

# FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING

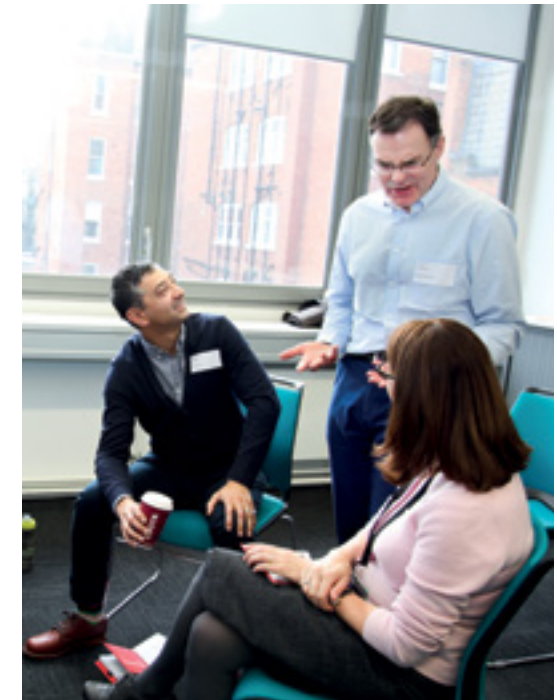
The University of Westminster's full-time Masters programmes in finance and accounting draw on the teaching excellence and research expertise of our academic and professionally qualified staff.

The Global Financial Services Industry is complex and is facing new challenges. At the same time, accelerated demand for talent has created opportunities for new careers. Our courses have an international focus and provide distinctive skills-sets to meet future needs. The University has invested in a purpose built Financial Markets Suite and continued to nurture strong partnerships with professional bodies (CISI and ACCA).

Our taught programmes are uniquely designed to enhance the value of a Masters academic qualification with professional skills. Developing these critical learning and employability skills is at the heart of our student-centred learning approach to grow talent for the global financial services industry.

If you are studying for the Investment and Risk Finance MSc (MScIRF), you will be automatically registered for the student membership of the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment (CISI) – a financial services professional body. The CISI has recognised Westminster Business School as a Centre of Excellence. The Finance and Accounting MSc degree offers up to nine exemptions from ACCA foundation level examinations. The University is an ACCA Gold approved learning partner.

The University also offers a Masters in Finance, with pathways to advance specialist learning in areas of International Finance and Banking.



Westminster is the Centre of Excellence for the **Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment (CISI)**



# FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING MSc

**Length of course:** one year full-time starting in September or January  
**Location:** Central London (see map p200)  
**Fees and funding:** see course web page and [westminster.ac.uk/fees](http://westminster.ac.uk/fees)  
**Entry requirements:** see page p192

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page:  
[westminster.ac.uk/finance-and-accounting-msc](http://westminster.ac.uk/finance-and-accounting-msc)

This course has been designed to develop the knowledge, skills, research interests and career prospects of those who work, or wish to work, in finance, treasury management or accountancy. It's especially useful if you're a graduate with little or no accounting experience, as it offers the opportunity to study modules which will cover this shortfall.

If you are a graduate member of a UK accountancy body, or an overseas equivalent, you may claim up to four exemptions from this Masters by applying for Accreditation of Prior Certificated Learning, see p192. This would enable you to complete the taught part of the course in one semester.

The course provides exemptions from nine of the papers of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) exams. Westminster Business School is an ACCA Gold approved learning partner and one of the few UK institutions where you can qualify for so many ACCA exemptions on completion of a one-year course. Furthermore, graduates of the course have the chance to enter the Gateway route of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA). On successful completion of the Gateway examination, you will gain exemptions from 12 of the 17 CIMA examinations.

## Course content

As a postgraduate finance student you will have access to the Financial Markets Suite, which uses the Bloomberg computer system to monitor real-time financial market movements and trends. It's a resource available to very few UK universities, and one which provides a modern and progressive teaching environment combining finance theory with practice.

A highlight for many students are the social events organised throughout the course which provide an opportunity for networking with fellow students and alumni.

## Core modules

- Financial Accounting Policy and Practice
- Financial Management and Corporate Valuation
- Managerial Accounting
- Project (Finance and Accounting)
- Research Methods in Finance and Accounting
- Taxation Principles and Practice

## Option modules

You must choose a total of three options modules. Normally, the three must come from the following list. However, you may choose one module from anywhere within the University subject to the Course Leader's approval.

- Auditing Assurance and Professional Ethics
- Corporate Governance and Business Ethics
- Data Analysis
- Financial Derivatives
- Financial Information Systems
- Financial Markets and Institutions
- Fixed Income Analysis and Trading
- International Risk Management
- Modern Portfolio Management

## Internship Programme

You can take the internship programme in addition to option modules. The 8-12 weeks accredited internship in a London-based organisation will help you gain invaluable work experience. You will be able to take your internship during the summer period or alongside your studies. You will be responsible for finding your own internship with the support of the Business Experience Team.

## Associated careers

The majority of our graduates go on to successful careers in accounting, with many having secured employment in a 'Big 4' accountancy firm. Other graduates have achieved employment in the fields of finance, banking, in the public sector or in general management careers, as well as going on to run their own business.

# FINANCE (BANKING/INTERNATIONAL FINANCE) MSc

**Length of course:** one year full-time, starting in September  
**Location:** Central London (see map p200)  
**Fees and funding:** see course web page and [westminster.ac.uk/fees](http://westminster.ac.uk/fees)  
**Entry requirements:** see page p192

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page:  
[westminster.ac.uk/finance-banking-msc](http://westminster.ac.uk/finance-banking-msc)  
[westminster.ac.uk/finance-international-finance-msc](http://westminster.ac.uk/finance-international-finance-msc)

The Finance MSc (with Banking or International Finance pathways) has been designed specifically to meet the emerging needs of employers in the global financial services sector. This highly flexible course provides you with financial skills that are at the cutting edge of knowledge and developments in our industry, as well as the freedom to specialise in your area of interest.

This unique mode of study will give you the basic theory and analytical skills you need in finance, followed by in-depth learning either in banking or international finance through specialised modules of study.

You will graduate with the skill set needed for a career in global financial services; being able to solve complex problems in a clear and systematic manner; communicate clearly to inform both specialist and non-specialist audiences; and use appropriate software tools and financial databases to solve complex problems using quantitative methods and models.

## Course content

The Finance MSc course involves both theoretical and practical content, offering you the chance to build on your first degree and/or work experience with a range of knowledge and skills enabling you to become capable of excelling in your career.

All students on the course will follow a common general set of modules in the first semester of study (September to December), following which you will then choose a pathway to specialise in for the remainder of your studies (January to August).

## Core modules

### Both pathways:

- Contemporary Finance
- Financial Modelling
- Financial Risk Management
- Project
- Research Methods

### Banking Pathway:

- Global Banking
- Wealth Management

### International Pathway:

- Financial Statement Analysis and Valuation
- International Financial Management

## Option modules

### Banking Pathway:

- Banking Technology
- Behavioural Finance
- Compliance and Banking Law
- Corporate Financial Strategy
- Investment Banking

### International Finance Pathway:

- Behavioural Finance
- Global Banking
- Global Entrepreneurial Finance
- International Trade Finance
- Project Finance
- Treasury Risk Management

## Internship Programme

You can take the internship programme in addition to option modules. The 8-12 weeks accredited internship in a London-based organisation will help you gain invaluable work experience. You will be able to take your internship during the summer period or alongside your studies. You will be responsible for finding your own internship with the support of the Business Experience Team.

## Associated careers

If you take the banking pathway, you will develop the required advanced skills to take up careers in retail, commercial and private banks in positions such as loan officers, private bankers, private wealth consultants, or within the back and middle offices of an investment bank.

If you take the international finance pathway, you will have the in-depth knowledge of financial theory and practice to pursue careers in areas including international management, consultancy with major international firms operating across national boundaries or international financial analysis.





# INVESTMENT AND RISK FINANCE MSc

This course provides a thorough theoretical and practical grounding in the key aspects of investment and risk finance, delivered in an intensive learning environment. You will learn how to apply the knowledge and theory you have gained in class to real-world problems facing the international financial services industry and the corporate financial management community.

The learning and skills development is integrated with resources available in our Financial Markets Suite (FMS), a state-of-the-art virtual trading room environment, interfaced with the Bloomberg system. Provision of this Bloomberg resource, along with the academic and professional career development opportunities are the main reasons why our students prefer to select this programme.

The Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment (CISI) has recognised Westminster Business School as a Centre of Excellence based on the taught elements of this course. All students enrolled on the course are eligible for the student membership of the institute. Some of the benefits include free attendance at CPD events, accessibility to industry news and online resources.

## Course content

The course consists of core modules which help you acquire the ability to perform quantitative investment and risk analyses on a variety of financial instruments and structured products. You'll also learn how to use capital market products in both investment and risk finance applications. As a result you will develop good transferable skills and solve financial problems in a group setting.

The research and project modules are designed to develop your research abilities and create opportunities to explore finance subject areas of your own interest in more depth, applying the analytical and technical management skills you will encounter to real-life situations.

Social events organised throughout the course provide an opportunity for networking with fellow students and alumni.

**Length of course:** one year full-time, starting in September

**Location:** Central London (see map p200)

**Fees and funding:** see course web page and [westminster.ac.uk/fees](http://westminster.ac.uk/fees)

**Entry requirements:** see page p192

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: [westminster.ac.uk/investment-and-risk-finance-msc](http://westminster.ac.uk/investment-and-risk-finance-msc)

## Core modules

- Data Analysis
- Financial Derivatives
- Modern Portfolio Management
- Project
- Research Methods in Finance and Accounting
- International Risk Management

## Sub-core modules

**Choose two or three of the following:**

- Financial Analysis and Valuation
- Financial Markets and Institutions
- Fixed Income Analysis and Trading
- Forecasting Markets and Risk Modelling

## Option modules

**If you take two sub-core modules, you then need to choose one from the following:**

- Financial Accounting Policy
- Financial Information Systems
- International Financial Reporting
- Managerial Accounting
- Modern Finance

You may also take another module from the postgraduate portfolio, at the Course Leader's discretion.

## Internship Programme

You can take the internship programme in addition to option modules. The 8-12 weeks accredited internship in a London-based organisation will help you gain invaluable work experience. You will be able to take your internship during the summer period or alongside your studies. You will be responsible for finding your own internship with the support of the Business Experience Team.

## Associated careers

Career choices include security and financial analysis, trading and fund management, capital market sales and administration. Our graduates go on to develop careers in treasury and front office positions in investment banks and securities companies. They occupy management positions as financial analysts, finance and sales administrators or similar jobs in the global financial services sector and the corporate finance world.

