

MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

MSc (TOP-UP) BLENDED

FINANCIAL CRIME AND COMPLIANCE IN DIGITAL SOCIETIES

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COURSE OVERVIEW

In the face of increasingly sophisticated financial crime concerns, it is crucial that professionals in decision-making roles are equipped with the skills and expertise needed to understand and respond to these challenges.

This leading, top-up master's will provide you with the additional digital edge you need to sharpen your knowledge and develop strong governance, risk and compliance strategies to combat ever-evolving threats.

MSc

Next enrolment: September 2027

12 months (part-time)

£12,200 (UK/EU/International)

Learning through online video, audio, and text-based materials

Approx. 20 hours per week

Apply your learning into practice and gain a deeper understanding of theories and strategies

24/7 library and course material access

BUILT FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The course is specifically designed for working professionals in the financial crime, governance and compliance fields keen to complete a practical course that will aid career development.

DEVELOPED WITH THE ICA

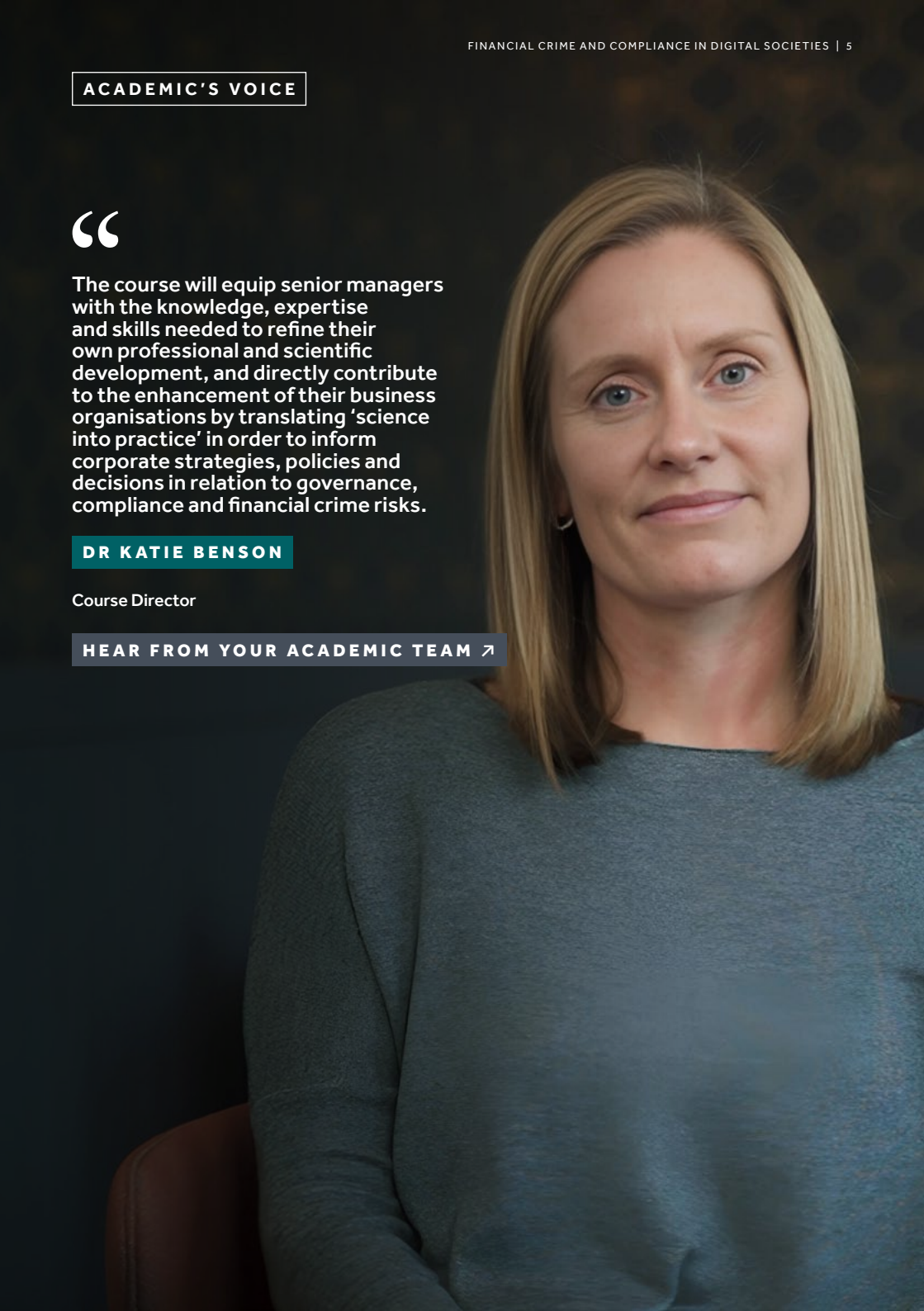
You will learn the latest knowledge from the subject area leaders - The University of Manchester and the International Compliance Association (ICA). The cutting-edge research of our Department of Criminology combined with ICA's globally recognised standards will ensure that you build on your practical knowledge and boost your career.

ICA INTERNATIONAL COMPLIANCE ASSOCIATION

PRACTICAL MASTERCLASSES

You will have the opportunity to join exclusive practical masterclasses, giving you a chance to network and reinforceyour expertise.

ACADEMIC'S VOICE



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The course will equip senior managers with the knowledge, expertise and skills needed to refine their own professional and scientific development, and directly contribute to the enhancement of their business organisations by translating 'science into practice' in order to inform corporate strategies, policies and decisions in relation to governance, compliance and financial crime risks.

DR KATIE BENSON

Course Director

HEAR FROM YOUR ACADEMIC TEAM ↗

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

This MSc is designed for professionals with senior management functions in business with strategic and decision-making responsibilities for GRC and financial crime risks.

In this course, you'll benefit from The University of Manchester Department of Criminology's leading academic work around financial crime and fraud. Delivered flexibly online, you can seamlessly integrate your learning into your life and work schedule. With three practical masterclasses per year, you'll have the opportunity to make professional connections and get involved in interactive workshops to deliver governance and compliance best practice.

Through this course, we'll equip you with the knowledge, expertise and skills needed to refine your own professional and scientific development. By translating 'science into practice', you will directly contribute to the enhancement of your business organisation, informing corporate strategies, policies and decisions in relation to governance, compliance and financial crime risks.

This course is also a stepping stone for those considering to study for a PhD.



BENEFITS TO YOUR CAREER

The MSc in Financial Crime and Compliance in Digital Societies is designed to provide you with an operational toolkit to lead initiatives in governance, risk and compliance within your field.

You'll be provided with practical, actionable tools to enhance your work in governance, risk, f inancial crime and compliance amidst an increasingly complex, digital landscape.

+ **Take the lead in securing your organisation**
  Apply concepts, ideas and theories related to financial crime and compliance to 'real-world' practical contexts related to your own workplace or sector.

+ **Technological awareness and strategic responses**
  Critically assess the financial crime, compliance and security-related opportunities and risks presented by various existing and emerging digital technologies.

+ **Be an expert in your field**
  Design and conduct research on financial crime, compliance or governance-related issues relevant to your workplace practice.

+ **Build your professional network**
  You'll make lifelong connections across fields and economies at our practical masterclasses, enhancing your network and providing a strengthened global context to your professional practice.



PRACTICAL MASTERCLASSES

You will have the opportunity to join three exclusive practical masterclasses each year, giving you a chance to network and reinforce your expertise.



I find the in-person masterclasses very valuable. You interact with professionals from diverse backgrounds, external speakers with differing areas of specialism, and you have the opportunity to collaborate with peers and course academics. You meet people who may help your career development and you can make friends for life.

RACHEL
Risk Specialist
Financial Services

RENOWNED ACADEMICS

These practical masterclasses will be your opportunity to strengthen your learning and connect with your global community. Held over three days in Week 4 of each unit, they involve talks by The University of Manchester academics and interactive workshops with subject experts on related and topical issues.

HANDS-ON LEARNING

In these practical masterclasses, you'll benefit by participating in hands-on activities related to your studies, learning from industry leaders and working with your course peers.

BOOST YOUR SKILLS AND CONNECTIONS

You'll enrich your study experience, enhance your practical skills and boost your international connections. While the masterclasses will take place in Manchester, they will also be streamed or recorded for those unable to attend.

INDUSTRY VOICE



“We are delighted to be partnering with the University of Manchester on the world leading MSc Top up programme. This programme reflects the longstanding partnership of over twenty years between our two institutions.

The MSc in Financial Crime and Compliance in Digital Societies is a pioneering qualification which equips the leaders of today and tomorrow in Compliance, Risk and Financial Crime Prevention to manage in constantly evolving landscape of technology, geopolitics and uncertainty. The program has a unique mix of practical and academic content provided by world leading subject matter experts which will enable you to take your career to the next level.

PEKKA DARE

President, ICA

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

You will learn the new best practice in governance, risk, compliance and financial crime prevention in the face of new challenges posed in digital societies, through the following units:

01

COMPLIANCE AND FINANCIAL CRIME RISK - ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION (20 CREDITS)

- Understand motivations and propensities for engaging in risky practices.
- Learn how company cultures, structures and policies can inadvertently encourage problematic behaviour.

02

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES, FINANCIAL CRIME AND COMPLIANCE (20 CREDITS)

- Identify issues that arise in relation to digital trust, digital security and digital vulnerabilities.
- Gain insight into digital vulnerabilities such as misinformation and the implications for business.
- Focus on cyber-enabled financial crime risks.

03

DATA, EVIDENCE AND INTELLIGENCE ON FINANCIAL CRIME AND COMPLIANCE (20 CREDITS)

- Learn about the processes, approaches, challenges and ethical considerations that underpin the production of evidence and intelligence on financial crime and compliance.
- Enhance your ability to undertake evidence-based research based on your existing knowledge.
- Develop methods to evaluate policies on financial crime and compliance and their impact.

04

LONG DISSERTATION OR SHORT DISSERTATION (60 CREDITS)

- Option 1 - Long Dissertation, original empirical research and 10,000-12,000 word dissertation.
- Option 2 - Short Dissertation, 6,000 - 8,000 words + 2 Research Skills in Practice topics.

ACADEMIC'S VOICE



“Financial crime and compliance risks in digital societies can be complex and businesses need to be prepared for the challenges they create.
As Professor of Criminology at The University of Manchester, my research has primarily focused on financial and economic crimes such as fraud, corruption and money laundering, and their control and regulation.
This course will equip you with the latest theoretical and practical knowledge making you well-placed to implement, where necessary, organisational change in governance, risk, compliance and financial crime prevention, and accelerate your career development.

PROFESSOR NICHOLAS LORD

Professor of Criminology and Director of the Centre for Digital Trust and Society

01 COMPLIANCE AND FINANCIAL CRIME RISKS – ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION



COMPLIANCE AND FINANCIAL CRIME RISKS – ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION (20 CREDITS)

ABOUT THIS UNIT

This unit provides an advanced introduction to the theoretical and analytical frameworks used to understand compliance and financial crime risks within businesses.

You'll explore how individual motivations, organisational structures, and broader political-economic environments contribute to non-compliance and financial crime. Through case studies and conceptual analysis, you'll examine how and why opportunities for misconduct arise, how transgressions are concealed, and what strategies could prevent them.

The unit equips you with a multi-level theoretical toolkit to assess risks, understand regulatory responses, and inform policy and practice aimed at making organisations more robust, efficient, and compliant.

Topics include individual and organisational risk factors, modes of analysis such as scripting and network approaches, and case studies on globalised economies, anti-money laundering, and modern slavery.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Apply core concepts, theoretical frameworks and modes of analysis related to financial crime, governance and (non)-compliance to relevant cases and workplace practice.
- Integrate theory with professional experience to inform strategy and operational policy.
- Apply a range of transferable skills, including critical thinking, effective communication, independent learning, and digital literacy.

KEY INFORMATION



200 hours total study time (approx. 20 hours per week part-time)



Teaching through online video, audio, and text-based materials, optional weekly office hours, and practical masterclass



Assessment via a written case identification and justification, screencast/presentation with audio (20 minutes), and a written critical reflection

02 DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES, FINANCIAL CRIMES AND COMPLIANCE



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES, FINANCIAL CRIMES AND COMPLIANCE (20 CREDITS)

ABOUT THIS UNIT

This unit explores the intersection of digital technologies and financial crime, equipping you with the knowledge to navigate both the opportunities and risks that digital transformation brings to business compliance.

You'll examine how digital systems can support regulatory change and enhance business efficiency, while also understanding the vulnerabilities they introduce.

The unit covers key topics such as digital trust, cybersecurity, misinformation, and the governance challenges posed by emerging technologies like FinTech, RegTech, and cryptocurrencies. You'll also explore cyber-enabled financial crimes—including money laundering, corruption, and illicit finance—and how businesses can respond strategically.

Through a blend of theoretical insight and practical application, this unit prepares you to integrate digital awareness into compliance strategies and policy development.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Critically assess the financial crime, compliance and security-related opportunities and risks presented by various existing and emerging digital technologies.
- Develop strategies to mitigate cyber-threats involving people, technologies, and data.
- Design and conduct research on financial crime, compliance or governance-related issues relevant to their workplace practice.

KEY INFORMATION



200 hours total study time (approx. 20 hours per week part-time)



Teaching through online video, audio, and text-based materials, optional weekly office hours, and practical masterclass



Assessment via online quizzes, reflections, and commentaries

03 DATA, EVIDENCE AND INTELLIGENCE ON FINANCIAL CRIME AND COMPLIANCE



DATA, EVIDENCE AND INTELLIGENCE ON FINANCIAL CRIME AND COMPLIANCE (20 CREDITS)

ABOUT THIS UNIT

This unit equips you with the knowledge and skills to critically engage with data, evidence, and intelligence related to financial crime and compliance.

You'll learn about the processes and approaches that underpin the production of data, evidence and intelligence on financial crime, compliance and non-compliance

You'll learn how to design and assess empirical research projects, interpret social scientific data, and evaluate whether compliance policies are effective in practice. The unit bridges the gap between academic research and professional practice, enabling you to make informed decisions and contribute to evidence-led governance within your organisation.

Topics include identifying intelligence gaps, intensive and extensive research methods, big data analysis, and designing your own research project.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Explain the processes, approaches, challenges and ethical considerations that underpin the production of data, evidence and intelligence on financial crime and compliance.
- Formulate original research questions and design a research project, utilising relevant theoretical and methodological frameworks.
- Communicate and justify research approaches, methods and findings in financial crime and compliance.

KEY INFORMATION



200 hours total study time (approx. 20 hours per week part-time)



Teaching through online video, audio, and text-based materials, optional weekly office hours, and practical masterclass



Assessment via a written research question and justification, research strategy and design, and research methods and data analysis

04 OPTION 1: LONG DISSERTATION



OPTION 1: LONG DISSERTATION (60 CREDITS)

ABOUT THIS UNIT

This unit offers you the opportunity to undertake a substantial piece of independent research in the field of financial crime and compliance.

Building on the theoretical and methodological foundations developed throughout the programme, you'll apply your knowledge to a focused research project of your own design.

Students selecting this option will complete a traditional dissertation of 10,000–12,000 words, typically based on original empirical research. You'll receive one-to-one supervision from an academic expert and are encouraged to develop your dissertation from the research proposal created in Unit 3.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of a topic related to financial crime and/or compliance in digital societies.
- Formulate a clear and feasible research question or hypothesis based on a critical review of the literature.
- Conduct independent empirical research using appropriate data collection and analysis techniques.
- Communicate complex research findings effectively in written form to academic and professional audiences.

KEY INFORMATION



600 hours total study time (approx. 20 hours per week part-time)



Up to 4 hours of one-to-one academic supervision



Assessment via a long dissertation (10,000–12,000 words)

04 OPTION 2: SHORT DISSERTATION



OPTION 2: SHORT DISSERTATION (60 CREDITS)

ABOUT THIS UNIT

This unit offers an alternative dissertation pathway for students who prefer a structured, literature-based research project.

Instead of conducting original empirical research, you'll complete a 6,000–8,000-word extended essay that explores a specific issue in financial crime or compliance through a systematic review of the literature.

To support this, you'll also complete two 10-credit Research Skills in Practice modules: Critical Appraisal of the Literature, and Your Responsibilities as a Researcher. These modules provide foundational research skills and are tailored to the financial crime and compliance context.

This pathway is ideal for students at an earlier stage of research development or those seeking a more guided approach to independent study.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of a topic related to financial crime and/or compliance in digital societies.
- Synthesise academic, official, and grey literature to construct coherent, evidence-based arguments.
- Conduct independent desk-based research using appropriate search strategies and critical appraisal methods.
- Communicate findings of in-depth literature review clearly and concisely in written form.

KEY INFORMATION



600 hours total study time (approx. 20 hours per week part-time)



At least one and up to five one-to-one supervision meetings (minimum 30 minutes each)



Assessment via a **short dissertation** (6,000 - 8,000 words) (30 Credits) and completion of **2 Research Skills in Practice modules** (30 Credits)

STUDY TIMELINE

September — November

01

COMPLIANCE AND FINANCIAL CRIME RISKS – ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION (20 CREDITS)

10 WEEKS

November — February

02

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES, FINANCIAL CRIME AND COMPLIANCE (20 CREDITS)

10 WEEKS

March — May

03

DATA, EVIDENCE AND INTELLIGENCE ON FINANCIAL CRIME AND COMPLIANCE (20 CREDITS)

10 WEEKS

March — September

04

LONG DISSERTATION OR SHORT DISSERTATION (60 CREDITS)

20 WEEKS

Although the order of units is scheduled in advance, it may be subject to occasional adjustments.

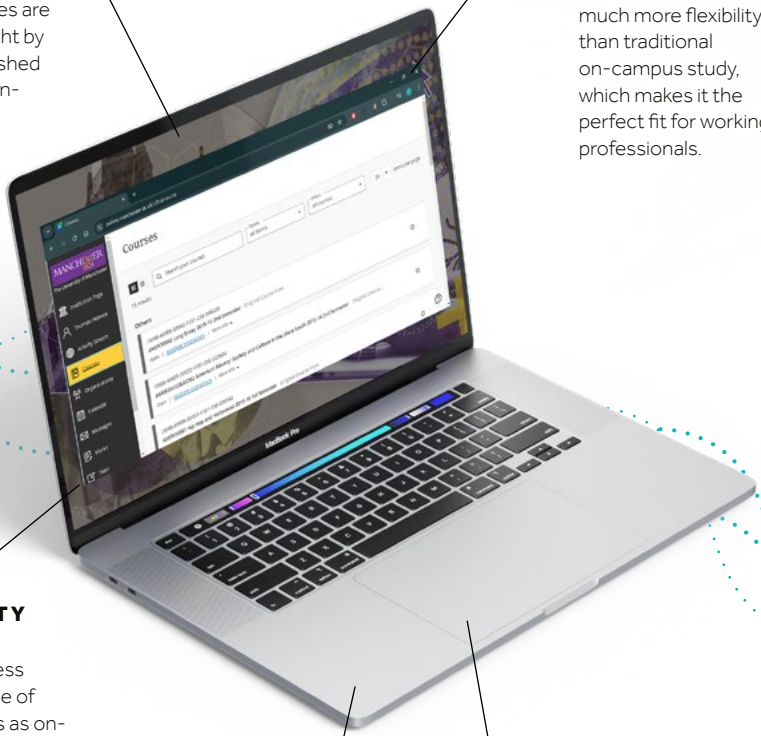
ONLINE LEARNING AT A GLANCE

TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Our online courses are created and taught by the same established scholars as our on-campus options.

FLEXIBILITY

Online learning offers much more flexibility than traditional on-campus study, which makes it the perfect fit for working professionals.



HIGH QUALITY RESOURCES

You will have access to the same range of excellent facilities as on-campus students.

AN ONLINE COMMUNITY

Our virtual learning environment provides an opportunity to discuss and collaborate with your peers and academics with interactive features.

A GLOBAL APPROACH

Online learning at The University of Manchester is designed to be accessed by students from around the globe.

ONLINE LEARNING IN PRACTICE

Online learning can help you to access the excellence of The University of Manchester from anywhere in the world. The online model is ideal for working professionals who want to study alongside their careers and other commitments by offering flexible, part-time study.



VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Our online, postgraduate courses are taught using a virtual learning environment. This is home to all of the teaching on your course including lectures tutorials, videos and more as well as all learning materials such as reading, discussion boards and journals.



FLEXIBILITY AND TIMETABLING

Our online, part-time postgraduate courses give you the opportunity to take full responsibility for your studies so you can fit learning around your life.

There are live tutorials online, however, we understand attendance to these will not always be possible around a busy work schedule, so they are recorded for you to watch at a time that suits you.

All the resources you require for your studies are available to you 24/7 so you can adjust your studies to fit around your work and personal life.



TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Upon receiving an offer you will be asked to confirm that you can meet the following technical requirements for successful completion of the course:

- An average of 15-20 hours available to devote to studying each week.
- Regular access to a computer with internet speeds fast enough to run video conferencing and stream video lectures.
- A computer that meets the software requirements of video conferencing and other software, broadband internet connection, desktop or laptop PC with windows 10 or later, 4GB RAM, 6GB disk space for installation (administrator rights are required to install software).
- Some courses will also require you to download relevant software - you will be provided access to this.
- A smart phone on Android 11.0 or greater, or iOS 11.0 or greater, as you'll need to authenticate your credentials to access your learning materials.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ONLINE LEARNING ↗

APPLICATION AND ADMISSIONS

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

ICA GRADUATES

If you have successfully completed the ICA Professional Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Crime Compliance or ICA Professional Postgraduate Diploma in Governance, Risk and Compliance, you can apply for this course.

If you do not hold one of the above qualifications, but are interested in studying with the ICA, you can get in touch with them directly by emailing: courseenquiries@int-comp.org

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

If you have a degree/qualification that was taught and assessed in English by an education provider, you may be exempt from submitting further evidence of English language proficiency.

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.

NON-ICA GRADUATES

If you do not hold one of the ICA qualifications, you may be able to apply for a place on the programme based on your professional experience. Applying via this route requires the following:

- An Upper Second (2:1) class honours degree, or the overseas equivalent in a relevant discipline.
- At least 10 years of relevant work experience.
- At least 3 years of experience in management/ leadership roles in governance, risk or compliance. Applicants should currently be in a senior management/leadership position, with responsibility for leading teams or business units, strategic planning, implementing compliance programmes, managing compliance frameworks, and/or board engagement or reporting.
- Evidence of a range of professional knowledge, skills and competencies. These will be assessed through submission of a portfolio containing:
  - A 1,500-word essay
  - A 2,000-word written statement
  - A 2-page CV
  - 2x professional references.

Further details on the content of the portfolio can be obtained by contacting us at studyonline@manchester.ac.uk

Please visit the Entry Requirements section of the course webpage for full details.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
31 August 2027

COURSE START DATE:
7 September 2027

BEGIN YOUR APPLICATION ↗

FEES AND FUNDING

TUITION FEES

+ £12,200 (UK/EU/International)

HOW TO FUND YOUR COURSE

Funding your online course is a key consideration when looking to begin your academic journey and your individual circumstances will determine how you can fund your studies.

Whilst funding options for online postgraduate taught courses are not as numerous as those for undergraduate and PhD study, there are still a variety of options to explore for your online course including:

+ Postgraduate loans
+ Employer funding
+ Self-funding
+ Scholarships
+ Bursaries
+ The Manchester Alumni Loyalty Discount

EXPLORE FUNDING OPTIONS ↗



WHY MANCHESTER?

AN INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED UNIVERSITY

In the Academic Ranking of World Universities (2025), the University is placed:

- 6th in the UK;
- 13th in Europe;
- 51st in the world.

WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH

The University of Manchester's research beacons are examples of pioneering discoveries, interdisciplinary collaboration and cross-sector partnerships that are tackling some of the biggest questions facing the planet.

OUTSTANDING TEACHING

This quality of research feeds into our taught courses, many of which are also designed to meet the needs of industry.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

We were the first university in the UK to set social responsibility as a core goal - this is reflected in our commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

GLOBAL INFLUENCE

There are more than 170 nationalities among our student population and our range of online and blended learning courses enable a global audience to benefit from a Manchester education.

Much of our research has a global impact, in areas including health and wellbeing, climate change, international trade and cohesive communities.

We also have agreements with a host of international institutions and organisations that inform our global approach to research and education.

SUPPORT AND SERVICES

As a student of The University of Manchester, you will receive full access to our facilities and resources such as the online library, careers service and wellbeing support. Many of these services offer personalised support and 24/7 access, and are all accessible to our global community.

NADIM'S STORY

Nadim Awad, Senior Director of Compliance Investigations at Hikma Pharmaceuticals, oversees internal investigations across the Middle East, Europe, and the USA.

With a career deeply rooted in enterprise risk management and regulatory compliance, Nadim wanted a program that would not only enhance his expertise but also offer practical insights applicable across industries. Having completed both the diploma and a professional postgraduate diploma, Nadim saw this master's program as a natural progression.

"Let's think about this one like an added value for me from a practical point of view," Nadim shared. "It's not just academic—it's about checking whether what I'm doing inside my company is aligned with best practices across the industry."

Nadim found the course's interdisciplinary and flexible design allowed him to tailor the material to his own professional needs. He also appreciated the diversity of his cohort, which included professionals from finance, real estate, insurance, and law.

> "The nice thing about this degree is that it's comprehensive. It can be manipulated and changed according to the practice you are following,"

he explained. "That way, I can add to my day-to-day practice."

Nadim found the course structure, with its blend of academic rigor and practical application, extremely useful. The weekly modules combine reading materials with engaging video content, supported by masterclasses that deepen understanding of complex topics like dissertation development and digital risk management.

"The practical masterclass is an added value to fine-tune the whole process," Nadim noted. "Yes, I could do it online completely, but these interactions bring insights beyond the material itself."

He found that networking was a crucial benefit of the course. With classmates from around 16 different jurisdictions, Nadim found the exchange of global perspectives invaluable—especially given his responsibility for compliance across multiple regions.

"It's good to know what's going on in terms of updates and best practices in these jurisdictions," he said. "Even outside the pharmaceutical industry, the insights from finance and legal sectors are extremely useful."

Time management is crucial, especially for professionals balancing work and family. Nadim emphasized the importance of staying on pace with the course:

"Don't leave it to the last moment like we used to do when we were young," he advised. "The standards here are very high, and to meet them, you need to manage your time not just properly—but perfectly."

STUDENT STORY



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The networking part is very important to me. I am studying alongside professionals from different jurisdictions, providing me with insight into the best practice across various industries.

NADIM AWAD

Senior Director, Compliance Investigations

WATCH NADIM’S STORY ↗

GAIN THE DIGITAL EDGE.



manchester.ac.uk/financialcrime

studyonline@manchester.ac.uk

BEGIN YOUR APPLICATION ↗

This brochure is prepared in advance of the entry dates it relates to and all information is accurate at the time of publication (October 2026).