



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

Programme Regulations 2020–2021

Professional Accountancy Pathway 2

MSc

Important document – please read
This document contains important
information that governs your
registration, assessment and
programme of study

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

Alternative Assessments during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak

In these unprecedented times, the University has and continues to respond quickly to the impact of COVID-19, which has resulted in changes to our assessment processes.

In line with our current General Regulations, the University may offer you alternative assessments where necessary. This includes holding online timed assessments in place of written examinations, which are usually held at examination centres. Please note that this statement replaces any published information relating to assessments or written examinations in any of our materials including the website. Previously published materials relating to examinations should therefore be read in conjunction with this statement.

The University of London continues to work towards supporting the academic progression of all its students. The University also continues to be mindful of the health and wellbeing of its students during this pandemic, whilst protecting the academic standards of its awards.

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Important information regarding the Programme Regulations

Last revised 17 August 2020

As a student registered with the University of London you are governed by the current General Regulations and Programme Regulations associated with your programme of study.

These Programme Regulations are designed and developed by the University of London which is responsible for the academic direction of the programme. The Programme Regulations will provide the detailed rules and guidance for your programme of study.

In addition to Programme Regulations you will have to abide by the [General Regulations](#). These regulations apply to all students registered for a programme of study with the University of London and provide the rules governing registration and assessment on all programmes; they also indicate what you may expect on completion of your programme of study and how you may pursue a complaint, should that be necessary. Programme Regulations should be read in conjunction with the General Regulations.

The relevant General Regulations and the Programme Regulations relating to your registration with us are for the current year and not the year in which you initially registered.

On all matters where the regulations are to be interpreted, or are silent, our decision will be final.

Further information about your programme of study is outlined in the Programme Specification which is available on the relevant Courses page of the website. The Programme Specification gives a broad overview of the structure and content of the programme as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress.

Terminology

The following language is specific to **Professional Accountancy Pathway 2**:

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

Pathway: The descriptor for the two different programme structures offered under this award. Which to select is determined by student's ACCA status and papers passed.

Throughout the Regulations, 'we' 'us' and 'our' mean the University of London; 'you' and 'your' mean the student, or where applicable, all students.

If you have a query about any of the programme information provided please contact us. You should use the 'ask a question' button in the [student portal](#)

Changes to Professional Accountancy Pathway 2 Regulations 2020-2021

Clarification that you may not transfer from Pathway 2 to Pathway 1

1 Structure of the programmes

[\[Appendix A\]](#) gives the syllabuses and module outlines.

Qualification

1.1

The following named qualification is offered under the Pathway 2 of the Professional Accountancy programme:

- Master of Science in Professional Accountancy (MSc).

Qualification structure

1.2

The MSc Professional Accountancy under Pathway 2 consists of

- ACCA Strategic Professional Essentials (SBL and SBR) and two Options from AFM, APM, ATX or AAA, or their equivalent, recognised and accredited as prior learning, and
- Two University of London modules:
 - Global issues for the finance professional [PAM100]
 - Strategic financial project [PAM006].

2 Registration

Effective date of registration

2.1

Your effective date of registration will be either:

- 1 January if you first register before a December registration deadline; or
- 1 July if you first register before a June registration deadline.

Date of first study session

2.2

If your effective date of registration is 1 January, the study session for the first module(s) you select will start in the same month and will finish in June of the same year.

If your effective date of registration is 1 July, the study session for the first module(s) you select will start in the same month and will finish in December of the same year.

Period of registration

2.3

The minimum and maximum periods of registration to complete the programme from your effective date of registration are:

	Minimum	Maximum
MSc Pathway 1	One year	Five years
MSc Pathway 2	Six months	Five years
PGCert (Pathway 1)	Six months	Five years

We will only grant an extension to the maximum period of registration in exceptional circumstances. Any extension to the maximum period of registration will be at the Programme Director's discretion.

Order in which to take the modules

2.4

You may register for the modules in any order.

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. There are assessment deadlines for each module that may overlap and this should also be taken into consideration. It is recommended that students attempt *Global issues for the finance professional* [PAM100] before *Strategic financial project* [PAM006].

2.5

You may not transfer your registration from Pathway 2 to Pathway 1.

You may be permitted to transfer your registration from Pathway 1 to Pathway 2. Further information can be found in [Pathway 1 Regulations](#).

3 Recognition of prior learning and credit transfer

The rules for recognition of prior learning are described in the [General Regulations](#), Section 3.

To be read in conjunction with the [General Regulations](#), Section 3.

Recognition of prior learning

3.1

We will award 120 credits towards the award of the MSc Professional Accountancy if you have passed ACCA Strategic Professional Essentials (SBL and SBR) and two Options from AFM, APM, ATX and AAA, or their equivalent.

3.2

If you passed the last of the ACCA Professional level papers more than five years ago, you must be able to demonstrate that your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) record is compliant with the ACCA policy on CPD since you became member, which includes an up-to-date CPD declaration for the current year. Additionally you will be required to successfully complete the assessment for

the University of London Professional Accountancy [online preparation course](#) which is available to enrol on demand.

Further information is available from the [Entry Requirements](#) on the programme page.

See the [ACCA website](#) for more information about the ACCA exams and qualifications.

4 Assessment for the programme

Each module is assessed by two *elements*. In turn, the elements may comprise one or more *items* of assessment. You will pass the element if the combined weighted mark for the items that make up the element is 50%.

See the virtual learning environment for the deadline dates for submitting coursework and projects.

Summary table of assessment

4.1

Module	Strategic financial project [PAM006]		Global issues for the finance professional [PAM100]	
Element of assessment	Coursework	Project	Coursework	Final assessment item
Element weighting	30%	70%	50%	50%
Item of assessment	1 item of coursework, worth 30%.	1 project worth 70%.	2 items of coursework each worth 25%.	1 final assessment item worth 50%.
To pass the element you must get:	a mark of at least 50% in the coursework	a mark of at least 50% in project	a combined weighted mark of at least 50% for the 2 items of coursework	a mark of at least 50% in the final assessment
To pass the module you must get:	a mark of at least 50% in both elements		a mark of at least 50% in both elements	

Taking assessments

Refer to the rules on assessment and assessment offences in the [General Regulations](#)

4.2

When you register for a module, you must take the assessment elements at the first available opportunity.

Deferring an assessment

4.3

We will not allow you to defer the coursework, final assessment or project element of assessment. If you miss a deadline for submission of coursework, final assessment or project you will be given a mark of zero for the assessment item and it will count as an attempt.

Deadlines for items of assessment

See the virtual learning environment for full details of all the assessment points and deadline dates.

4.4

Coursework items and project items must be submitted through the virtual learning environment by the deadline dates and times given on the virtual learning environment.

Passing assessments

4.5

The pass mark for all assessment elements and modules is 50%.

4.6

If an element is assessed by more than one item (examination and/or coursework(s)), you will pass the element if the combined weighted mark for the items is at least 50%.

4.7

The two University of London modules under Pathway 2 are compulsory. To pass these modules you must obtain a mark of at least 50% in each element of assessment. Compensation for marginal failure is not permitted under Pathway 2.

Number of attempts permitted at an element of assessment

4.8

The maximum number of attempts permitted for an element of coursework or project is **two**. Where the element is made up of more than one item, each item may be attempted two times.

Retaking an element of assessment

If you retake one or more elements of assessment for a module, you will have to pay a module continuation fee when you register for the module to retake the assessment. You may only register for a retake once your results have been ratified.

4.9

If you attempt an element of assessment and do not achieve the pass mark of 50%, you may only register for a retake once your results have been approved by the Board of Examiners and provided that you have not exceeded the maximum number of attempts.

4.10

If you do not have results to confirm because you have not attempted an element or item of assessment, you will be able to retake the assessment at the next opportunity.

4.11

Where the element consists of more than one item: If you do not achieve the pass mark of 50% for one item of assessment, you must retake that failed item. You will carry forward the mark for the item(s) that achieved a minimum of 50%.

4.12

You may not retake an item of assessment that you have passed.

4.13

If you retake a failed item of assessment, your most recent mark will be used for classification.

4.14

If you receive the result of fail on your second attempt at any item of the assessment for a module and you are no longer able to satisfy the requirements for the MSc, your registration will cease.

4.15

If you are required to resubmit any project or coursework items, you must ensure that any materials used from your previous submission are referenced correctly.

Further information on referencing can be found on the [Student portal](#).

5 Scheme of award

Mark scheme

5.1

The following mark scheme is used for the MSc:

Mark range	Outcome
70% and over	Distinction
60% – 69%	Merit
50% – 59%	Pass
0% – 49%	Fail

5.2

To calculate the final grade for the qualification, the marks for the University of London modules are weighted equally.

5.3

To be granted the qualification with Merit, your mean average mark for the two University of London modules must be between 60% and 69%.

5.4

To be granted the qualification with Distinction, your mean average mark for the two University of London modules must be 70% or above.

Weighting of the assessments

5.5

The overall mark for *Global issues for the finance professional* [PAM100] is calculated by weighting the marks achieved for coursework item 1, coursework item 2 and the final assessment item in a ratio of 25:25:50.

5.6

The overall mark for *Strategic financial project* [PAM006] is calculated by weighting the marks achieved for the coursework item and the project item in a ratio of 30:70.

Date of qualification

5.7

The date of qualification will correspond to the year that the requirements for the qualification were satisfied.

Qualification requirements

5.8

To be awarded the MSc Professional Accountancy under Pathway 2, you must:

- satisfy us that you have passed ACCA Strategic Professional Essentials (SBL and SBR) and two Options from AFM, APM, ATX or AAA, or their equivalent, and achieve a mark of at least 50% in each of the two University of London modules.

Appendix A – Module outlines

See the [module specifications](#) for more information about the module content:

Global issues for the finance professional [PAM100]

This module provides a theoretical and practical understanding of the evolutionary nature and applications of the conceptual frameworks of finance and accounting that have arisen from changes in the external global environment. The emphasis is on the practical problems to which analysis of existing, proposed and potential principles, and the evaluation of the options available, may make a positive contribution to wider professional understanding and knowledge. The nature of the module is such that under each of the Themes included, specific content reflects a wide range of contemporary ideas, issues and challenges. This allows for assessment to draw upon relevant aspects as they evolve in ever-changing world.

The module provides students an opportunity for reflection in the context of their own workplace, for those who are in work.

Strategic financial project [PAM006]

This module is a two-part module where first of all students will have an opportunity to develop knowledge of research methodologies, and secondly apply these skills to the collection and analysis of data within a simulated accounting/finance related scenario. This will involve identifying and analysing data and information in relation to business challenges, researching alternative solutions, and applying a judgement based assessment of the evidence. During the second-half of the module students will be required to work in teams with other students on the module. This team activity will require students to engage in a simulation activity that will take place over 5 consecutive weeks during the module. It will be expected that students will participate as there will be learning points which will feed into their final assessment.

Students must complete one item of coursework. The coursework is worth 30% of the marks and will demonstrate their knowledge and research skills based upon the first half of the module. The final assessment is based upon the module as a whole and is submitted at the end of the module. The final assessment is worth 70% of the marks. The format of this will depend on the question that is set each time. For example, students may be asked to submit a report directed to a management board, potential investors or a governing body as part of the project brief amongst other related tasks. Dates of assessment submissions can be found on the VLE and are session specific.

Appendix B – Assessment Criteria

Coursework and Project Assessment Criteria

This is an indicative description of expectations at each grade level. Overall grades will comprise qualitative and quantitative elements. The setting of questions, tasks and requirements and the accompanying marking scheme should take account of the criteria below.

% range	Grade Descriptor	Description
85 +	Outstanding Distinction	Work of outstanding quality, showing mastery of the subject matter with a highly developed and mature ability to analyse, synthesise and apply knowledge and theory. All objectives of the task are covered and work is free of errors. There is evidence of critical reflection and the work demonstrates originality of thought. Ideas are expressed with fluency and elegance. This work meets and exceeds the standard for distinction, as described in the 70-84 band, across all sub-categories of criteria: knowledge and understanding of subject; intellectual skills; capacity to solve more unusual or demanding scenarios involving application of deep understanding of the subject and its methods/techniques; research skills; use of research-informed literature and other scholarly practices.
70-84	Distinction	Produces work of exceptional standard, reflecting excellent understanding. Displays mastery of the subject matter, with notable critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights at forefront of the field. Shows excellent ability to select and apply appropriate and relevant methodologies/techniques/theories as well as the ability to evaluate methodologies critically. Deals with complex issues systematically and creatively, making excellent judgements. Conducts research highly effectively, using technical and/or professional skills as appropriate. Shows originality in application of knowledge and the ability to communicate at a very high level arguments, evidence and conclusions to diverse audiences.
60-69	Merit	Clear understanding of the subject area producing work with a well-defined focus. Shows some originality of ideas; appropriate use of analytical techniques; appreciation of methodology; critical analysis of data; evidence of independent reading; adequate referencing and professional bibliography; adequate structure and style; reasonably professional standard of presentation with some errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar. Shows understanding and critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of the academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice. Able to communicate very effectively arguments, evidence and conclusions to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
50-59	Pass	Demonstrates a sound general knowledge and understanding of material and subject area; Shows limited originality of ideas; straight forward application of analytical techniques; limited commentary on methodology; limited critical analysis of data; limited evidence of independent reading; adequate referencing and adequate bibliography; adequate structure and style; moderately professional standard of presentation with errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar. Able to communicate effectively with a given audience. Work shows a grasp of relevant concepts and material, but with some errors, gaps or areas of confusion. Only the basic requirements of the work are covered. There is a heavy reliance on course materials and little evidence of

% range	Grade Descriptor	Description
		additional reading.
40-49	Fail	Demonstrates limited understanding and lacks the core knowledge of the subject area; lacking originality of ideas; limited application of analytical techniques; lacking commentary on methodology; limited critical analysis of data, little evidence of independent reading; adequate referencing and adequate bibliography; adequate structure and style; poor to moderate standard of presentation with errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar. Offers some appropriate analysis, but with some significant inconsistencies which affect the soundness of argument and/or conclusions. Demonstrates very limited critical ability producing work that is too descriptive.
0-39	Fail	Demonstrates significant weakness in the knowledge base and understanding of the subject area; simply reproducing knowledge without evidence of understanding. Shows few original ideas; limited application of analytical techniques; limited understanding of methodology; lacks commentary on methodology; no critical analysis of data; poor, inconsistent analysis; very little or no evidence of independent reading; very poor referencing and poor bibliography; poor structure and style; poor standard of presentation with significant errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar.