

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

Basic Course Information

1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	Nottingham Business School / City
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	MSc Finance (Full-Time) MSc Finance and Accounting (Full-time) MSc Finance and Investment Banking (Full-Time)
4.	Normal Duration:	One year / two years with placement
5.	UCAS Code:	N/A

6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

This suite of one year Finance MScs (or two years with an optional 48 week work placement) is designed to give you a theoretical background in finance and equip you with practical skills relevant in the world of finance, whilst enabling you specialise in different fields of finance, accounting and investment banking. The course should allow you to put theory and contemporary thinking into a practical finance setting. The emphasis is on applying knowledge, skills and techniques to analyse financial instruments and markets. The major project gives you the opportunity to apply the knowledge and analytical skills you have acquired on the course to make recommendations to the senior managers of a real organisation on a business issue.

The MSc Finance course has three major components:

1. Firstly, the core modules provide a basis for the study of finance at a sophisticated level and provide an integrated entry to modern financial analysis.
2. Secondly, you can elect to specialise by taking a route of three modules in finance, accounting or investment banking.
3. Thirdly, the course provides you with the opportunity to select a major project which meets your goals; either a consultancy project, a 12 week internship, a global experience project involving a short period of study overseas, or an academic research project. You will also be able to develop personally by undertaking the *Transformational Leadership Development (TLP)* module. This combination of modules will provide you with a range of opportunities that enable your theoretical understanding of finance topics, enable you to personalise your own curriculum and development schedule, and enhance your practical experience of a range of contemporary financial issues.

The principle aims of the course are:

To offer specialist postgraduate courses in finance that are both practically and academically relevant to the current demands of finance and accounting managers, investment bankers and other finance professionals. This is achieved by having the following goals; upon graduating from the course you will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the primary theories and concepts relating to your field of study.
- Apply theory to practice in organisational settings and relate practice to theory.
- Demonstrate aptitude for critical thought and creativity;
- Effectively utilise relevant information and communication skills;
- Critically evaluate ethical and sustainability-based issues within your field of study;
- Evidence the capacity to act as a global citizen;
- Demonstrate the capacity to make an impact in organisations.

As graduates of the course you will have developed a wide range of skills and abilities that will enhance your employability and enable you to achieve your own personal objectives.

7. **Course outcomes**

Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.

Knowledge and understanding

By the end of the course you should be able to:

1. Articulate a critical understanding of the contemporary issues, theories and conceptual frameworks used to explain and guide financial activities in organisations both nationally and internationally.

MSc Finance

2. Apply knowledge, tools and techniques to resolve issues in new and diverse situations within the finance discipline.
3. Evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to the practice of finance.

MSc Finance and Investment Banking

3. Apply advanced concepts and techniques to analyse financial markets and instruments.
4. Synthesise and critique a range of methods employed in analysing investments in financial products.

MSc Finance and Accounting

3. Apply knowledge, tools and techniques to resolve issues in new and diverse situations within the accounting discipline.
4. Evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to the practice of accounting.
5. Apply knowledge, tools and techniques to resolve issues in new and diverse situations within the finance discipline.
6. Evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and assess its relevance to the practice of finance.
7. Demonstrate the ability to make recommendations for organisational practice based on theoretical insights through a process of experiential or applied learning.
8. Demonstrate an aptitude for independent critical thought and rational inquiry.

9. Demonstrate creativity and intellectual curiosity in both the application and synthesis of knowledge.
10. Demonstrate proficiency in the use of techniques of research and enquiry to draw conclusions from a critical evaluation of relevant issues.
11. Demonstrate an appreciation of the wider social, environmental and economic sustainability issues and their interrelationships which may be impacted by or have an impact on organisational activities.
12. Understand the environmental, social, governance and ethical problems that may occur in the finance discipline and apply appropriate frameworks or professional codes to resolve such problems.
13. Critically self-reflect, and demonstrate an international awareness and openness to the world, based on an appreciation of social and cultural diversity.
14. Develop a critical understanding of the role of the finance discipline in the global context.
15. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the role of the finance discipline in a wider organisational context.

Skills, qualities and attributes

By the end of the course you should be able to:

16. Analyse a variety of relevant data used in diverse contexts to support effective decision making in the finance discipline.
17. Communicate key issues and arguments in written and oral format to a professional standard.
18. Effectively use information and communication technologies relevant to the finance discipline.
19. Work collaboratively in internationally diverse teams.
20. Make decisions and exercise judgement in organisational settings when faced with a range of alternative courses of action.
21. Take personal responsibility for continuing professional development and develop the capacity to be an effective and reflective practitioner.

8. Teaching and learning methods

NBS adopts a distinctive approach to the design of student learning opportunities, and your learning is structured around theory, practice, experience & observation, and reflection & improvement. At each level (course, module and session), you will study different theories, concepts and approaches and be given opportunities to apply these in a range of practical settings. The aim is to enhance your understanding through the direct experience of business, where you will have opportunities to observe business practices and behaviours (including your own) and analyse these using theoretical knowledge. It is our intention that by reflecting on these experiences, you will be able to use these theories to guide your actions and decisions in a business context or even consider how a theory itself might be improved. In this way we aim to enhance the quality of your learning.

The teaching and learning strategy is designed specifically around the needs of a diverse student cohort and is based upon the following guiding principles:

- Facilitating a period of time for you to adjust to your new study environment, through the inclusion, for example, of a development programme and personal and professional development module.

- Encouraging constructive learning through a student-centred learning environment which allows for time for reflection and which provides you with guidance and support.
- Drawing upon student experiences through interactive workshops rather than a reliance on large group lectures.
- Seeing cultural diversity as a learning resource.
- Offering a range of learning experiences, including industry supported learning opportunities.

This course is therefore designed to offer you a theoretical *and* practical learning experience that fits your needs and enhances your career opportunities. You will enjoy a teaching and learning environment that is shared by your fellow students and academic staff who will be from different educational and cultural backgrounds and with whom you will have the chance to share your previous educational and practical experience. This provides a similar environment to working in international organisations where you interact with colleagues from different backgrounds. Working in groups with other students during the course will allow you to experience different cultures and learning styles. The different teaching, learning and assessment modes will therefore equip you with a number of essential skills, including but not limited to; communication, presentation, negotiation, report writing, analytical and, most importantly, critical thinking skills. You will also have access to the latest Bloomberg software in our state-of-the-art trading room, and a range of industry-leading information packages.

Each of the modules will be delivered over a four-week period, with teaching delivered in three weeks and the fourth week left clear for assessment work. This enables you to focus on one subject at a time, whilst allowing time for preparation and assessment work. Contact within modules takes the form of whole class delivery in interactive workshops (of no more than 30 students) and structured guided study. In all teaching sessions, you will have the opportunity to ask questions, interact with other students and the lecturer on problem solving exercises, cases and discussions. Your course will be structured around the sequential delivery of the six core and optional route modules with the Experiential Element offered at the end and the TLD module being delivered throughout the year.

Undertaking this course and experiencing our different teaching and learning techniques will therefore allow you to build up your own experience in the field of finance and equip you with the necessary skills to allow you to integrate into professional life in a finance-related career.

9. **Assessment methods**

Our assessment strategy is designed to help you develop and demonstrate your knowledge, understanding and skills. We use a variety of assessment methods throughout the course, including formative assessments which does not count towards your final grades, but which provide useful feedback on your progress and development and guidance towards the summative assessments which count towards your final grades.

In undertaking this course you will experience a number of different assessment methods aimed at helping your progression through the course and skills development. Assessment is balanced throughout the course,

helping you to manage your workload. There will be a mixture of theoretical and practical assessments with a focus on applying the theory to real world situations. We will also assess the softer skills by using a mixture of assessment types and a combination of individual and group based assessments. Assessment types will therefore include academic and reflective essays, reports, presentations, examinations, portfolios, phase tests and case studies. Group learning is a central feature of our teaching and learning strategy, and indeed the ability to work effectively with others is essential to all work practice. It is thus appropriate that some elements of group assessment are incorporated, although individual performance is more highly weighted in order to give due credit for individual performance. Assessment will also incorporate experiential elements to enable you to apply your knowledge through live projects or simulations and cases.

These different types of assessment will provide you with the knowledge and different skills necessary to succeed in the world of finance.

10. Course structure and curriculum

As previously noted, the course structure is based on three phases of study:

The first phase is a shared core which develops your knowledge of the key institutional, accounting and financial modelling frameworks. This incorporates concepts related to the operation of markets, the major participants and regulatory environment, as well as a firm understanding of the basics of corporate finance and accounting and financial analysis skills. This phase concludes with the Global Responsibility Week, which aims to introduce you to the key ethical and sustainability-related dimensions of finance. These base skills are then developed in the second phase, which is your choice of specialist route:

The MSc Finance route develops your comprehension of the basic theoretical and empirical frameworks and applied underpinnings of financial mathematics, model building, risk management and mergers and acquisitions.

The MSc Finance and Investment Banking route emphasises the analysis and valuation of investment products and a critical analysis of information in derivatives markets, and portfolio and investment management. You will work with financial tools and techniques in an applied setting, including use of our state-of-the-art trading room equipped with the latest Bloomberg software, to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in this sector.

The MSc Finance and Accounting route is aimed at those holding an accounting first degree (or a substantial academic background in accounting) and who have obtained (or can obtain) exemptions from professional body exams up to the intermediate level, leaving only the final /professional level to take (the professional bodies do not give exemptions from this final level). The course is therefore designed to cover the subjects that will be studied at the professional/final stage of professional body entrance examinations, not in a purely technical manner as required for professional exams, but in raising awareness by applying theories to practice in the field of accounting and finance. Thus, you will study modules covering corporate governance, strategic management accounting and comparative corporate reporting.

The second phase culminates in the Global Business Week, which aims to provide experiential opportunities such as simulation exercises, company visits and guest speakers.

The final phase comprises your major project which gives you the choice (subject to qualification) of undertaking either a 'live' consultancy project, a 12 week internship, a global programme involving attendance at an overseas partner's summer school, or for those with prior work experience or wishing to pursue a PhD, an academic research project. Throughout the year you will study the Transformational Leadership Development and the Research Methods for Finance and Accounting modules, which aim to facilitate your development in these areas.

The structure of the course including each of the routes is shown below:

Phase	Modules			Multi-phase:
1	Global Financial Markets (20cp)			Research Methods for Economists (10cp) and Transformational Leadership Development (10cp)
	Financial Statement Analysis (20cp)			
	Corporate Finance (20cp)			
2	Finance Route	Investment Banking Route	Accounting Route	
	Financial Modelling (20cp)	Valuation of Investment Products (20cp)	Corporate Governance and Accountability (20cp)	
	Risk Management (20cp)	Derivatives Markets (20cp)	Strategic Management Accounting (20cp)	
	Corporate Restructuring (20cp)	Investment and Portfolio Management (20cp)	Comparative Corporate Reporting (20cp)	
3	EXPERIENTIAL ELEMENT (40cp) (Choose one): Consultancy Experience Project Internship Experience Project Academic Experience Project Global Experience Project			

11. Admission to the course

Entry requirements:
 For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the 'Applying' tab on the course information web page.

12. Support for learning

Support for your learning will be available from before your study starts. Prior to your enrolment, you will have online access to details of registration and preparatory work which needs to be done prior to the start of the course.

When you arrive you will undertake a development programme in the form of the first unit of the TLD module. Initially you will be provided with the basic knowledge of your course and its operations. This will encompass details of the course aims, teaching and learning strategy, introduce members of the teaching team, outline the timetable, assessment strategy, regulations and schedule, and explain the course management processes such as student feedback mechanisms and course committees, along with course and university regulations, and the range of facilities available at the University and the University's support and guidance services. This gives way to focused academic and professional development sessions; this includes a residential programme which has been specifically designed to help students build trust and start to work as teams. We are proud of our comprehensive and focused development programme which enables students from a variety of educational backgrounds to achieve a smooth transition into this high performance course.

Academic staff within the Business School have an excellent reputation for being approachable and enthusiastic about their subject area, with the programme being designed around face to face contact with a wide range of specialists. This is highly valued by our students and distinguishes us from many of our competitors. You will have many opportunities to build relationships both with tutors and fellow participants throughout the course. In service of this, students will be able to approach their course leader(s), or other members of the teaching team for support and guidance as required, and each student will be allocated a personal tutor. It is expected that each student will meet with their personal supervisor at least four times (two times in the first trimester, and once in each subsequent trimester). In addition to reviewing your academic progress, personal tutors have a key role in reinforcing your professional skills development and encouraging you to reflect on the different strands of your course and extra-curricula activity. Personal tutors also play an important pastoral role, and where appropriate, will direct you to University support and guidance services. A student dashboard enables you and your tutor to track your engagement and progress and log the minutes of your meetings. Our specialist careers advisors in the 'Working With You' team are also there to provide you with help and support in terms of your future career.

Course Administrators are also an important part of your support arrangements. Course administrators are often the first port of call for students who have concerns and these individuals can be a non-formal means of discussing problems, and a source of useful information and guidance.

Nottingham Business School provides a high quality management learning environment designed to encourage creative thinking about real world issues confronting managers and their organisations. The School's professional approach to management education is supported by the latest communications and information technology, and extensive learning resources. The computing network offers 24-hour access to the University's computing facilities, and a range of services off-campus are also available, including email, electronic library services and access to a range of software. You will have access to a wealth of library materials including over 450,000 books (many of which are available as e-books), as well as an extensive audio-

visual collection of videos and slides. Electronic library resources form a core part of the support to students, with over 200 databases and 9,000 electronic journals accessible by the e-library web portal. The School has a specialist Trading Room, and access to leading resources such as ft.com and Qualtrics for all students.

We also recognise that you sometimes need help that falls outside the academic area. The University's Student Support Services offers dedicated professional support services for both international and home students. Our aim is to ensure that you have access to appropriate support for academic, financial and personal issues which might affect your experience at the university.

13. Graduate destinations/employability

Undertaking this course will give you a wide insight into the different aspects of finance, accounting or investment banking, and as graduates of the course you will have developed a wide range of skills and abilities that will enhance your employability prospects.

As a graduate of the MSc Finance course, or one of its specialist routes, you will have a wide range of possible careers in finance and its specialisms. For example, our alumni have progressed to:

- Employment within a number of roles / areas, including financial analyst, financial advisor, personal financial advisor, financial examiner, government professional financial advisor, audit, compliance and corporate governance, corporate treasury management, investment broker, risk management, ethics management, banking. These posts can be held in either the private or the public sectors and may include; central banking, investment banking, pensions' analysis, unit and investment trust management, corporate finance and international finance
- Consultancy work within the areas of Accounting, Corporate Financial Management, Risk Management, Accountability and Ethics and Strategic Management.
- Further study for a professional qualification in finance (such as CFA), accounting (such as ACCA or CIMA) or other professional exams.

Specialist careers advisers in NTU's employability team are there to help you identify strategies to enable you to effectively pursue your career goals. The focus of this course will be on developing your skills and occupational awareness in ways that enable your successful transition into the world of finance.

14. Course standards and quality

Management of each course is conducted through three formally constituted committees, the Board of Examiners, the Course Committee and the Course Enhancement Board (CEB). The Course Committee will be responsible for the overall quality assurance and management of the course. Its membership complies with the University's requirements as specified in the University's Academic Standards and Quality Handbook. Student representatives will also meet collectively with members of the School's Executive team once each term

in a 'student forum', designed to facilitate communication between the student body and the management of the School.

Each course will also operate an annual 'course enhancement board' (CEB) Chaired by the Head of Postgraduate Programmes, which consists of employers, alumni, students and staff to consider the overall strategic direction of the course. The CEB provides the external direction and input from employers and alumni to ensure the continuing relevance of course content.

Course standards and quality are maintained in a number of ways. You will have the opportunity to provide anonymous written feedback on each of the modules you study, and the course as a whole. You will also be able to offer your comments and suggestions through (or have the opportunity to be elected as) elected student course representatives, who attends course committees, the course enhancement boards and student forum meetings.

External examiners report on the appropriateness of the curriculum, the quality of student work and the assessment process. All tutors have their teaching observed by their peers.

15. Assessment regulations

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in Section 16 of the Quality Handbook). Any course specific assessment features are described below:

16. Additional Information

Collaborative partner(s):	N/A
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	Master's Degrees in Business and Management (QAA, 2007)
Course recognised by:	N/A
Date this course specification approved:	April 2015
Any additional information:	

