial software when undertaking analyses.

The assessments in the modules of this course are structured to guarantee that the learning outcomes for the course are collectively achieved through the diverse range of modules offered. This approach to assessment is in line with ensuring that each module's evaluation methods are best suited to their content and learning objectives, as indicated in the MSc IFRM course guide. Furthermore, the selection and implementation of these assessment methods undergo regular review and adjustments to maintain the relevance and effectiveness of the course's ongoing curriculum development.

The authentic assessments developed for the programme, allow students to apply theories to real-life situations and will provide ample opportunity for students to make use of their current or prior work experience. Assessments will evaluate not only technical and analytical abilities but also written and oral presentation skills. For example, the business consultancy projects will evaluate students' ability to confront conflicting situations, to support or recommend a preferred course of action based on the merits of each case or situation being studied. Students will be encouraged to make use of Artificial Intelligence in line with University policy.

Full details of the assessment and assessment criteria are given in the documentation for each module. Full details of assessments that apply for each of the modules are contained in the Course Handbook that each student receives on enrolment.

Graduate Attribute	Evident in Course Outcomes
Critical and creative thinker	CLO01, CLO02, CLO04, CLO05, CLO10
Literate and effective communicator	CLO06, CLO08, CLO10
Entrepreneurial	CLO06, CLO07, CLO08
Global in outlook and engaged in communities	CLO01, CLO05, CLO06, CLO07, CLO09, CLO10
Socially, ethically and environmentally aware	CLO03, CLO04, CLO05, CLO09

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 take all core modules and choose **ONE** option module from the list to fulfil the graduation requirement.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7FNCE058W	Advanced Financial Statements Analysis	Core	20	10
7FNCE054W	Capstone Project	Core	40	20
7FNCE009W	Financial Derivatives	Core	20	10
7FNCE027W	Financial Modelling	Core	20	10
7FNCE013W	Fixed Income Analysis and Trading	Core	20	10
7FNCE019W	International Risk Management	Core	20	10
7FNCE021W	Modern Portfolio Management	Core	20	10
7FNCE059W	Alternative Investments	Option	20	10
7FNCE031W	Banking Technology	Option	20	10
7FNCE014W	Forecasting Markets and Risk 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 Investment and Financial Risk Management programme has applied for accreditation from the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investment (CISI).

Additionally, under its previous title, the course's excellence has been globally acknowledged through its designation as a CISI Centre of Excellence in Financial Markets

Moreover, the program is acknowledged by Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute, with a curriculum specifically designed to equip graduating students for the CFA examinations.

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 Associate Head of College has responsibility for postgraduate programmes at the Westminster Business School as a whole
- 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, 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.

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©