



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**

Programme Specification 2024–2025

Accounting and Financial Management

MSc

Important document – please read

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Important information regarding the Programme Specification

About this document

Last revised 22 December 2023

The Programme Specification gives a broad outline of the structure and content of the programme, the entry level qualifications, as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress. Some of the information referred to in this programme specification is included in more detail on the University of London [website](#). Where this is the case, links to the relevant webpage are included.

Where links to external organisations are provided, the University of London is not responsible for their content and does not recommend nor necessarily agree with opinions expressed and services provided at those sites.

For queries about any of the programme information provided, whether here or on the website, registered students should use the 'ask a question' button in the [student portal](#). Otherwise, the *Contact Us* link at the bottom of every webpage should be used.

Terminology

The following language is specific to the Accounting and Financial Management programme:

Module: Individual units of the programme are called modules. Each module is a self-contained, formally structured learning experience with a coherent and explicit set of learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Key revisions made

Programme specifications are revised annually. The quality committee of the member institution providing academic direction, as part of its annual review of standards, confirms the programme structure and the educational aims and learning outcomes, and advises on any development in student support. Where there are changes which may impact on continuing students, these are listed below. For all new students, the programme and general information provided in this document is correct and accurate and will be applicable for the current year.

Significant changes to the Programme Specification 2024-25

English language requirements – additional note emphasising that all teaching is in English. Therefore, students will need to have the required level of written and spoken English to cope with their studies right from the start.

Internet access and computer specification – updated to reflect minimum computer requirements.

Student support and guidance – Information on UoL Careers Service added.

Quality evaluation and enhancement – Information on quality assurance mechanisms updated in line with sector practice.

Programme title and awards

Postgraduate Degrees of the University of London may be classified. The award certificate will indicate the level of the academic performance achieved by classifying the award. The classification of the degree will be based on the ratified marks from the completed assessments.

The classification system for these awards is as follows:

Distinction; Merit; Pass.

Specific rules for the classification of awards are given in the [Programme Regulations](#), under Scheme of Award

Programme title

Accounting and Financial Management

Qualifications

Master of Science in Accounting and Financial Management

Exit qualification only

Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting and Financial Management

Postgraduate Certificate in Accounting and Financial Management

An exit qualification, as noted above, is an intermediate qualification for which the student may not have registered at the outset but which may be awarded on completion of specific modules/courses (or credit accumulated) in a longer programme of study, if the student leaves the programme. Exit qualifications are awarded at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and once a student has accepted an exit qualification they will not normally be permitted to continue their study on the same programme with the University of London.

Individual modules available for study on a stand-alone basis

There is also provision for select individual modules of the programme to be studied on a stand-alone basis without being registered for a related qualification. A maximum of 45 credits may be counted as credit towards a related qualification. Neither progression nor credit is automatic.

Award titles may be abbreviated as follows:

Master of Science – MSc

Postgraduate Diploma – PGDip

Postgraduate Certificate – PGCert

Level of the programmes

The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (FHEQ) forms part of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education of the [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](#) (QAA).

The awards are placed at the following Levels of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ):

University of London

Programme Specification 2024-2025 Accounting and Financial Management (MSc)

MSc	Level 7
PGDip	Level 7
PGCert	Level 7

Relevant QAA subject benchmarks group

See the [QAA website](#) for information about quality assurance.

[Master's degrees in business and management \(2023\)](#)

Awarding body

University of London

Registering body

University of London

Academic direction

University College London

Language of study and assessment

English

Mode of study

Web supported learning with an online tutor or centre supported learning from a University of London Recognised Teaching Centre, where this is available.

Recognised Teaching Centres which support this programme will be listed on the Recognised Teaching Centre [Directory](#).

Programme structures

The programme has two registration points in the year: October and April. There are four study sessions in a year, each lasting 10 weeks. Sessions begin in October, January, April and July. Each session is followed by an assessment submission point.

Students have an online induction session available through the virtual learning environment (VLE) prior to the start of their study session. This includes orientation of their learning environment and guidance on the structure and learning expectations for the module.

The MSc is a 180 UK credit degree programme. For the MSc, students must complete

- The core module (worth 15 credits):
 - AFM010 Financial Accounting Frameworks (FAF)
- Plus the following compulsory modules (each worth 15 credits):
 - AFM020 Management Accounting Frameworks (MAF)
 - AFM030 Financial Management Essentials (FME)
 - AFM040 Advanced Financial Analysis (AFA)
 - AFM050 Advanced Management Accounting (AMA)

- AFM060 Corporate Governance, Audit and Assurance (CGAA)
- AFM070 Global Issues in Finance and Accounting (GIFA)
- AFM080 Analysing Risk for Decision Making (ARDM)
- AFM090 Issues in Investment Management (IIM)
- AFM100 Capital Markets and Global Perspectives (CMGP)
- One compulsory Project module AFM500 (worth 30 credits)

Maximum and minimum periods of registration

The minimum period of registration, from a student's effective date of registration, are:

	Minimum
MSc	One and a half years

See the [General Regulations](#) for the maximum periods of registration for these qualifications.

Students will retain the period of registration initially given to them on registration if the maximum registration period for their qualification changes during their studies.

In making a decision as to how many modules to register for in a given session, it is important to take account of on-going work and/or personal commitments

Students should register for Financial Accounting Frameworks (FAF), Management Accounting Frameworks (MAF), Financial Management Essentials (FME), Advanced Financial Analysis (AFA) and Advanced Management Accounting (AMA) before registering for the Capstone Project. Not all modules will run in every study session.

Credit value of modules

Further information about the credit systems used by universities in the UK and Europe is provided by the [Quality Assurance Agency](#) and the [European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System](#).

Where credits are assigned to modules of a programme, credit indicates the amount of learning carried out in terms of the notional number of study hours needed, and the specified Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England (FHEQ) credit level indicates the depth, complexity and intellectual demand of learning involved. The details below indicate the UK credits and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) values.

The MSc Accounting and Financial Management comprises a total of 180 UK credits (90 ECTS credits) at FHEQ level 7.

Each 15 credit module equates to 150 hours. Over the 10 teaching weeks, students will need to dedicate around 15 hours of study per module per week.

Each 30 credit module equates to 300 hours. Over the 20 teaching weeks, students will need to dedicate around 15 hours of study per module per week

Recognition of prior learning

Students may apply for up to 60 credits in recognition of prior learning from a list of accepted professional qualifications towards the MSc Accountancy and Financial Management qualification, which may also be applied to the exit qualification of PGDip Accountancy and Financial Management.

Entrance requirements

Applicants must submit an application in line with the procedures and deadlines set out on the website.

MSc and stand-alone individual modules

To qualify to register for the MSc, applicants will need a bachelor degree which is considered at least comparable to a UK upper second class honours degree from an institution acceptable to the University.

English language requirements

All applicants must satisfy the English language requirements for the programme. These are set out in detail on the programme page under [Entry Requirements](#).

Applicants who have not met any of the above must have passed, within the past three years, a test of proficiency in English language, from an organisation acceptable to the University. This standard must be reached before registering for the MSc.

All teaching is in English. Therefore, students will need to have the required level of written and spoken English to cope with their studies right from the start.

Further information on English language proficiency tests can be found on our [website](#).

Computer specification and internet access

Students will require regular access to a personal computer with an internet connection to use the University of London's online resources and systems.

Students must be able to download and install software to their Windows or MacOS device to include secure examination browsers for online assessment purposes (if offered on their programme of study). Depending on the security settings for each assessment, students may be required to have full administrator rights on their computer to install and run the software needed to take part in the assessment. Full administration rights are likely to apply to a computer that the student owns but not to one provided by their employer, for example.

Computer requirements

The computer must have at least the following minimum specification:

- Windows: 10 and 11 on 64-bit platforms
- MacOS Big Sur (version 11) and higher
- CPUs newer than 2011 (Intel Sandy Bridge (Core i3, i5 and i7 or newer)
- OpenGL 2.0 graphics driver
- Local storage for the recording of proctored examinations (75MB per hour)

- Web camera & microphone (internal or external)
- A broadband internet connection capable of streaming video and a minimum of 0.15Mbps upload speed.
- Minimum device requirements are subject to change and older operating systems may become obsolete over time.

and the following applications installed:

- a word processor that accepts Microsoft Word formats (.doc and .docx)
- a PDF reader
- Microsoft Excel which can run macros

For *Capstone Project*, students will need **one** of the following supported platforms:

- Mobile platforms of iOS, Android and Windows 10 support:
 - iOS support OS version 8+
 - Android support API level 19+ Version 4.4 - 4.4.4
 - Windows 10 UWP version

And

- Icarus (Professional Accountancy) App (latest version).
- Other specialised software may be made available by the University if required.

We are developing further security protocols and therefore students **will** require a mobile device (such as a mobile phone or tablet/iPad) to approve for our services. Full details, including specifications, will be provided ahead of the implementation.

Please note: full mobile access is not available for all programmes. Proctored assessments will not work on any smartphone, tablet, Chromebook, Linux Operating Systems or other mobile device of any kind.

Students with specific access requirements

The University of London welcomes applications from disabled students and/or those who have access requirements. The University will make every effort to provide reasonable adjustments to enable those with a disability, learning difficulty or access requirements to have the same opportunity as all other students to successfully complete their studies.

The University is committed to managing the application procedure and the programme itself to ensure that services are accessible for all students and that an inclusive environment is created. Students with a disability, or others who may need access arrangements to assist in taking examinations, should complete the relevant section of the application form, or contact the [Inclusive Practice Manager](#). A separate room or other arrangements may be considered.

Requests are considered by a University panel, whose purpose is to ensure that students with disabilities and/or specific access requirements are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged by such arrangements when compared with other students. These considerations remain separate from the academic selection processes.

For further information, see [Inclusive Practice Policy](#)

Sources of funding and scholarships

Information about potential sources of funding and scholarships is updated annually and where available is included in the prospectus web pages.

For further information see the [website](#).

Educational aims and learning outcomes of the programmes

Programme aims

The programme provides students with an opportunity to develop and apply master's level knowledge within accounting, financial management and the strategic context for business and management. In so doing, the programme engenders core financial knowledge that helps students understand the complex internal and external relationships within organizations when making management decisions. The programme requires students to assimilate master's level knowledge and demonstrate critical understanding of models and techniques providing solutions to management challenges based on systematic analysis of complex business problems. Students are also required to demonstrate independent research capability and present complex ideas to management professionals. In this programme, students understand and apply financial ideas and frameworks within the fields of financial reporting, management accounting and financial management. Attainment of the programme aims will enable non-financial specialist managers within organisations to generate a portfolio of skills and abilities to potentially further professional development and career progression. Also, such attainment will benefit recent non-accounting/finance graduates to build a platform on which career opportunities may be based.

Learning outcomes (MSc)

A student is expected to:

A Knowledge and understanding:

Develop an understanding of financial ideas, models, and techniques appropriate for solutions to management challenges.

Understand and apply financial ideas and frameworks within the sphere of financial reporting, the arena of management accounting, and the field of financial management.

Understand the strategic dimension when applying specific financial models and techniques to support both decision making and routine operations.

Understand the complex internal and external relationships for organisations when management make decisions.

Apply research skills to support financial and strategic decision-making analysis.

Assimilate, identify, and critically appraise data used for financial decisions at a strategic level in organisations.

B Cognitive skills

Think critically and creatively in selecting alternative solutions to finance-related challenges requiring decisions.

Think critically about the process of and outputs from financial reporting.

Solve problems to support and enact effective financial management.

Solve complex problems to support financial decisions.

Identify and evaluate options to solving business problems.

Undertake research into a financially related business problem and to apply skills in the assembling and analysis of data collected.

C Practical and professional skills

Acquire and develop numeracy and quantitative skills to apply to business management.

Apply critical self-reflection to business practice and experience.

Communicate complex solutions effectively to business related decisions.

Use information technology effectively.

Demonstrate effective self-direction and efficient time management.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. More detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content and the learning, teaching and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module syllabuses.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategies

The core principles of the Standard Academic Model which incorporates the learning, teaching and assessment strategy for this programme are outlined below.

Principle 1: Access and opportunity

Our programmes are designed to maximise access and opportunity for learners. An online induction will ensure that students are prepared for study and are familiar with the learning environment and sources of support during their student journey.

Principle 2: Student learning

Our programmes are designed to provide students a rich, vibrant, rigorous and engaging learning experience.

Principle 3: Student support

Our programmes are designed to provide students with the support they need to succeed and fulfil their potential.

Principle 4: Programme and module structure

Our programmes follow a consistent structure, designed to drive progression and retention, and offer flexibility within an efficient module release schedule.

Principle 5: Design for learning

Our programmes are a co-creation between various teams who each contribute their professional expertise, and educational design for successful learning is at the heart of the programme development process.

Principle 6: Unbundling, portability

Wherever possible, our modules are designed as discrete sequences of learning for maximum use and portability.

Principle 7: Assessment

Our assessment is rigorous, robust, secure, transparent and aligned to the learning outcomes.

Principle 8: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Inclusion is at the heart of our practice in teaching, learning and assessment.

Assessment methods

Each 15-credit module is run over a 10 week block, with the exception of the 30-credit dissertation/project which is run over two 10-week blocks, those two blocks being in successive sessions.

The following modules are assessed by two assessments: one online test comprising multiple-choice questions and other quiz-type questions (25%) and an end of term coursework assessment (75%):

- Financial Accounting Frameworks (FAF) [AFM010]
- Management Accounting Frameworks (MAF) [AFM020]
- Financial Management Essentials (FME) [AFM030]
- Advanced Financial Analysis (AFA) [AFM040]
- Advanced Management Accounting (AMA) [AFM050]

The following modules are assessed by an end of term coursework assessment (100%)

- Corporate Governance, Audit and Assurance (CGAA) [AFM060]
- Global Issues in Finance and Accounting (GIFA) [AFM070]
- Analysing Risk for Decision Making (ARDM) [AFM080]
- Issues in Investment Management (IIM) [AFM090]
- Capital Markets and Global Perspectives (CMGP) [AFM100]

The Capstone project [AFM500] is assessed by two assessments: a coursework (30%) and a project (70%).

Where a module has more than one element of assessment, the grade awarded for each module will be based on both elements of assessment. Students will be required to pass the module with a weighted average of 50%.

Resits may be taken once the module results have been confirmed by the Board of Examiners.

Coursework and projects are submitted in the VLE by prescribed deadlines.

All assessments are submitted online via a University of London platform. Students must ensure that their device is kept up to date and complies with [University Computer Requirements](#).

Student support and guidance

Key features of the support for students include:

- [Student Portal](#): for accessing student induction, study skills support, careers and employability resources, student wellbeing advice.
- Student induction resources.
- [Student Guide](#): This provides information which is common to all students and gives guidance on a range of issues from the start of a student's relationship with the University of London through to their graduation.
- University of London Careers Service – offers tailored careers and employability support to students whatever their course, wherever they are studying, and whether they are starting, developing, or changing their career. Support includes webinars led by careers consultants, employer and alumni panel events and a range of online careers resources.
- VLE containing: self-assessment and student planner tools; comprehensive learning materials; e-resources/e-library; student forums and progress monitoring tools
- Online student advisor and online tutor
- [Programme Regulations](#).
- [The Online Library](#): This provides a range of full-text, multidisciplinary databases where journal articles, book reviews and reports can be found.
- A University of London email account and web area for personal information management.

Quality evaluation and enhancement

The University of London delivers the majority of its online and distance learning programmes through a collaboration between the University of London Worldwide and University of London federation members. However, some of the online and distance learning programmes draw solely on academic input from the University of London and are delivered without academic lead by a federation member. The policies, partnerships (where applicable) and quality assurance mechanisms applicable for the programmes are defined in the following key documents: The [Quality Assurance Schedules, Guidelines for Examinations, General Regulations](#) and, for each programme, programme specific regulations.

Awards standards

All University of London qualifications must comply with the Office for Students' (OfS) [Conditions of Registration](#) relating to quality and standards, which includes condition B5 ([sector-recognised standards](#)). This is to ensure appropriate standards for each qualification. In addition, every online and distance learning programme that is developed by a federation member of the University of London (or a consortium with representation by more than one federation member) will be developed to the same standard as would be applied within the

institution concerned. Proportionate and robust approval procedures, including external scrutiny and student engagement, are in place for all programmes. Learning materials are written and all assessments are set and marked by academic staff who are required to apply the University's academic standards.

Review and evaluation mechanisms

Some of the key mechanisms in place to assure the standards of all University of London qualifications and the quality of the student experience, include:

- Annual programme reports: produced for all programmes in order to review and enhance the provision and to plan ahead;
- Independent external examiners: submit reports every year to confirm that a programme has been assessed properly and meets the appropriate academic standards;
- Annual student performance, progression and completion statistics
- Periodic programme reviews: carried out every 4-6 years to review how a programme has developed over time and to make sure that it remains current and continues to provide a good student experience..

Enhancements are made as necessary to ensure that systems remain effective and rigorous.

Student feedback and engagement

The principal channel for collecting feedback from students is the Student Experience Survey. Carried out every year, this collects feedback from the student body on a range of topics relating to the student lifecycle. The results are analysed externally and then considered in a number of different ways, including by the programme team, principal committees and the senior leadership team. Details of any resulting actions taken are published on the Virtual Learning Environment and the Student Portal.

Additionally, on completion of their programme of study students will be invited to take a survey that seeks to measure what they have gained from their studies.

There are also opportunities for students to get involved in governance. An undergraduate and postgraduate student member is appointed by the University to the majority of committees through an annual appointment round. Some programmes also recruit student members at the programme level. Students are frequently invited to take part in quality review processes such as Periodic Programme Reviews, Programme approval, Thematic Reviews, MOOC review panels and ad hoc focus groups. Opportunities such as these are advertised through social media and on the website. More information can be found on the [website](#).

Students can also apply to join the Student Voice Group, which meets four times a year to consider initiatives for enhancing student experience. Notes from these meetings are published on the Student Portal.

After graduation

Further study

Successful completion of the programme may serve as preparation for students who wish to go on to take further study in both the subject area and potentially many other subject areas. Enquiries about further study opportunities should be directed to the University of London Student Advice Centre 'ask a question' button in the [student portal](#).

Graduate employment routes

This programme is targeted at career minded individuals who wish to develop their professional skills with master's level understanding and skills applied to accounting, financial management and strategic subject areas.

The Alumni Community

Upon finishing a course of study, graduates automatically become part of the University of London alumni community, a diverse global network of more than one million graduates in over 180 countries, providing lifelong links to the University and to each other.

Alumni are encouraged to keep in touch after they graduate and to become active members of the alumni community; in return they receive a number of benefits and services, including an extensive programme of events and engagement opportunities.

More information is available on the alumni [webpage](#).

Follow the alumni community on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)

Module descriptions

Financial Accounting Frameworks (FAF) [AFM010]

This module aims to provide students with a good grounding in and an appreciation of the financial accounting essentials that any analyst, manager or business owner should possess. As such it stands on its own merits but also provides a base for further studies in the accounting and financial management arena.

A key aim is to show and understand how the financial transactions and activities of a business in a particular financial period are constructed, and how they depict the financial story of that period through the subsequent construction and publication of core financial statements: Balance Sheets, Income Statements, and Cash Flow Statements. In so doing it explains why profit and cash measurements of the same transactions and activities differ. This involves identifying and dealing with issues in revenue and expenses recognition, and in the valuation of assets and liabilities. The module shows how to calculate financial ratios to analyse and interpret the core financial statements and to gain insights into financial health and performance.

Topics covered:

- Financial frameworks for financial statements
- Conceptual underpinnings of financial reporting
- Issues in revenue recognition and expense determination
- Issues in valuation of assets and liabilities
- Construction of income and cash flow statements, and balance sheets
- Accounting for limited companies
- The Accounting Equation and double entry bookkeeping
- The trial balance and adjustments
- Financial analysis through ratios

Management Accounting Frameworks (MAF) [AFM020]

This module aims to provide students with a sound understanding of key issues and applied methodologies relating to management accounting frameworks. Those frameworks are used by managers when faced with making financial decisions in the context of the business environment. In understanding and applying those frameworks, this module seeks to provide students with the requisite knowledge, understanding and skills to cost products, services and activities, understand and manage costs, prepare and manage budgets, and undertake a range of short- and longer-term financial decisions.

It provides a robust grounding in and an appreciation of the cost and management accounting principles a manager or business owner should possess. As such it stands on its own merits but also provides a base for further studies in the accounting and financial management arena. In so doing it examines the blend of financial analysis and managerial judgment required to make sound decisions. In particular there is an emphasis on issues in overhead cost recovery, including activity-based costing (ABC); contribution costing and CVP analysis; costing issues in the context of a competitive environment, including activity-based costing (ABC); relevant costs for decision making; core investment appraisal techniques (ARR, Payback, NPV and IRR); budgetary control, variance analysis, and standard costing.

Topics covered:

- First ideas about Management Accounting, including the roles of profit, cash and 'cost'
- Full costing of products, services and activities through conventional overhead costing
- Full costing of products, services and activities through activity-based costing
- Contribution and CVP analysis
- Relevant costs in decision making
- Making capital investment decisions: an introduction to CAPEX
- Budgeting and financial planning
- Budgetary control through variance analysis

Financial Management Essentials (FME) [AFM030]

This module aims to provide students with a sound understanding of key issues and applied methodologies concerning financial management-related decisions and their implementation and consequences and outcomes.

As such it seeks to engender in students as managers an ability to take financial management ideas and principles and apply them in the context of work-based scenarios. That process is accompanied by an ability to critically analyse and evaluate both the theoretical underpinnings and the outcomes of practical applications. These characteristics and attributes are placed specifically in the context of the inter-sections between elements, as appropriate, of financial accounting, managerial accounting, and corporate finance.

Topics covered:

- Financial planning

- Working capital management
- Investment appraisal and risk
- Financing a business: sources of finance and associated issues
- Cost of capital and the capital structure decision
- Perspectives on shareholder value
- Returning value to shareholders, including dividend policy
- Business valuation

Advanced Financial Analysis (AFA) [AFM040]

This module aims to provide students with a sound understanding of key issues and applied methodologies regarding the interrogation of external financial reporting statements and associated information, with a view to establishing a company's financial performance, health and position. In so doing it lingers on matters such as discretion and deliberate creativity in generating financial figures and their impacts of reported financial figures and associate perceptions of financial performance and health. As such it seeks to engender in students an ability to interrogate financial reports and to critique their integrity.

Topics covered:

- Strengths, weakness and limitations of external financial reporting statements
- Discretion in applying financial standards and accounting principles
- Creative accounting
- Instances of fraud
- Horizontal and vertical, and other appropriate/relevant analyses
- Using ratios to predict survivals, prosperity, and failure

Advanced Management Accounting (AMA) [AFM050]

This module aims to provide students with a sound understanding of key issues and applied methodologies concerning advanced management accounting-related decisions and their implementation and consequences and outcomes. As such it seeks to engender in students as managers an ability to take advanced management accounting ideas and principles and apply them in the context of work-based scenarios. That process is accompanied by an ability to critically analyse and evaluate both the theoretical underpinnings and the outcomes of practical applications.

In so doing, the module aligns the use of strategic management accounting with the process of performance measurement and management. It identifies a number of a range of cost management techniques useful in furthering the strategy of an organization. It seeks to develop and support the development of knowledge, understanding and skills to select and apply relevant financial techniques in supporting the management of an organization, and to interpret and explain the results. It promotes the notion that management accounting, like other areas of management, is context-dependent, and has to be put into the context of an organization's strategy, culture and management style. It explores non-financial measures (illustratively the Balanced Score Card and the Tableau de Board), quality issues, performance techniques such as Six Sigma, Delphi, activity-based management,

responsibility accounting and advanced planning and budgeting. It includes transfer pricing, and divisional performance evaluation.

Topics covered:

- The nature and purpose of strategic management accounting
- Issues in and challenges to management control
- Contemporary approaches to financial planning
- Contemporary approaches to cost measurement and management
- Activity based management
- Divisionalised performance evaluation
- Transfer pricing
- Non-financial performance evaluation
- Approaches to and issues in generating and monitoring quality

Corporate Governance, Audit and Assurance (CGAA) [AFM060]

The aim of this module is to develop an understanding of corporate risk management, including how risk management links to compliance management and promotes effective corporate governance.

In that context it provides the knowledge and skills to ensure the design of a sound corporate governance system and the supporting audit and assurance process to mitigate and management risks to the efficacy of that corporate governance system.

Topics covered:

- Governance and responsibility
- Stakeholder theories
- Professional values, ethics and social responsibility
- Assurance systems
- Internal control and review through internal audit
- Role of external audit
- Risk management within audit processes

Global Issues in Financial and Accounting (GIFA) [AFM070]

The module aims to provide participants with a theoretical and practical understanding of the evolving nature and applications of finance and accounting models. Such evolution – both natural and engineered, stems from changes in the economic, political, regulatory and technological environment. In so doing the module looks the established history, the current situation, and explores implications for the future.

The module provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to assess the impact of such changes on organisations and a range of relevant stakeholders. It aims to explore current issues in financial reporting, financial management and corporate finance

disciplines and to provide opportunities for students to develop their skills in critical analysis and evaluation of alternative solutions.

Topics covered:

- Issues in implementing accounting standards for financial reporting
- Sustainability and integrated reporting issues
- Financial risk management and the Basel Accord(s)
- The impacts, current and potential, of digital developments, including AI
- Issues impacting global mergers and acquisition activity

Analysing Risk for Decision Making (ARDM) [AFM080]

This module seeks to provide knowledge, understanding and skills to apply tools to proposed investment opportunities. As such it sets out to develop skills in a range of areas which contribute to the construction of a robust business case which demonstrates that key risks have been identified, analysed and evaluated.

Such areas include:

- data analysis
- structuring decisions
- building decision models
- risk assessment
- trade-offs

By the end the module abilities will have been developed to identify and select appropriate types of analyses to improve decision making under uncertainty and add value.

Topics covered:

- Characteristics of robust decisions
- Structuring managerial decision problems
- The role of intuition and analysis in decision making
- Attitudes to and perceptions of risk
- Information overload and the extraction of relevant data and information
- Deciding between opportunities with differing risk profiles
- Flexibility and optionality in decision making
- Mitigating risk

Issues in Investment Management (IIM) [AFM090]

This module seeks to an understanding of the nature and purposes of, and issues within investment decisions in a range of investment opportunities. In so doing to articulates and illustrates applied principles of investments in stocks/shares, bonds, mutual funds, and other

securities, within an investment portfolio. It further sets out to provide a practical familiarity with issues in investment in derivatives, and in real estate.

Topics covered:

- The investment arena
- Portfolio theory and market efficiency
- Behavioural insights and associated issues
- Investing in and managing fixed income securities
- Investing in and managing ordinary (common) equities
- Practical issues in portfolio development
- Measurement and managing risk
- Frameworks for derivatives
- Frameworks for alternative investments - real estate, private equity, hedge funds & commodities

Capital Markets and Global Perspectives (CMGP) [AFM100]

This module aims to provide students with a sound understanding of the purposes, nature and operation of global capital markets. It seeks to identify who uses them, and why, and how. Within that it illustrates the dynamics of the interactions of actors as capital is exchanged using financial instruments to generate returns while managing risk. It reveals the context in which these actors operate in markets, and particularly so in the context of regulations imposed on markets. Additionally, it seeks to illustrate how the 2008 financial crash has left an evolving regulatory legacy and evolving attitudes to risk-return trade-offs.

Topics covered:

- Purpose(s) and nature(s) of global capital markets
- Purpose(s) and nature(s) of financial actors
- Nature and application of economic theory: rationality and profit maximization; information asymmetry; moral hazard; adverse selection
- Global perspectives on the risk- return trade-off
- Financial instruments – stocks, bonds, and derivatives
- Interaction dynamics between financial actors
- Regulation and compliance
- IPOs

Capstone Project [AFM500]

The module aims to provide an opportunity to demonstrate independent academic research skills and apply them in real world and simulated professional contexts, which will include the requirement to present an analysis of and potential solutions and recommendations to an accounting/finance/strategic management related organisational issue in a format suitable for a finance professional.

Topics covered:

- Purpose(s) and nature(s) of research and research philosophy
- The critical literature review
- Research design and business plan design
- Data collection
- Qualitative and quantitative research techniques
- Business planning and financial forecasting
- Business landscape analyses techniques