

Template C4



Programme Specification

Title of Course: *MSc Investment and Financial Risk Management*

Date first produced	30/09/2012
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Version number	10
Faculty	Faculty of Business and Social Sciences
Cross-disciplinary	
School	Kingston Business School
Department	Department of Accounting, Finance and Informatics
Delivery Institution	Kingston University

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes and content of each modules can be found in the course VLE site and in individual Module Descriptors.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Award(s) and Title(s):	MSc Investment and Financial Risk Management
Exit Award(s) and Title(s):	Pg Cert Investment and Financial Risk Management Pg Dip Investment and Financial Risk Management
Course Code <i>For each pathway and mode of delivery</i>	N/A PFIFR1IFR01
UCAS code <i>For each pathway</i>	

Awarding Institution:	Kingston University
Teaching Institution:	Kingston University
Location:	Kingston Business School, Faculty of Business and Social Sciences, Kingston Hill
Language of Delivery:	English
Delivery mode:	Primarily campus based (up to 20% of scheduled L&T hours delivered online)
Learning mode(s):	Part-time Full-time
Minimum period of registration:	Part-time - 2 Full-time - 1
Maximum period of registration:	Part-time - 4 Full-time - 2
Entry requirements	Kingston University typically uses a range of entry requirements to assess an applicant's suitability for our courses. Most postgraduate taught course requirements are based on having been awarded a relevant undergraduate degree and are normally coupled with minimum grades expectation of 2:2, specific courses in certain areas may have a stricter grade requirement. We may also use interview, portfolio and performance pieces to assess a person's suitability for some courses. We recognise that every person's journey to a postgraduate taught education is different and unique and in some cases we may take into account work experience and other non-standard pathways onto University level study.

	<p>Additionally, all non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements.</p> <p>Please see our course pages on the Kingston University website for the most up to date entry requirements.</p>
Regulated by	The University and its courses are regulated by the Office for Students
Programme Accredited by:	AACSB
Approved Variants:	This programme is approved to use 15-credit modules.
Is this Higher or Degree Apprenticeship course?	No

SECTION 2: THE COURSE

A. Aims of the Course

The MSc Investment and Financial Risk Management has been developed with advice from managers at a number of banks including: Barclays, RBS Capital Markets; Commerzbank AG; Standard Chartered Bank; NatWest Bank. The programme is designed both for those who already have work experience in financial risk management, investment, banking and other financial services and want to enhance and update further their knowledge and understanding, and for those graduates from different disciplines who wish to have a rewarding, exciting and challenging career in investment and financial risk management field.

Graduates from the programme are expected to hold or progress to high ranking positions in investment and financial risk management around the globe or work in a related field, such as the financial press or relevant government bodies, or pursue a PhD. Thus, developing employable graduates is at the heart of this programme. The students have the opportunity to engage in work-related projects drawing on case studies and real-life scenarios, and modules are designed to develop the skills valued by employers, such as presentations, teamwork, problem solving and communication. This is achieved by embedding employability initiatives within the curriculum as well as designing appropriate assessment method to mirror real-life practices, e.g. preparation of financial statements, business plans, reports and summaries, so that students are exposed to opportunities that develop their skills on an ongoing basis. Students are also encouraged to reflect on their learning so they can articulate how the acquisition of such skills relates to practice and how they can be developed in the future.

This programme is designed to produce 'plug and play' graduates who are ready to slot into a specialised role. It covers financial modelling, financial risk management, risk financing, financial engineering, and fixed income analysis. It also covers financial statement analysis, modern portfolio theory and its implications for asset pricing, investment banking, and investment decisions associated with risk management. The students will be required to construct and manage investment portfolios for a specific period and present the results. They will use the dedicated Bloomberg dealing room and software packages to gain such practical experience. Finally, the research project will equip students to conduct research independently.

The programme covers many aspects of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) programme, giving students the chance to take the CFA professional examination. The programme currently attracts some part qualified CFAs who wish to enhance and update further their knowledge and understanding in this field.

The programme is aimed to demonstrate the links between theory and practice. Real-life examples and case studies will be used extensively during the taught sessions and the assessments will also expose students to real life problems and solutions. Students also have the opportunity to use the Bloomberg trading room where different trading techniques can be applied in practice with real live data.

The programme has a balanced approach between quantitative and qualitative methods, and will provide candidates with the computer and research skills required by employers in this highly competitive sector.

The programme also helps develop employment-ready students through an integrated business experience in the form of a work placement.

This integrated placement provides students with an exciting opportunity to apply and develop their knowledge and skills in a real-world setting and/or study in another country, both of which enable them to develop their self-confidence and strengthen their CV. Students undertaking such placement activities are in a stronger position to achieve their best in the final year of study, as well as gaining skills and experience that employers desire in today's business world.

The specific aims of this programme are to:

- To examine the objectives, role and scope of investment and financial risk management practices in the context of the global business environment
- To develop students' knowledge and understanding of the principles, concepts, theories, issues, problems and empirical evidence associated with investment and financial risk and other financial services through a critical examination of the literatures associated with these fields of academic enquiry
- To provide a critical understanding of alternative research methods and develop research skills and to enable course members to originate, to plan, to undertake and to present the findings of a substantial research project in the field of banking, finance and other financial services
- To develop student knowledge and skills necessary for analysis and synthesis, and continuing professional development
- Give students a head start on the employment ladder, preparing them for employment, further study and lifelong learning.

B. Programme Learning Outcomes

The programme learning outcomes are the high-level learning outcomes that will have been achieved by all students receiving this award. They have been aligned to the levels set out in 'Sector Recognised Standards in England' (OFS 2022).

Programme Learning Outcomes					
	Knowledge and Understanding		Intellectual Skills		Subject Practical Skills
	On completion of the course students will be able to:		On completion of the course students will be able to		On completion of the course students will be able to
A1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the core theoretical contributions to investment and financial risk management and how these may be applied to enhance management and professional practice	B1	Analyse, interpret and present investment and financial risk data and information sources and demonstrate a critical awareness of the relevance and limitations of such analyses	C3	Communicate effectively in written and oral forms in English in a business context
A2	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key findings from the related empirical research literatures	B2	Evaluate issues, problems and opportunities associated with investment and financial risk management and demonstrate how these functions bear on the activities of modern corporations and institutions	C1	Demonstrate skills of analysis and synthesis, and apply them to issues and decisions associated with investment and financial risk management, banking, finance, and other financial services management , and also in the broader context of business and management
A3	Identify and explore the connections between the legal, economic and social environments as they bear on the investment, risk, finance and banking operations	B3	Undertake critical self-reflection of the learning process and experience, and demonstrate how this reflection and learning can be utilised to enhance future performance	C2	Identify and utilise appropriate research strategies, methods and sources of data and information in order to formulate, design, manage and execute a substantial research project, and present and communicate the research findings in an appropriate form

A4	Identify the relative merits and disadvantages of various research methods and techniques and to achieve competence in the application of those methods and techniques				

C. Future Skills Graduate Attributes

In addition to the programme learning outcomes, the programme of study defined in this programme specification will engage students in developing their Future Skills Graduate Attributes:

1. Creative Problem Solving
2. Digital Competency
3. Enterprise
4. Questioning Mindset
5. Adaptability
6. Empathy
7. Collaboration
8. Resilience
9. Self-Awareness

D. Outline Programme Structure

The programme consists of seven modules of various weightings. Teaching blocks 1 & 2 each comprise one 30-credit and two 15-credit modules, TB3 contains a 60-credit research methods and dissertation module. A student must complete 180 credits for a Masters degree. All students will be provided with the University regulations. Full details of each module are provided in the module descriptors and student module handbooks.

Due to the nature of the degree, which provides students with a range of opportunities including the option to take a one-year work placement following the taught programme, the course is intensive and requires hard work and dedication. The programme has two starting points: September, starting in teaching block 1 (TB1), and January, starting in teaching block 2 (TB2). Students in each intake will have their modules in a different order, except for Financial Modelling and Data Analytics which will always run in the students' first teaching block, and Financial Statement Analysis which will always run in the second teaching block.

Placement version

Students on the 2-year placement version of the programme should complete all of their taught modules and their project and may work in their placement area for a maximum of 12 months. The student will be advised of the deadlines when by which they need to apply and have their placement confirmed. Students on placement must complete a portfolio assessment which includes a reflection on how the theories they have learnt during their teaching year has helped them in their placement and demonstrate ability to apply their teaching in a real business situation.

Level 7							
MSc Investment and Financial Risk Management							
Core modules	Module code	Credit Value	Level	Teaching Block	Pre-requisites	Full Time	Part Time
BANK FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT	BK7019	15	7	2		1	2
Dissertation and Research Methods	BB7023	60	7	Year long		2	2
Financial Engineering and Fixed Income Analysis	BA7012	30	7	TB1		1	2
Financial Modelling and Data Analytics	BA7006	15	7	TB1		1	2
Financial Statement Analysis	BA7007	15	7	Year long		2	3
PORTFOLIO THEORY AND INVESTMENT BANKING	BK7024	30	7	2		1	1
RISK FINANCING	BK7101	15	7	1		1	1
Optional Modules							
Professional Placement	BA7777	120	7	September cohort TB1 – TB2 - TB3, January cohort TB3-TB1-TB2		2	3

Exit Awards at Level 7

Students exiting the programme with 60 level 7 credits are eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate.

Students exiting the programme with 120 level 7 credits are eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma.

(Where appropriate – specify if there are any core modules that students must achieve for either of the exit awards)

Please note pre-requisite requirements for master's courses should only be set where there are defined progression points in the course where assessment boards have ratified module outcomes.

E. Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The approach to student learning is a reflection of the Learning and Teaching Strategy of the Faculty, which seeks to provide a learning experience from which all students gain optimum benefit.

Further, the teaching and learning strategies take cognisance of the QAA Benchmark Statements for Masters Awards in business and management. These statements make specific reference to the knowledge and understanding and a range of cognitive and intellectual skills, and specific techniques expected as outcomes in all Masters level awards.

Students on the MSc Investment and Financial Risk Management programme seek and expect:

- a wide range of knowledge and understanding that is recognised by, *inter alia*, prospective employers
- transferable skills of analysis and synthesis which they will be able to utilise to enhance their future careers.

To meet these objectives in the context of a one-year programme devoted to investment and financial risk requires flexibility in learning styles on the part of the students. It also requires flexibility in delivery and support for learning provided by the Course Team. Key resources for students include:

- tutor led learning in formal lectures and classroom activities and directed learning undertaken outside formal class contact
- independent self-directed learning on the part of students
- use of study groups, including discussions and exercises outside of the classroom
- individual preparation of case materials and exercises
- peer group interaction and mutual support from other members of the cohort
- the facilities available through the Learning Resources Centre, including online bibliographic databases, financial databases, and other electronic media
- individual supervision by lecturers for the preparation of the dissertation
- the Canvas online Learning Management System including online discussion groups
- external guest speakers from other academic institutions, the professions, and the corporate sector.

Student learning is facilitated by the use of a variety of these materials and structures. Lecturers direct learning by identifying appropriate reading, case materials, exercises and topics or scenarios for class discussion. They also lead discussions, to ensure that key learning points are acquired. Lecturers also use

Canvas to provide additional materials as a means of engendering independent and collaborative and interactive student learning, and for communicating with students. The assessment strategy reflects the aims and learning outcomes of the programme. It is designed to assess the knowledge and skills essential to meet the overall requirements of a Masters degree, as well as the specific knowledge requirements of individual subject modules.

The purposes of the assessment strategy are to provide:

- appropriate formative assessments to enable students to develop and measure their knowledge, understanding, skills and capacities associated with a master's degree in investment and financial risk management. Class and independent exercises allow students to have feedback on their understanding and application of knowledge.
- appropriate summative assessments to enable students to demonstrate their ability to apply theory, concepts, principles and empirical evidence to practice and to develop flexible, innovative, and conceptually robust solutions to problems in investment and financial risk management.
- opportunities for students to utilise and apply their own experience in assessment.
- an equitable, consistent and reliable measure of achievement and performance.

The summative assessment regime will utilise a variety of assessment methods and techniques in order to reflect the teaching and learning strategies employed. These will include:

- written analyses of case studies, and quasi business reports, providing students with real life data and examples; traditional essays based on theoretical issues; reports and analyses, developing academic research and writing skills
- a formal presentation, developing skills and confidence in making presentations
- formal examinations and objective testing to assess knowledge and application
- a group assessment, providing students with the opportunity for peer learning and developing students' abilities to work as a team.

F. Support for Students and their Learning

Each student is allocated a personal tutor. The role of the personal tutor is to support their tutees on their course of study, providing a contact that students can meet and discuss progress, achievements and any concerns that they may have.

In addition to the personal tutor, students are also supported by:

- Module leader for each module
- A Course Director to help students understand the programme structure
- Technical support to advise students on IT and the use of software
- An induction session at the beginning of the programme
- Student Voice Committee
- FBSS Academic Skills Centre

- Canvas – a versatile on-line interactive intranet and learning environment
- Student support facilities that provide advice on issues such as finance, regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international student support etc.
- Disabled student support
- The Students' Union
- Careers and Employability Service
- The Careers and Employability Service team provides valuable guidance in supporting students with their placements
- Placement Tutor will visit during the placement and meet with the student and work place supervisor
- Guest speakers from other academic institutions, the professions and the banking sector
- Practical training on financial databases such as Bloomberg based trading, Datastream/Thomson One Banker, FAME.

G. Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Course

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:

- External examiners
- School Education Committee
- Annual review and development
- Periodic review undertaken at the subject level
- Student evaluation
- Moderation policies.

H. External Reference Points

External reference points which have informed the design of the course. These include:

- PSRB standards
- QAA Subject benchmarks
- Other subject or industry standards

I. Development of Course Learning Outcomes in Modules

This table maps where programme learning outcomes are **summatively** assessed across the **core** modules for this course. It provides an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the course aims, a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the course progresses and a checklist for quality assurance purposes.

Module Code		Level 7							
		BA7777	BK7101	BK7024	BA7006	BA7007	BK7019	BB7023	BA7012
Knowledge & Understanding	A1		S	S			S		
	A2		S	S			S		
	A3		S	S			S		
	A4			S			S		
Intellectual Skills	B1		S	S			S		
	B2		S	S			S		
	B3		S	S			S		
Practical Skills	C3		S	S					
	C1		S	S					
	C2		S	S			S		

Students will be provided with formative assessment opportunities throughout the course to practise and develop their proficiency in the range of assessment methods utilised.

Additional Information