

Programme Title: MSc Banking and Finance with integrated Pre-Masters (January start)



Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and programme title:	MSc Banking and Finance with integrated Pre-Masters (January start)
Name of interim award(s):	Graduate Diploma in Finance & Economics Graduate Certificate in Finance & Economics
Duration of study / period of registration:	19 months (two academic years (full-time))
QMUL programme code(s):	
QAA Benchmark Group:	N/A
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	N/A
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Economics & Finance

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

School of Languages, Linguistics & Film

School of Economics and Finance

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

N/A

Programme outline

The programme combines two existing QM Programmes: the Graduate Diploma in Finance & Economics (PMP/Pre-Masters) offered by the Language Centre in the School of Languages, Linguistics, and Film, and the School of Economics and Finance. The Graduate Diploma in Finance & Economics provides a preparation year as a pathway for entry to postgraduate study in SEF. The proposed programme aims to make this transition seamless by integrating a bespoke Pre-Masters year within an existing MSc SEF-owned degree, where programme progression rules will apply. SEF are the awarding school in year 2.

The year 1 Graduate Diploma in Finance and Economics offers a route into postgraduate degrees in economics, finance and related subjects for EU and international students whose academic or linguistic backgrounds do not qualify them for direct entry. The subject content and teaching methodology is aimed to prepare students for Masters level study. The programme consists of both academic and English language & study skills modules which are fully assessed and contribute to the year 1 final award. The academic modules are delivered by the School of Economics and Finance. Queen Mary offers guaranteed entry

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to linked degree courses to students who achieve appropriate grades as described in the progression tariff.

During year 2, students apply and build on the skills and subject knowledge acquired in year 1. In addition, there is a greater focus on more sophisticated quantitative subject areas.

This programme is not eligible for postgraduate loans.

Aims of the programme

Pre-Masters Graduate Diploma (year 1):

- improve students' English language proficiency to a level required for direct Masters entry;
- equip students with the academic English, conventions and practices which are required at Masters level studies;
- offer the opportunity to students who may not have any background or experience in economics and finance to gain subject-specific knowledge as a foundation for a greater focus at Masters level;
- provide an introduction to research methodology, tools and techniques which will be employed at Masters level;
- instill a range of learning skills including independent learning and time management;
- allow students to become familiar with academic culture in the UK so as to build confidence and motivation to embark on Masters studies;
- provide pastoral support to allow international students to settle into life and study in the UK;

MSc Banking and Finance (year 2):

- offer the opportunity to students who may not have any background or experience in economics and finance to gain subject-specific knowledge within financial markets; to understand institutional frameworks, the creation, marketing and trading of financial products. This training will better prepare students for employment in terms of language skills and quantitative proficiency.

What will you be expected to achieve?

During year 1, students are expected to attain an advanced level of academic English and an awareness of academic conventions. In addition, they will receive an introduction to financial terminology and become familiar with relevant financial-modelling software. e.g. STATA.

In the second year, they will undergo intensive financial training, putting into practice the skills and knowledge acquired in year 1 to become proficient in the language, concepts, techniques and tools relevant to the world of finance.

Academic Content:	
A 1	Masters level studies:
A 2	Critically evaluate advanced theories and frameworks in banking and finance, incorporating insights from contemporary research to inform decision-making.
A 3	Apply quantitative and qualitative analytical tools to complex financial problems, emphasising data interpretation, statistical techniques, and financial modelling.
A 4	Being able to formulate and execute comprehensive financial strategies that align with organisational goals and regulatory requirements
A 5	Demonstrate expertise in the operational, regulatory, and risk management aspects of financial institutions and markets globally.

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A 6	Pre-Masters level studies:
A 7	By the end of the programme, the students will be able to to develop and demonstrate the academic English language and study skills required for entry to and potential success in a Masters degree programme in economics, finance or related subjects.
A 8	By the end of the programme, the students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the tools and techniques necessary to understand the main sources of economic information and investigate contemporary economic issues.
A 9	By the end of the programme, the students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of economic principles so that they will be able to differentiate between economic models.
A 10	By the end of the programme, the students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the issues pertaining to global and national economics.
A 11	By the end of the programme, the students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of choices that businesses must make.
A 12	By the end of the programme, the students will be able to demonstrate the knowledge to progress to a Masters degree in economics and/or finance.

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	Masters level studies:
B 2	Synthesize and critically analyse financial data from multiple sources to develop robust and evidence-based conclusions.
B 3	Develop advanced problem-solving strategies for real-world financial challenges using interdisciplinary approaches.
B 4	Collaborate within multidisciplinary teams to address banking and financial sector challenges, employing effective interpersonal and leadership skills.
B 5	Design and execute empirical research projects, including hypothesis formulation, data collection, and statistical testing, with an emphasis on practical application
B 6	Present complex financial analyses and strategies effectively through professional communication formats, including reports, presentations, and visualisations.
B 7	Pre-Masters level studies:
B 8	By the end of the programme, the students will be able to synthesize ideas and evidence, applying appropriate knowledge and skills flexibly, in order to produce innovative solutions in research with minimal guidance.
B 9	By the end of the programme, the students will be able to read and think critically in order to question, to examine arguments/ideas, and to evaluate evidence and conclusions for their reliability and validity.
B 10	By the end of the programme, the students will be able to reflect on and evaluate their thinking and reading skills, using both feedback and self-assessment to raise their awareness of the learning process itself and the skills necessary for success in an academic environment.

Attributes:	
C 1	Masters level studies:
C 2	Demonstrate high-level adaptability and resilience in response to evolving global financial trends and challenges.

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C3	Apply creative thinking to innovate within the banking and finance industry, identifying opportunities for value creation and sustainable growth.
C4	Exhibit ethical awareness and responsibility in financial decision-making, adhering to international regulatory and professional standards.
C5	Employ self-directed learning and critical thinking to engage with continuous professional development and research in finance
C6	Pre-Masters level studies:
C7	By the end of the programme, students will be able to write coherently in a variety of academic styles (eg argumentative, discursive, critical, persuasive) to the standards of Masters level writing.
C8	By the end of the programme, students will be able to actively engage with academic reading texts through discussion/debate with peers and teachers
C9	By the end of the programme, students will be able to study autonomously, using the full range of appropriate resources for their discipline available in the College and in the wider academic community.

How will you learn?

For the 1st year Pre-Masters, teachers will use a range of teaching and learning techniques tailored to the learning outcomes of the different modules. These will include: lectures; student-led seminar discussions; teaching observation; peer / micro - teaching; student and teacher-led workshops; directed readings; practical tasks; materials development; library-based research and original research; presentations; group work; reflection through reflective learning logs, and knowledge transfer activities. Individual module outlines list further details of teaching and learning procedures.

For the 2nd year, students will learn through lectures, seminars and workshops delivered by academic staff within SEF as well as by professionals with an expertise and experience in economics and finance. The lectures will enable students to interact with peers from other MSc programmes, while the seminars with smaller class sizes allow students to have more in-depth discussion and interaction with the academics delivering the programme. Through the QMPlus environment which is a virtual learning environment and other learning initiatives, students will be offered both real-time delivery and teaching material which can be accessed online. Training sessions will be provided in the induction week for students to familiarise themselves with the virtual environment and to also access e-resources. The delivery and assessment modes will vary. These will include collaborative learning as well as a mix of assessment modes including coursework, presentations, independent research, group projects and examinations. All students will be assigned an academic advisor who will be able to advise on academic problems.

How will you be assessed?

For the 1st year Pre-Masters, teachers will use a range of assessment techniques to include: essays; formative assessment; reflective learning diaries; oral presentations; project work; and practical tasks such as materials development. Individual module proposal outlines list further details of assessment practices.

For the 2nd year MSc programme, the mode of assessment for the programme will differ across the modules but typically most modules will have two modes of assessment such as coursework and a final exam which the student will take at the end of each semester. Dissertation supervision continues throughout semester three and students will continue to work on their dissertations in this semester. All coursework will be assessed by a plagiarism-detection software, Turnitin. Students take examinations in Jan and May but coursework and other modes of assessment such as group projects are often set different deadlines. The instructions for the assessments are available to the students in the Module Outlines and through the virtual learning environment. The School has a plagiarism officer to advise and assist Module Organisers on plagiarism offence. Marking criteria for assessments are also provided by Module Organisers in the Module Outline.

How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

The MSc Banking and Finance with Integrated Pre-Masters (January start) is a full time, 19 month January start programme. Students may not study this programme on a part-time basis. There is an additional entry point in September.

Year 1 of the MSc Banking and Finance with Integrated Pre-Masters is the level 6 Graduate Diploma in Finance and Economics.

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Students take the following 120 credits:

- 30 credit core module IFP6000 English Language and Study Skills
- 15 credit compulsory module IFP6013 Introduction to Research Methods for Finance & Economics
- 15 credit compulsory module IFP6014 Finance & Economics Independent Research Project
- 15 credit compulsory module IFP6005 Introduction to Econometrics
- 15 credit compulsory module IFP6006 Topics in Econometrics
- 15 credit compulsory module IFP6007 Economics
- 15 credit compulsory module IFP6008 Finance

The final award of the Master of Science is based exclusively on the 180 credits of Year 2 of the programme. It is the same structure as the standard MSc Banking and Finance programme within SEF.

Students are offered a two-week pre-session course whose aim is to introduce students without a strong quantitative background to the necessary mathematics and statistical concepts.

All students take four compulsory modules in Semester A [=60 credits]; two compulsory modules and three 15-credit elective modules (from a predefined list) in Semester B [=75 credits]. During the summer period (Semester C), supervised by an academic member of staff, students will have to complete 45 credits, either by completing:

- i) 7,000 word Dissertation (ECOM107); or,
- ii) Applied Project in Valuation (code tbc) and Further Topics in Valuation (ECOM154); or,
- iii) Research Project (ECOM200) plus two 15-credit elective modules (from a predefined list).

The predefined list of elective modules, submitted annually to the Academic Registry, are subject to change year-on-year due to operational needs, staff availability, etc.

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
English Language and Study Skills	IFP6000	30	6	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Introduction to Research Methods for Finance & Economics	IFP6013	15	6	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Finance & Economics Independent Research Project	IFP6014	15	6	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Introduction to Econometrics	IFP6005	15	6	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Topics in Econometrics	IFP6006	15	6	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Economics	IFP6007	15	6	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Finance	IFP6008	15	6	Compulsory	1	Semester 2

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Academic Year of Study FT - Year 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Commercial & Investment Banking	ECOM049	15	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 2
Investment Management	ECOM050	15	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 1
Applied Corporate Finance	ECOM104	15	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 1
Applied Econometrics with R	ECOM216	15	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 1
Risk Management for Banking	ECOM055	15	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 2
Practical Valuation	ECOM118	15	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 2

What are the entry requirements?

Published Entry Requirements:

"A full first degree in a relevant subject at the equivalent of at least a pass in a UK undergraduate degree. Awards with failed modules in the final year of academic study will be considered on a case by case basis at the discretion of the academic department;

OR a qualification in a relevant subject at the level of a UK HE Diploma (Level 5) with at least 55% overall or the overseas equivalent. Awards with failed modules in the final year of academic study will be considered on a case by case basis at the discretion of the academic department."

Evidence of English language proficiency:

IELTS overall 5.5, with a minimum of 5.5 in Writing, Reading, Speaking and Listening or equivalent.

How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The Student Voice Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Student Voice Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Each school/institute operates an Education Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate a Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. PR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery.

School/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students'

views are considered in this process through analysis of the PTES and module evaluations.

What academic support is available?

For Year 1 of study:

Each student has a personal tutor, who is their main English language and study skills teacher. Individual tutorials are scheduled for 30 minutes fortnightly, but students can request to see their tutor additionally outside this schedule if required. Students attend a compulsory one-week induction in Week 0 of Semester 1. During this, students are given help in enrolling and paying fees as well as attending sessions on programme details, academic options, health and safety and additional sessions offered by the Advice and Counselling Service.

For Year 2 of study:

In addition to the support for students provided by QMUL : Careers Service; Library Services, all MA students are supported by their individual academic advisors.

Programme-specific rules and facts

Students must enter the programme in January and, if they attain the progression grades, will progress to the Masters degree in the consecutive academic year.

Progression to Year 2 of study: Students need to pass the Pre-Masters programme as well as achieve the progression grades which are reviewed on a regular basis.

At the present time, the progression tariff which is applicable for MSc Banking & Finance, is as follows -

[55%] average of 2nd semester modules**

[65%] Topics in Econometrics*

[55%] Economics (semester 1)

[55%] Finance (semester 2)

[55%] ELSS

[55%] Finance & Economics Independent Research Project*

* This grade percentage applies to semester 2 modules although at least a pass of 40% must be attained in semester 1 modules for progression

** Average of 2nd semester modules = average of subject modules: econometrics and finance modules plus the F&E Independent Research Project for semester 2 only. The average excludes the ELSS grade for IFP6000.

Specific support for disabled students

QMUL has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

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Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

- Links With Employers & Placement Opportunities
- In the summer period after the Pre-Masters programme, students may be offered the opportunity to join a summer internship as provided by an external internship provider.
- Transferable skills as outlined in "Learning Outcomes / Attributes"

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Yioryos Makedonis/Jennefer Brown

Person responsible for management of programme:

Yioryos Makedonis/Jennefer Brown

Date Programme Specification produced / amended by
School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught
Programmes Board: