

Postgraduate Programme Specification

MSc International Banking and Finance with Professional Practice

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate where full advantage is taken of all learning opportunities offered. Further details on the learning, teaching and assessment approach for the programme and modules can be accessed on the University website and Virtual Learning Environment, GCU Learn. All programmes of the University are subject to the University's [Quality Assurance](#) processes.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION			
Programme Title	Master of Science in International Banking and Finance with Professional Practice		
Final Award	Master of Science in International Banking and Finance with Professional Practice		
Awarding Body	Glasgow Caledonian University		
School	Glasgow School for Business and Society		
Department	Dept of Finance, Accounting and Risk		
Mode of Study	Full-time Part-time Online / Distance Learning (Subject to availability)		
Location of Delivery	Glasgow Campus London Campus		
UCAS Code	N/A		
Accreditations (PSRB)	Chartered Banker Institute		
Period of Approval	From:	September 2025	To: August 2028

2. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF PROGRAMME
<p>The MSc International Banking and Finance with Professional Practice follows the university's mission to provide flexible, lifelong learning opportunities to students from different backgrounds and at different stages of their lives. The programme allows students to follow different modes of study, both full-time and distance learning. It has been developed around a strategy of providing students with knowledge and understanding of the management, operations and risks of banks, firms both in an international and domestic setting. Thus, the MSc introduces students to bank operations management and the risks associated with these operations, both financial and non-financial. This strategy underpins the aims and objectives of the programme.</p> <p><u>Aim</u></p> <p>Therefore, the aim of the MSc International Banking and Finance with Professional Practice is to provide students with specialised knowledge, understanding and skills in international banking and finance, and to ensure that the quality of provision is maintained and enhanced. The Professional Practice Element of this Programme allows students to demonstrate learning and gain professional experience within the workplace.</p> <p><u>Specialisation</u></p> <p>This is a specialised programme designed to provide students with:</p>

- An in-depth exposure to fundamental banking subject areas (ethics and regulation, risk analysis and management, securities and portfolio evaluation, commercial lending, corporate finance, strategic management, financial analysis techniques, amongst others), leading to a critical understanding of the theoretical frameworks required to understand the role, operation, and function of banks within the context of financial markets and institutions.
- The ability to use specialised financial techniques to analyse bank management in an international environment: the influence of global contextual issues (cultural, social, environmental, economic, political, regulatory, and ethical) on retail, corporate, and investment banking activities.
- A critical understanding of specialised financial theories, concepts, and financial techniques, and their application to practical and theoretical problems unique to the banking and financial sector
- An ability to utilise specialised analytical techniques in a banking setting: a critical understanding of contemporary research in banking and finance: emerging paradigms, changes in data, methodologies, analytical techniques, and evaluation of findings and their contribution.
- Financial modelling: the ability to gather, evaluate, and analyse data using purpose-built statistical and econometric software to estimate asset prices; create financial scenarios and projections; carry out risk and impact analysis amongst others.

A critical understanding of ethical and professional behaviour in banking and finance: the nature of corporate governance and accountability, the factors influencing ethics in the sector and its meaning and influence over time, its theoretical and conceptual foundations, the impact it has over the relationship amongst financial market participants.

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

A: Knowledge and understanding;

- A1 Financial risks within banking firms and their management, techniques utilised to measure, analyse, and hedge for these risks.
- A2 Modern portfolio analysis and investments in an international setting; the development of banking regulation, both in a national and international context.
- A3 Critical appreciation of the nature of the technical skills required for the global workplace.
- A4 Critically evaluate current developments in finance and banking sector from an ethical and governance perspective.
- A5 Advanced working knowledge of financial modelling and how to use specialised applications to develop, analyse, and evaluate financial forecasts.
- A6 The importance of the regulation of how a financial institution conducts its business, both in relation to internal governance and its consumers.

B: Practice: Applied knowledge, skills and understanding;

- B1 Critically discuss the drivers of financial risk encountered by banks and financial institutions and evaluate techniques of risk hedging within banks.
- B2 Examine the role of banks within an economy. Show a critical understanding of contemporary procedures utilised in the financial risk measurement and management of banks.

- B3 Develop advanced knowledge of risk modelling and quantitative techniques
- B4 Evaluate the use of financial securities and portfolio management; critically analyse the available method of asset pricing; demonstrate an awareness of the complexity of international financial markets.
- B5 Discuss the international dimensions of financial services regulation; discuss the comparative benefits of different frameworks for financial regulation.
- B6 Reflect on personal learning and development and apply subject specific knowledge in a workplace environment to make decisions in complex situations.
- B7 Utilise appropriate methodologies in the formulation of an individual research case study or a master's dissertation; control, organise, communicate and analyse research findings in an efficient and effective manner.

C: Generic cognitive skills;

- C1 Effective use of communication and information technologies to present ideas, analyse problems and develop clear and concise conclusions and recommendations.
- C2 Cognitive and intellectual skills including critical thinking, self-reflection, creativity and ethical problem-solving.
- C3 Research skills: information retrieval and collection; data analysis and synthesis.
- C4 Financial risk modelling skills and the use of associated software technologies.
- C5 Ethical decision-making, negotiation and conflict resolution skills.
- C6 Deal with complex issues and make responsible and informed judgements in situations in the absence of complete or consistent data/information.

D: Communication, numeracy and ICT skills

- D1 Numeracy and quantitative skills in evaluating, analysing, and interpreting statistical and financial data.
- D2 Report and project writing skills.
- D3 Professionalism in the use of a range of oral communication techniques when articulating ideas and concepts.
- D4 Presentation skills in written communication in a variety of formats, and visual presentation skills.
- D5 Identify and utilise the most appropriate method of communication for a range of audiences with different levels of knowledge or expertise.
- D6 Critical thinking and problem solving.

E: Autonomy, accountability and working with others.

- E1 Effective leadership and team working skills, including cross-cultural sensitivity, team building and project management in group work situations.
- E2 Planning and time-management: organising and planning work, self-management and independent working.
- E3 Inter-cultural awareness: understanding different perspectives, multi-cultural sensitivity and appreciation and development of a global mindset.
- E4 Inter-personal skills including questioning and listening, influencing and persuading, advising others and giving feedback.
- E5 Manage complex ethical and professional issues and make informed judgements on issues not addressed by current professional and/or ethical codes or practices.
- E6 Exercise substantial autonomy and initiative in professional and equivalent activities.

4. LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS

The programme provides a variety of learning and teaching methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the learning and teaching methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the learning and teaching methods and approaches may include the following:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Practical classes
- Placements
- Simulation experiences
- Groupwork
- Flipped classroom approaches
- Online learning

The above approaches may be delivered either in person or online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

5. ASSESSMENT METHODS

The programme provides a variety of formative and summative assessment methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the assessment methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the assessment methods may include the following:

- Written coursework (essays, reports, case studies, dissertation, literature review)
- Oral coursework (presentations, structured conversations)
- Practical Assessment (Placement, VIVA, Laboratory work)
- Group work
- Blogs and Wikis
- Portfolio Presentations
- Formal Examinations and Class Tests

The above assessments may be delivered either in person and online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

6. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Specific entry requirements for this programme can be found on the prospectus and study pages on the GCU website at this location: www.gcu.ac.uk/study

The Course webpage specific to this Programme is:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate-international-banking-and-finance-glasgow2>

All students entering the programme are required to adhere to the [GCU Code of Student Conduct](#).

7. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND AVAILABLE AND FINAL EXIT AWARDS¹

The following modules are delivered as part of this programme:

Module Code	Module Title	Core or Optional	SCQF Level	Credit Size	Coursework %	Examination %	Practical %
MMN430180	Ethics, Sustainability & Governance	Core	11	15	70 / 30		
MMN330196	Commercial Banking	Core	11	15	50 / 50		
MMN330198	Financial Securities and Portfolio Analysis	Core	11	15	50 / 50		
MMN330195	Banking and Financial Regulation	Core	11	15	50 / 50		
MMN326565	Strategic Bank Management	Core	11	15	60 / 40		
MMN330194	Bank Risk Management	Core	11	15	50 / 50		
MMN324976	Financial Risk Modelling	Core	11	15	60	40	
MMN330199	Global Corporate Finance	Core	11	15	50 / 50		
MMN327046	Research Methods for Finance	Core	11	15	40 / 60		
MMN327047	Finance Research Project	Core	11	45	100		
MMN226279	Professional Practice Placement	Core	11	60	100		

Students undertaking the programme on a full-time basis commencing in September of each year will undertake the modules in the order presented above. This may be subject to variation for students commencing the programme at other times of year (e.g. January) and/or undertaking the programme on a part-time or distance learning mode of delivery.

The following final and early Exit Awards are available from this programme²:

Post Graduate Certificate in International Banking and Finance:

A Postgraduate Certificate in International Banking and Finance will be awarded to a student who has satisfied all programme requirements and completed a minimum of 60 credits of any of the programme-specific taught modules at SCQF Level 11 (not including the Dissertation).

Post Graduate Diploma in International Banking and Finance:

A Postgraduate Diploma in International Banking and Finance will be awarded to a student who has satisfied all programme requirements and completed a minimum of 120 credits of any of the programme-specific taught modules at SCQF Level 11.

¹ Periodically, programmes and modules may be subject to change or cancellation. Further information on this can be found on the GCU website here:

www.gcu.ac.uk/currentstudents/essentials/policiesandprocedures/changesandcancellationtoprogrammes

² Please refer to the [GCU Qualifications Framework](#) for the minimum credits required for each level of award and the Programme Handbook for requirements on any specified or prohibited module combinations for each award.

Master of Science in International Banking and Finance:

A Master of Science in International Banking and Finance will be awarded to a student who has satisfied all programme requirements and completed a minimum of 180-credits at SCQF Level 11, of which at least 60-credits must be derived from the Research Methods in Finance module (15-credits) and the Finance Research Project (dissertation, 45-credits), with the remaining 120-credits derived from programme-specific taught modules

Master of Science in International Banking and Finance with Professional Practice:

A Master of Science in International Banking and Finance with Professional Practice will be awarded to a student who has satisfied all programme requirements as noted above for the award of the MSc and completed a professional practice placement worth 60 credits.

This programme is also accredited by:

Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment
Chartered Insurance Institute
Chartered Banker Institute

8. ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Students should expect to complete their programme of study under the GCU Assessment Regulations that were in place at the commencement of their studies on that programme, unless proposed changes to University Regulations are advantageous to students. These can be found at:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/aboutgcu/supportservices/qualityassuranceandenhancement/regulations-and-policies>

In addition to the GCU Assessment Regulations noted above, this programme is subject to Programme Specific Regulations in line with the following approved Exceptions:

Case No: 184 (revised 2022)

Details:

Prior to progressing to the 60 credit Professional Practice Placement (PPP) module, students will normally be required to gain an overall aggregate of 60% across the first 120 credits of their taught modules [excluding Masters Research Project] before proceeding to second year and the PP module and undertaking the period of professional practice

VERSION CONTROL (to be completed in line with AQPP processes) Any changes to the PSP must be recorded below by the programme team to ensure accuracy of the programme of study being offered.			
<i>Version Number</i>	<i>Changes/Updates</i>	<i>Date Changes/Updates made</i>	<i>Date Effective From</i>
1.0	PSP created at point of approval	March 2025	September 2025

Curriculum Map

The curriculum map links the modules listed in the Programme Structure to the Learning Outcomes

This map provides both a design aid to help academic staff identify where the programme outcomes are being developed and assessed within the course. It also provides a checklist for quality assurance purposes and could be used in approval, accreditation and external examining processes. This also helps students monitor their own learning, and their personal and professional development as the course progresses.

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