

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**  
**Postgraduate Programme Specification**

**1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>Award</b>	<b>Programme Title</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Mode of study</b>
MSc	Accounting & Finance	1 year	Full time
PG Dip	Accounting & Finance	9 months	Full time (Exit Award Only)
PG Cert	Accounting & Finance	6 months	Full time (Exit Award Only)

<b>School</b>	<a href="#">Alliance</a> Manchester Business School
<b>Faculty</b>	Faculty of Humanities
<b>Awarding Institution</b>	University of Manchester
<b>Programme Accreditation</b>	None
<b>Relevant QAA benchmark(s)</b>	None

**2. PROGRAMME AIMS**

The programme's primary aim is to provide students with a knowledge and understanding of the main theoretical and applied concepts in accounting and finance at an advanced level and to provide instruction and practice in conducting advanced research in accounting and finance. To this end, the programme offers teaching informed by theoretical and empirical research and taught by research active staff. The programme meets the requirements of the national qualifications framework for a level M (Masters) degree and conforms with the ESRC guidelines for Masters degrees.

<b>PG Dip and MSc</b>	
1.	Provide students with advanced knowledge and understanding of the conceptual and applied aspects of accounting and finance as an academic discipline at Masters level.
2.	Provide students with instruction in those areas of accounting and finance that are necessary for a proper understanding of the discipline.
3.	Place accounting and finance within their broader economic, behavioural, and organisational contexts.
4.	Provide students with the opportunity to study accounting and finance jointly with those study areas that are relevant for a proper understanding of the discipline. Such areas of study include quantitative and qualitative methods of investigation for formal research enquiry, and management information systems.
5.	Develop students' powers of inquiry, critical analysis, and logical thinking and to apply theoretical knowledge to current issues of policy and practice.
6.	Encourage initiative, independent learning, and commitment to scholarship.
7.	Develop core skills in: computer literacy, numeracy, use of databases and IT skills, problem-solving, written and oral communication, report writing and presentation.
8.	Provide students with the knowledge and skills to equip them for a range of careers in accounting and finance, in industrial firms and the service and public sectors, and to prepare them for higher study and academic research in the area
9.	Create awareness of the range of methodological approaches to research and problem solving and their implications for research findings
<b>MSc only</b>	
10.	Enable MSc students to apply advanced research skills to a relevant research area

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### 3. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME(S)

<b>A. Knowledge and understanding</b>	
Students should have:	
<b>PG Cert Dip and MSc</b>	
<b>A1.</b>	an advanced knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework of accounting and finance
<b>A2.</b>	an advanced knowledge and understanding of core theoretical models of accounting and finance and an awareness of the associated empirical evidence that supports them
<b>A3.</b>	an advanced understanding of how accounting and finance inform and are informed by the economic, behavioural, and organisational contexts in which firms operate
<b>A4.</b>	an advanced knowledge and understanding of the concepts and issues associated with financial reporting and the links between internal reporting systems and external reporting for internal and external (management) control.
<b>A5.</b>	an advanced knowledge of the effects of management information system design and its usefulness for decision making
<b>A6.</b>	an advanced knowledge and understanding of selected specialised fields of academic accounting and finance, including a familiarity with current developments and issues, together with, an understanding of the limits of such knowledge and the effects of this on analysis and interpretation
<b>A7.</b>	an advanced knowledge and understanding of the terminology and practices, and the limitations of accounting; a knowledge and understanding of the preparation and use of financial statements; further knowledge and understanding of aspects of financial reporting or managerial accounting/management information systems, complementary to finance, as chosen by the student
<b>A8.</b>	knowledge and experience in the development of a research enquiry and the ability to select the tools necessary for executing the research; the skills to pursue independent learning, to analyse and interpret quantitative and qualitative data and to present results in a form that is appropriate
<b>MSc only</b>	
<b>A9.</b>	a critical awareness of research issues, methodologies, and methods in accounting and finance, combined with a knowledge and experience of corresponding skills in planning and managing a research project, equipping them to carry out a piece of original research.
<b>A10.</b>	an awareness of how to produce an original piece of academic research in the form of a dissertation, demonstrating a critical knowledge of the associated research literature and an awareness of the implications and of the limitations of the research findings

**Learning and teaching processes** (to allow students to achieve intended learning outcomes)

We use a variety of teaching methods depending on the nature of the subject matter and learning objectives. Teaching methods include lectures and workshops. Lectures are the main method of imparting knowledge, interpretation, and understanding. The styles of lecturing depend on the nature of the material.

Students supplement lecture material with directed reading, including textbooks and journal articles and the preparation of assignments and exercises in advance of workshops and tutorials. Students also learn through assessed essays and preparation of reports, group projects, and individual dissertations (for MSc students) on a topic of personal interest to the student.

Section 6 maps course units into ILOs.

**Assessment** (of intended learning outcomes)

All examinations and course work are assessed using a numerical marking scheme. Dissertations are also assessed using a numerical marking scheme typically without an oral examination.

Most courses are assessed by an essay/project and an unseen examination paper. Feedback on assessed work is passed to students and details of their performance against expectation are noted for each assignment/ examination during the marking process.

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Supervisors suggest dissertation topics. Dissertations may be supervised in groups around a common theme. Students meet with supervisors 5 times for briefing, advice, evaluation, and monitoring progress. Dissertations are normally about ~~45-30~~ to ~~85-45~~ pages.

### B. Intellectual skills

Students should have developed:

#### PG Dip and MSc

- B1.** the ability to synthesise and evaluate data
- B2.** skills in solving problems, including the ability to manipulate financial and other numerical data and to apply statistical concepts or methods at an appropriate level
- B3.** powers of inquiry, logical thinking, and critical analysis of arguments and evidence
- B4.** skills in interpreting and evaluating theoretical arguments and empirical evidence
- B5.** the ability to formulate and test hypotheses, and interpret empirical results
- B6.** the capacity for independent and self-managed learning
- B7.** the ability to plan, execute, and report on a piece of independent empirical research in the form of an academic article

#### Learning and teaching processes

Combination of lectures, workshops, and tutorials. Much learning in accounting and finance is achieved through a problem-solving approach. Students evaluate, synthesise, and critique arguments and also collect, analyse and evaluate data. By the time all the courses are delivered students have acquired knowledge that enables them to make a good start on their dissertations. Students are expected to supplement lecture material with directed reading. Preparation in advance of workshops and tutorial is expected.

#### Assessment

Unseen examinations; assessed coursework in the form of essays, reports, group projects, and individual research projects with strict deadlines.

### C. Practical Skills

Students should be able to:

- C1.** gather data from a financial database and from alternative sources of financial information
- C2.** use sources of financial information, including press coverage of business issues, in an informed way
- C3.** correctly cite, acknowledge, and reference sources
- C4.** use communications and information technology in acquiring, analysing, and communicating information (spreadsheets, word-processing, on-line databases)
- C5.** present quantitative and qualitative information, together with analysis, argument, and commentary, in a form appropriate to the intended audience
- C6.** manage project work effectively

#### Learning and teaching processes

#### Assessment

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Teaching and learning methods are evaluated in terms of the quality of students' output and effectiveness in providing and communicating the information required. Students develop practical skills through workshops and assessed coursework.



See Section 6 for a mapping of course units into ILOs and where these are assessed.

### D. Transferable skills and personal qualities

**Students should be able to:**

- D1.** Participate constructively in teams or groups
- D2.** Structure and present ideas effectively orally, visually, and in writing
- D3.** Manage time and work to deadlines
- D4.** Exercise initiative and self-reliance skills, and work independently
- D5.** Exercise numeracy and computational skills
- D6.** Appreciate alternative viewpoints
- D7.** Demonstrate IT skills including use of the Internet, word processing, spreadsheets and software packages, e.g., SAS



#### Learning and teaching processes

Teaching and learning methods are evaluated in terms of the quality of students' output and effectiveness in providing and communicating the information required. Students develop transferable skills through workshops and assessed coursework.



#### Assessment

See Section 6 for a mapping of course units into ILOs and where these are assessed.



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**4. THE STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME(S)**

*General requirements*

All students enter on the MSc programme. Students exit from either the MSc, Diploma or Certificate programme depending on performance or choice (see Programme Handbook for further details).

The duration of the programme is 12 months: an 8 month taught programme totaling 120 credits followed by 4 months spent on the dissertation, which carries 60 credits. The diploma program of study comprises a 12 month taught programme totaling 120 credits. The certificate program of study comprises a 6 month taught programme totaling 60 credits.

Programme structure	Credits
<b>Semester 1</b>	
<b>Three Accounting and Finance core course units</b>	
BMAN 71111 <del>Essentials of Finance</del> <u>Asset Pricing</u>	15
BMAN 70241 Corporate Financial Reporting	15
BMAN 70211 Cross-sectional Econometrics	15
<b>One from the following Options†</b>	
BMAN 71171 Portfolio Investment	15
BMAN 71291 International Accounting Practice and Regulation	15
BMAN <del>74211</del> <del>4181 International Finance</del> <u>Accounting &amp; Financial Perspectives for Small &amp; Medium Enterprises</u>	15
<b>Semester 2</b>	
<b>Three Accounting and Finance core course units</b>	
<b>Either</b> BMAN 70232 Advanced Management Accounting <b>OR</b>	15
BMAN 72912 Corporate Governance <del>in an Accounting Context</del>	
BMAN 71152 Corporate Finance	15
BMAN 71282 Qualitative Research Methods	15
<b>One from the following Options†</b>	
BMAN 71122 Time-series Econometrics	15
BMAN 71132 Financial Statement Analysis	15
<del>BMAN 70192 Real Options in Corporate Finance</del>	15
BMAN 70432 Mergers and Acquisitions: Economic and Financial Aspects	15
<del>BMAN 62022 Managerial Economics</del>	15
<del>BMAN 73182 Accounting and Society</del>	15
<u>BMAN 70162 Current Issues in Empirical Finance</u>	
<u>BMAN 70232 Advanced Management Accounting</u> <b>OR</b>	
<u>BMAN 72912 Corporate Governance</u>	
<b>MSc Dissertation</b>	
<b>BMAN60000 MSc Dissertation in Accounting</b>   <b>BMAN65000 MSc Dissertation in Finance</b>	60
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>180</b>

\*Note: Dissertation topic leaders might suggest as pre-requisite for their topic a course unit that is not listed above as core. Hence, the choice of dissertation topics could dictate the choice of options/electives.

†The offering of any optional courses is subject to a sufficient level of student enrolment on courses.

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**5. STUDENT INDUCTION, SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT** (in order to deliver the intended learning outcomes, including dissertation support and guidance)

**Induction**

All students attend an initial, week-long, induction when they are welcomed, registered, provided with information and advice about a wide range of matters (library and IT facilities, channels of communication, learning resources, student support services, student representation in the committee structure, etc.), and receive introductory lectures on generic issues relating to their postgraduate studies.

**Programme handbooks**

All students access the Online Programme Handbook on arrival. This includes comprehensive information on all aspects of the programme, and has specific advice on the dissertation process and the support available. The handbook also contains practical information about Alliance Manchester Business School and the Faculty of Humanities.

All information is also available on the web and intranet sites for AMBS and the Faculty of Humanities.

**Support**

There is a Programme Director and a Programme Administrator. The Programme Director reviews student progress and students are encouraged to contact the Programme Director or PG Administrator should they need academic guidance or to discuss issues of a personal nature. Students are encouraged to make full use of the University support services, including the accommodation services, the Careers Service, the Office of Student Support and Services, the Student Services Centre—full details are in the programme handbook.

Students have the opportunity to undertake a 'Managing Skills for your Career' personal development plan. 'Managing Skills for your Career' is a structured and supported process undertaken by an individual to reflect upon their learning, performance and achievement and to plan for their personal, educational and career development. The primary objective of MSC is to improve the capacity of individuals to understand what and how they are learning, and to review, plan and taken responsibility for their own learning.

**IT support**

Postgraduate students have access to several dedicated clusters of PCs in AMBS, as well as several other clusters across the University.

**Student representation**

Student representatives and staff teaching on the programme are invited to attend meetings of the Divisional Programme Committee. The Students' Union offers training and support for students in this role. These meetings review, amongst other things, teaching issues. An Annual Programme Review is conducted in the second semester, with particular attention paid to assessments of the Programme's aims and learning outcomes and the extent to which stated aims are being achieved.

**Overseas students**

We encourage overseas students to attend English Language courses provided by the University Language Centre. AMBS also has an International Society providing peer support for overseas students and international students on this programme are eligible to join.

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**6. CURRICULUM MAP OF COURSE UNITS AGAINST INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME**

Course code and title		Knowledge and understanding												Intellectual skills							Practical skills					Transferable skills and personal qualities							
Code	Course Unit title	C/O	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	
BMAN 70211	Cross-sectional Econometrics	C	DA		DA	DA				DA	DA		DA			DA	DA	DA							DA	DA		DA		DA			
BMAN 70241	Corporate Financial Reporting	C	DA	DA	DA	DA									DA	DA		DA				DA			DA		DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA
BMAN 71111	Essentials of FinanceAsset Pricing	C	DA	DA	DA		DA		DA		DA		DA				DA		DA	DA	DA		DA			DA	DA	DA		DA	DA		
BMAN 71132	Financial Statement Analysis	O	DA	DA	DA		DA		DA		DA		DA				DA		DA	DA	DA		DA			DA	DA	DA		DA	DA		
BMAN 74211	Accounting & Financial Perspectives for Small & Medium Enterprises	O	DA	DA	DA	DA		DA	DA				DA		DA			DA	DA		DA		DA	DA			DA	DA	DA	DA	DA		
BMAN 71152	Corporate Finance	C	DA	DA	DA				DA	DA			DA											DA			DA		DA	DA	DA	DA	
BMAN 70232	Advanced Management Accounting	C	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA								DA	DA		DA			DA	D				DA	DA	DA	DA		DA	DA	
BMAN 71282	Qualitative Research Methods	C	DA	DA						DA	DA	DA	DA	DA		DA	DA	DA			DA	DA		DA		DA		DA	DA		DA		
BMAN 71122	Time-series Econometrics	O		DA	DA					DA	DA	DA	DA		DA		DA		DA	DA	DA		DA			DA	DA			DA	DA		
BMAN 71171	Portfolio Investment	O	DA	DA	DA			DA	DA	DA	DA		DA										DA			DA		DA		DA	DA		
BMAN 71181	International Finance	O		DA	DA				DA				DA		DA								DA			DA		DA		DA	DA		
BMAN 71291	International Accounting Practice and Regulation	O	DA	DA	DA	DA			DA		DA		DA	DA	DA	DA		DA	DA		DA	D	DA			DA		DA	DA		DA		
BMAN 70432	Mergers and Acquisitions: Economic and Financial Aspects	O						DA							DA	DA		DA														DA	
BMAN 70162	Current Issues in Empirical Finance	O	DA	DA		DA		DA		DA		DA	DA	DA	DA	DA		DA	DA	DA	DA		DA	DA	DA	DA		DA		DA	DA		
BMAN 73182	Accounting and Society	O	DA	DA	DA	DA		DA			DA				DA	DA		DA			DA			DA		DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA
BMAN 72912	Corporate Governance in an Accounting Context	C	DA	DA	DA	DA		DA		DA	DA				DA	DA		DA	DA		DA			DA		DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA
BMAN70192	Real-Options in Corporate Finance	O		DA											DA	DA						DA		DA					DA	DA		DA	
BMAN62022	Managerial Economics	O	DA	DA	DA												DA					DA			DA								
BMAN 60000	MSc Dissertation	C	DA	DA	DA		DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA

**D = this course unit teaches or develops the intended learning outcome of the programme**  
**A = This course unit assesses the intended learning outcomes of the programme**

**C = compulsory course unit**  
**O = optional course unit**

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### 7. CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

We normally look for a UK bachelor degree with first or upper second class honours or the overseas equivalent, with excellent results in accounting and finance subjects.

When assessing ~~your students'~~ academic record, we take into account ~~your~~~~their~~ grade average, position in class, references and the standing of the institution where ~~you~~~~they~~ studied ~~your~~~~their~~ qualification.

~~You~~ ~~Students~~ need to have studied or be studying a degree in accounting or finance. We can also consider exceptional candidates with degrees in economics or mathematics. ~~You~~ ~~Students~~ must have taken a significant number of courses in accounting and finance during ~~your~~~~their~~ degree, and a major or specialisation in accounting and/or finance in ~~your~~~~their~~ final year, with top level results in final year accounting and finance subjects. ~~You~~ ~~They~~ must also demonstrate a solid background in quantitative skills, econometrics or maths.

We can consider applicants studying degrees in business administration, business management or commerce who can demonstrate a very strong background in accounting and finance throughout their degree and a final year major or specialisation in accounting or finance, and strong quantitative skills. Due to competition for places, we give preference to applicants with a bachelor degree in accounting or finance.

We highly recommend GMAT or GRE for applications to all our accounting and finance related programmes. We anticipate a well-balanced score with a strong performance in the quantitative sections.

#### English language:

For the latest information on demonstrating your English proficiency for those whose first language is not English, please see our [language requirements](#).

#### English language test validity:

Some English language test results are only valid for two years. Your English language test report must be valid on the start date of the course.

#### Other international entry requirements:

We accept a range of qualifications from different countries. For these and general requirements see [entry requirements for your country](#).

### 8. PROGRESSION AND ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

The ordinances and regulations for the degrees of Masters, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate will apply to this programme. Details of the ordinances and regulations can be found at <http://www.tlso.manchester.ac.uk/degree-regulations/postgraduatedegreeeregulations/>

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