

Course record information

Name and level of final award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Science - Accounting and Finance <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) - Accounting and Finance • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - Accounting and Finance
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	<p>Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) (pending – see below for further details)</p> <p>Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) (pending – see below for further details)</p>
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting and Finance, 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 Accounting and Finance course is designed to cater to diverse career aspirations and professional goals. Whether you aim to maximise exemptions for professional certifications or focus on entrepreneurial ventures and sustainable reporting, our programme offers tailored pathways to ensure your success. The programme will equip graduates with the advanced knowledge and skill set to pursue a global and sustainable career in accounting and finance. Graduates may choose between following the fast-track route to become a chartered or certified accountant or developing core entrepreneurial skills to empower them to start and grow their businesses.

The MSc Accounting and Finance program will focus on knowledge relevant to accounting practices and allow one to study emerging areas such as contemporary issues in accounting and sustainability reporting. It provides knowledge in various topic areas, including financial accounting and reporting and opportunities to explore and understand the relevant practices and policies so that they might pursue a professional or academic career in this field, as well as allowing students to study more specialist areas such as taxation or auditing or understanding the field concerning start-ups and small entrepreneurial businesses. Students will also gain transferable skills such as teamwork and leadership and become effective communicators. Specifically, the program covers financial and management accounting, ethics and corporate governance, and professional ethics; at the end of the course, you must complete a capstone project module where students have a choice between a research project or case studies in a specific area of their choice or join the work-based learning. The programme will use real-world examples, current themes in accounting and finance, and case studies from diverse backgrounds to develop the skills necessary to be ready for the job market. Optional modules will allow students to focus their studies on areas of interest, including auditing and taxation, to support exemptions from professional accounting bodies or entrepreneurship.

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.

Today's employers seek graduates who not only possess strong academic qualifications but also have workplace-ready skills. The University of Westminster is dedicated to producing highly employable graduates by embedding career development skills across all courses. Students benefit from extensive opportunities, including part-time work, industry placements, and work-related learning activities that enhance their practical experience and readiness for the workforce.

University staff actively expand and strengthen ties with employers across various sectors. These partnerships inform curriculum design, contribute to career education initiatives, and provide valuable insights into industry needs. Staff also stay updated on labour market trends and employer requirements to effectively tailor support services for students.

The MSc Accounting and Finance programme is committed to fostering employability and enterprise initiatives that are inclusive and tailored to meet the needs of diverse student groups. We collaborate closely with leading professional bodies such as CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants) and ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) to provide students with a competitive edge. These partnerships include running employer fairs and innovative events like 'speed dating' sessions with employers, offering students direct networking opportunities and insights into potential career paths.

The skills and qualifications obtained through the programme also prepare students for leadership roles in both public and private sector organisations and opportunities in consultancy and entrepreneurship. Graduates of the MSc Accounting and Finance programme are well-prepared to excel in various roles within the accounting and finance sector. Previous alumni have successfully secured positions as Internal Auditors, Accountants, and Auditors across various industries. Many have also joined accounting firms, contributing in areas such as auditing, tax, and risk management. Other career paths pursued by graduates include Financial Analyst, Management Accountant, Forensic Accountant, Financial Controller, and Finance Consultant.

By identifying and addressing barriers to employment, we aim to support all students in achieving their full potential, regardless of their background. Through continuous collaboration with industry partners and professional bodies, we are committed to developing initiatives that help students overcome challenges and thrive in competitive job markets.

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:

- 001 Apply a deep understanding of the breadth and depth of knowledge across the theoretical and practical areas of accounting and finance principles, sustainability reporting and their applications in various business contexts (KU)
- 002 Apply analytical skills in accounting and finance, enabling effective collaboration with professionals from other disciplines and offering expert advice to support informed decision-making. (KU)
- 003 Utilise a range of analytical frameworks to address problems and policy issues, solving challenges to support and implement effective financial management. (KTS)
- 004 Incorporate ethical principles and professional standards in accounting and finance practices, considering the implications of decisions on all stakeholders and their societal impact. This includes reporting on the sustainability performance of businesses using established frameworks and standards. (PPP CS)
- 005 Present financial reports and analyses clearly to stakeholders using both written and oral communication. (KTS SS)
- 006 Critically discuss current and emerging issues in accounting and finance and analyse the impact of these trends and regulatory environments on accounting and financial practices (SS)
- 007 Undertake applied research into an accounting or finance-related business problem bringing in diverse perspectives (SS CS)
- 008 Integrate sustainability concepts, recognise diverse perspectives into financial decision-making, and develop strategies for either start-up businesses or joining the accounting pathway. (PPP CS)
- 009 Demonstrate leadership and teamwork abilities in accounting and finance and work effectively in individual/group settings. (CS)
- 010 Conduct independent research on contemporary issues in accounting and finance, applying appropriate research methods and Present research findings clearly and logically, demonstrating a high level of analytical reasoning.. (SS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

By incorporating diverse learning methods, the MSc in Accounting and Finance program at the University of Westminster ensures a well-rounded, practical, and engaging educational experience, preparing you for a successful career in accounting and finance.

Students will be required to use different strategies to acquire knowledge and understanding of the different concepts. They may be required to work individually, in groups or actively participate in their learning process through discussions, problem-solving, and hands-on activities. We offer flipped-classroom methods whereby students study content independently (often online) before coming to class, where they use the digital platform and online resources provided by the faculty members to enhance their understanding and insights of the accounting concepts and engage in interactive activities and discussions, real-life case studies and scenarios during the workshops or seminars.

You'll be encouraged to keep up to date with market trends and regularly review current events using trade publications such as the Financial Times and the live news streams available in the newly renovated Financial Marketing Suite (FMS). Where possible, we also take you to visit and learn first-hand from various financial institutions and businesses. Previous visits have included a guided tour of the new Bloomberg Headquarters in London and the 'Employers' Speed dating' event at the ACCA HQ in London.

EDI strategy

The diverse range of students we serve at the University of Westminster underpins our desire to teach and offer them a memorable experience during their time on the Accounting and Finance masters programme. We embrace the numerous communities that our students identify with and collaborate with diverse businesses from the Accounting and Finance industry. We are intentional in seeking to include diverse guest speakers, workshop facilitators and a variety of industry visits so that our students can access a wide spectrum of networks and opportunities. This reflects the core commitment of the university itself where we seek to ensure that messages and voices of a multiplicity of communities can be heard arbitrary barriers eliminated. We embrace the challenges that arise from seeking to be ethical and sustainable in our practices so we can ensure fair representation of all groups of people. The students will each have a chance to use technology to develop their learning capabilities and they will also be able to develop their skills inside and outside of the classroom. We include examples from all over the world and actively listen to our students in devising our curriculum offerings. We seek to ensure that our students are supported appropriately regardless of background, capability or learning style. In order to support decolonisation of the curriculum we include a variety of materials and readings from all over the world in the programme. In line with society's drive towards addressing inequalities, we work closely with our disability and well-being teams to support students who have needs that merit reasonable adjustments.

We encourage our students to choose businesses within the varied communities they come from when they have a chance to study Accountancy practices as part of classwork and assignments. In terms of how equality, diversity and inclusion are integrated into modules, the design of the Capstone module for example, enables students to undertake a project focused upon accounting practices in a business in any country of their choosing. The group debate assessment in the Contemporary issues module also permits students to share from the varied perspectives they hold because of their backgrounds and experiences. The Entrepreneurial Accountant module permits students to explore ideas and business models that will fit business contexts they are familiar with. All in all, the programme seeks to embrace equality diversity and inclusion in the way it is delivered and in how learning outcomes are assessed.

Teaching methods

The course team employs a variety of teaching methods—lectures, seminars, workshops, case-study analysis, project work, and pop quizzes—aiming to bring the study of accounting and finance to life through real-world experiences.

The team is committed to providing students with both a solid theoretical foundation and practical knowledge in all aspects of accounting and finance. Students will develop the ability to read and interpret financial statements, provide financial advice, and manage financial risks. Additionally, they will enhance critical analytical skills, allowing them to approach financial challenges from multiple perspectives and study contemporary accounting and corporate governance issues.

Core modules are designed to equip students with the essential educational and technical skills required to meet these objectives. Elective modules offer the flexibility to focus on specific areas of interest, helping students tailor their learning.

The course also emphasises developing key soft skills, such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving, which are critical for success in the workplace. Students will explore the impact of AI on financial decision-making, ensuring they are prepared to navigate an increasingly technology-driven landscape and apply innovative solutions to contemporary financial and governance challenges.

Assessment methods

The MSc Accounting and Finance course is firmly committed to embedding Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) principles across all aspects of teaching and assessment. By regularly revisiting our assessments to ensure that we maximise the opportunity to reflect our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, we ensure that all students benefit from the enrichment that accrues from embracing multiple perspectives and experiences. A range of assessment options is provided, allowing students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in ways that align with their strengths, cultures and prior experiences.

We employ various assessment techniques designed to reflect real-world professional practices and prepare students for the demands of their future careers. These methods are both practical and relevant, incorporating tasks commonly required in the workplace, such as writing strategic reports, collecting and analysing financial data, and presenting findings effectively.

Our assessments fall into three broad categories:

1. **Practical Assessments:** These include dynamic and creative tasks like presentations, posters, and blogs, allowing students to communicate their ideas visually and verbally.
2. **Written Exams:** At the end of each semester, these exams evaluate students' understanding of core concepts and ability to apply knowledge under time constraints. This is a module requirement directly linked with the professional bodies' exemptions.
3. **Coursework:** This category encompasses essays, in-class tests, portfolios, and dissertations, enabling in-depth exploration and analysis of complex topics.

In line with our EDI commitment, all assessments are carefully designed to provide fair opportunities for every student to excel, irrespective of their background or circumstances. By combining diverse assessment methods with an inclusive approach, we aim to create an environment where all students can thrive academically and professionally.

Graduate Attribute	Evident in Course Outcomes
Critical and creative thinker	001, 002, 09
Literate and effective communicator	001, 003, 005, 006, 007
Entrepreneurial	008
Global in outlook and engaged in communities	004, 005, 006, 007, 008
Socially, ethically and environmentally aware	004, 006, 007, 008, 10

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

The programme will have a September and January cohort.

Students are required to choose **ONE Option** each semester.

September Cohort (semester 1) & January Cohort (Semester 2)

Behavioural Finance

Taxation

September Cohort (Semester 2) & January Cohort (Semester 1)

Auditing, Assurance and Professional Ethics

The Entrepreneurial Accountant

Sustainability in Finance with ESG

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7FNCE054W	Capstone Project	Core	40	20
7ACCN043W	Contemporary Issues in Accounting	Core	20	10
7FNCE055W	Corporate Financial Management	Core	20	10
7FNCE057W	Ethics and Corporate Governance	Core	20	10
7FNCE056W	Financial Reporting	Core	20	10
7ACCN041W	Management Accounting	Core	20	10
7ACCN023W	Auditing, Assurance and Professional Ethics	Option	20	10
7FNCE004W	Behavioural Finance	Option	20	10
7FNCE065W	Sustainability in Finance with ESG	Option	20	10
7ACCN040W	Taxation	Option	20	10
7ACCN042W	The Entrepreneurial Accountant	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 Accounting and Finance Programme has applied for accreditation from both the [Association of Chartered Certified Accountants \(ACCA\)](#) and the [Chartered Institute of Management Accountants \(CIMA\)](#). Pending accreditation, graduates of the MSc Accounting and Finance course may qualify for ACCA examinations. They may also go through CIMA's Gateway Route.

Course management

This MSc Accounting and Finance sits within the School of Finance and Accounting, part of Westminster Business School. The following people oversee various aspects of the management of this degree programme:

- The Head of the College for Westminster Business School holds responsibility for all courses offered by Westminster Business School and for the overall quality and delivery of the educational processes.
- The Head of School for the School of Finance and Accounting holds responsibility for the courses that fall within the School of Finance and Accounting.
- The Course Leader for the MSc Accounting and Finance is responsible for the academic integrity of the programme. This includes the everyday management of the course, the 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](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©