

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 in a period of great uncertainty. At the same time, accelerated demand for graduate talent has created opportunities for new careers. Our innovative courses have an international focus and are developed in close collaboration with employers and professional bodies such as CISI and ACCA to provide the distinctive skills-set that is required to meet future needs. The University has invested in a purpose-built Financial Markets Suite to provide a state-of-the-art teaching and learning resource, which is widely used in leading investment banks around the world.

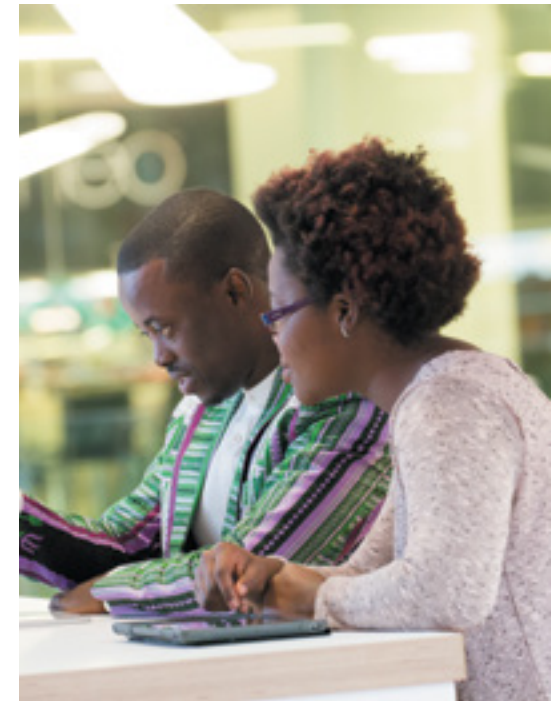
Our taught programmes are uniquely designed to enhance the value of a Masters academic qualification with professional skills. If you are studying for the Investment and Risk Finance MSc, you will be automatically registered for student membership of the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment (CISI). The Finance and Accounting MSc offers up to nine exemptions from the ACCA examinations.

In addition, you will acquire advanced critical reasoning and employability skills. A well-rounded education lies at the heart of our student-centred approach to nurture your talent and prepare you for a successful career in the financial services industry.

We have a growing portfolio of new courses in emerging areas of Finance. Please see our website for the most up-to-date information.

As someone with no previous experience in accounting or finance, I was fearful at first, but the fascinating subject material and knowledgeable yet approachable lecturers have gifted me with a far broader outlook on life.

Kristina Laasik, Finance and Accounting MSc



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



FINANCE (BANKING/ INTERNATIONAL FINANCE) MSc

Length of course: one year full-time, starting in September
Location: Central London (see map p196)
Fees and funding: see course web page and 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
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 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 specialist pathway 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 Work 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.

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING MSc

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This course has been designed to develop the knowledge, skills, research interests and career prospects of those who work, or wish to work, in accountancy, finance or treasury management. If you are a graduate with little or no accounting experience and wish to pursue a career in accountancy, this will be an excellent course as it offers the opportunity to study modules which will cover this shortfall.

If you are a full 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 may enable you to complete the taught part of the course in one semester.

The course provides exemptions from up to nine (F1 to F9) 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. Graduates of the course are also eligible for 11 exemptions from CIMA – Chartered Institute of Management Accountants via the Masters Gateway, an accelerated entry route to the CIMA professional Qualification and globally recognised CGMA designation.

Course content

As a postgraduate Finance and Accounting 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 is 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

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Associated careers

The majority of our graduates go on to successful careers in various areas of accounting. Other graduates find employment in the fields of finance, banking, in the public sector or in general management, while some go on to run their own businesses.



INVESTMENT AND RISK FINANCE MSc

The Investment and Risk Finance MSc (IRF) provides a thorough theoretical and practical grounding in key aspects of investment and risk finance, delivered in an intensive learning environment. You will learn how to apply knowledge and theory gained in class to real-world problems facing the international financial services industry and the corporate financial management community.

Learning and skills development is integrated with resources available in our Financial Markets Suite (FMS), a state-of-the-art trading room equipped with industry-standard Bloomberg terminals. Using Bloomberg is a key part of many taught modules, providing students with both academic and professional skills. Acquiring hands on skills, which are attractive to employers, is one reason why many students 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 IRF MSc students are sponsored by the University to join the CISI. The University pays fees associated with sitting the CISI exams after graduation. Your IRF MSc programme already covers the bulk of material in the CISI exam. Successful completion of this single exam allows graduates to add CISI to their qualifications. CISI membership also includes free attendance at CPD events, access 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 analysis on a variety of financial instruments and structured products. You will also learn how to use capital market products in both investment and risk finance applications. As a result, you will develop solid transferable skills and solve financial problems in a group setting.

The Project module is designed to allow you to explore a specific subject area of your own interest in greater depth. This module allows you to focus your IRF MSc qualification towards the precise job you would like to secure after graduation.

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Social events organised throughout the course provide an opportunity for networking with fellow students and alumni. Each week, short, two to three minute School of Finance & Accounting Explainer Videos are available, covering a Fintech topic in clear terms. A video reviewing and forecasting global markets for the week ahead is also sent. Both are intended to provide additional insight into industry trends and global markets, adding to your practical knowledge and employability. All videos are viewable on mobile devices.

Core modules

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

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
- High Frequency Trading

Option modules

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

- Banking Technology
- Financial Accounting Policy
- Financial Information Systems
- International Financial Reporting

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

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 firms. 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.



University Affiliation Program  CFA Institute®