



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMMES

Programme Regulations 2016–17

Professional Accountancy Pathway 2

MSc

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



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Important information regarding the Programme Regulations

About this document

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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.

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 International Academy and provide the rules governing registration and assessment for the programme; 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.

A [Glossary](#) provides an explanation of the terms used in this document.

If you have a query about any of the programme information provided please contact us. You should use the *ask a question* tab in the student portal <https://my.londoninternational.ac.uk>.

To note

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

Changes to Professional Accountancy Pathway 2 Regulations 2016-17

There are no significant changes to the regulations.

1 Structure of the programme

Award

1.1

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

- Master of Science in Professional Accountancy (MSc).

Award structure

1.2

The MSc in Professional Accountancy under Pathway 2 consists of

- ACCA Professional level papers P1, P2, P3 and two from P4, P5, P6, P7, 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,
- 1 April if you first register before a March registration deadline,
- 1 July if you first register before a June registration deadline, or
- 1 October if you first register before a September registration deadline.

Date of first study session

2.2

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

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

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

Period of registration

The minimum and maximum periods of registration to complete the programme are given in the [Programme Specification](#).

Order in which to take the modules

2.3

You may register for the modules in any order.

3 Recognition of prior learning and credit transfer

The rules for recognition of prior learning are described in the [General Regulations \(for students on the Global MBA and Professional Accountancy programmes\)](#)

3.1

We will award 120 credits towards the award of the MSc in Professional Accountancy if you have passed ACCA Professional level papers P1, P2 and P3 and two of P4, P5, P6, P7, 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 pass the assessment for the University of London Professional Accountancy online preparation test which is available to enrol on demand.

Further information is available from the [Requirements](#) tab on the Course web page

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	Element of assessment	Element weighting	Item of assessment	To pass the element you must get:	To pass the module you must get:
Strategic financial project [PAM006]	Coursework	30%	1 item of coursework, worth 30%.	a mark of least 50% in the coursework	a mark of at least 50% in both elements
	Project	70%	1 project item worth 70%.	a mark of least 50% in the project	

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

Taking assessments

Refer to the rules on assessment and assessment offences in the [General Regulations \(for students on the Global MBA and Professional Accountancy programmes\)](#)

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 element or project element of assessment. If you miss a deadline for submission of coursework or a 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 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 you will pass the element if the combined weighted mark for the items is at least 50%.

Compensation for marginal failure of an element

4.7

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

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 do not have to take the assessment at the next available session; there are up to four sessions each year and you have five years to complete your studies.

4.9

You may retake any element of assessment that you have failed provided that you have not exceeded the maximum number of attempts.

4.10

You will fail the element if the combined weighted mark for the element is below 50%. Where the element is made up of more than one item, all items must be retaken.

4.11

If you retake an assessment your most recent mark will be used for classification.

4.12

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

4.13

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

5 Schemes 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 award the marks for the University of London modules are weighted equally.

5.3

To be granted the award 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 award 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 project 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 award

5.7

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

Award requirements

5.8

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

- satisfy us that you have passed ACCA Professional level papers P1, P2 and P3 and two from P4, P5, P6, P7, 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:

www.londoninternational.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/ucl/professional-accountancy-msc-pg-cert#structure

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.

The module provides 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.

Students must complete two items of coursework. The first item is worth 30% of the marks and will demonstrate their knowledge and research skills. The second item is a project which 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 or a governing body as part of the project brief amongst other related tasks.

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
70-84	Distinction	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
60-69	Merit	<p>Clear understanding of the subject area producing work with a well-defined focus.</p> <p>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.</p>

50-59	Pass	<p>Demonstrates a sound general knowledge and understanding of material and subject area;</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 additional reading.</p>
40-49	Fail	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
0-39	Fail	<p>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.</p>

Project assessment criteria

	Overall	Project Aims / Research Questions identified	Understanding of background and context / Literature Review	Data handling and generation / Research Design and Methodology Execution	Interpretation of results / Findings and Data Analysis	Discussion and conclusions	Presentation / Readability
Outstanding Distinction (80 +)	This work meets and often exceeds the standard for distinction, as described in the 70-85 band, across <i>all</i> sub-categories of criteria: knowledge and understanding of subject; intellectual skills; research skills; use of research-informed literature and other scholarly practices. This work is of publishable quality.	Clearly expressed, well understood and at the forefront of the science	Clear and incisive critical analysis of background and context, clear appreciation of current issues and debate	Complete, rigorous approach, full understanding of limitations and uncertainties	Highly innovative interpretations, fully substantiated and critically appraised, appreciation of the subtleties of the data	Complete awareness of wider significance and application of results. Immediately publishable work	Clear and eloquently written, hardly any errors, all diagrams clear and appropriate. Thorough reference list
Distinction (70–79)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducts research highly effectively, using technical and/or professional skills as appropriate. -Displays exceptional grasp of a range of techniques applicable to own research or advanced scholarship. - Shows originality in application of knowledge, and excellent grasp of how knowledge is created and interpreted in the discipline. -Able to communicate at a very high level arguments, evidence and conclusions to diverse audiences. -Is able to evaluate critically, with notable insight, a range of 	Clearly expressed, well understood and challenging	Clear critical analysis of the background and appreciation of current issues and debate	Rigorous approach, good understanding of limitations and uncertainties	Original insights derived from observations, good level of critical appraisal	Advanced awareness of wider significance and application of results. Publishable work	Clear and well written, well organised, few errors, clear and appropriate diagrams. Well referenced

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	<p>literature relating to current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline</p> <p>-Makes consistently excellent use of appropriate academic conventions and academic honesty.</p>						
<p>Merit (60–69)</p>	<p>- Demonstrates understanding of and skills in selected techniques/ approaches applicable to own research or advanced scholarship.</p> <p>- Shows some originality in the application of knowledge, and some understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline.</p> <p>- Able to communicate effectively with a given audience.</p> <p>- Can evaluate critically examples of literature relating to current research and advanced scholarship in the field.</p> <p>- Makes consistently sound use of appropriate academic conventions and academic honesty.</p>	<p>Clearly expressed and well understood</p>	<p>Good understanding and critical analysis</p>	<p>Good realistic approach, aware of most limitations and uncertainties</p>	<p>Realistic understanding of observations, justified by data available</p>	<p>Some good understanding of wider implications. Potentially publishable with some additional work</p>	<p>Good level of presentation, few errors, most diagrams clear and appropriate. Well referenced</p>
<p>Pass 50–59</p>	<p>- Demonstrates some skill in selected techniques and/or approaches applicable to own research or advanced scholarship, but with significant areas of weakness.</p> <p>- Lacks sufficient understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge.</p>	<p>Clear, but of limited scope or not fully understood</p>	<p>Satisfactory understanding, but at face value and with limited critical analysis</p>	<p>Satisfactory, but limited appreciation of uncertainties and limitations</p>	<p>Sound but basic understanding of observations, largely justified by available data</p>	<p>Basic understanding of wider implications, but could be developed further</p>	<p>Satisfactory presentation, some errors but most diagrams clear and appropriate. Reasonable references</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can evidence and discuss/apply examples of literature relating to current research but lacks critical engagement. - References to appropriate literature/ evidence and use of academic conventions are insufficient and/or inconsistent. 						
Fail 30–49	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little or no skill demonstrated in selected techniques applicable to own research or advanced scholarship. - Lacks any understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge. 	None, or very confused	None, or very limited	Sloppy and inaccurate	Failure to draw many significant observations from the data	No attempt to consider the wider significance of the results or their implications	Very difficult to read, poor or unclear diagrams, lacking properly cited references. Disorganised
Fail 0–29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fails to evidence or discuss/apply appropriate examples of literature relating to current research and advanced scholarship in the field. - References to literature/ evidence and use of academic conventions are flawed/irrelevant. 	Lacking in clarity	Incomplete and some misconceptions	Lacking in rigor, little regard for uncertainties and limitations	Limited understanding of observations with misconceptions and/or not fully justified	Limited understanding or mis-conception of wider implications	Numerous errors, unclear or inappropriate diagrams, limited references. Poorly organised