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.
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 the 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 as going on to run their own business. The majority of our graduates go on to successful careers in accounting, with many having secured employment in a ‘Big 4’ accounting 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.
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.

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.