



University of the  
West of England

### PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information	
<b>Awarding Institution</b>	University of the West of England
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	University of the West of England, Frenchay Northshore College of Business and Technology, Sri Lanka Kaplan Holborn, London Villa College, The Maldives.
<b>Delivery Location</b>	University of the West of England, Frenchay Northshore College of Business and Technology, Sri Lanka Kaplan Holborn, London Villa College, The Maldives. (QI Campus)
<b>Study abroad / Exchange / Credit recognition</b>	N/A
<b>Faculty responsible for programme</b>	Faculty of Business & Law
<b>Department responsible for programme</b>	BBS: Accounting, Economics and Finance
<b>Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links</b>	<i>ACCA, CIMA. Validated for delivery at Northshore College, but UK delivery professional body accreditation is not transferable. Validated for delivery at Villa College, professional body accreditation yet to be confirmed</i>
<b>Highest Award Title</b>	MSc Accounting and Financial Management
<b>Default Award Title</b>	N/A
<b>Interim Award Titles</b>	PG Diploma Accounting and Financial Management PG Certificate Accounting and Financial Management
<b>UWE Progression Route</b>	
<b>Mode of Delivery</b>	Full-time, Part-time, Distance Learning
<b>ISIS code/s</b>	<b>ISIS2:</b> N34012 N34C62 OL/DL N34C12 FT (Northshore) N49012 FT (Kaplan), N49112(FastTrack Kaplan) N4N312 FT/PT Villa College
<b>For implementation from</b>	September 2017 (May 2017 for Villa College)

**Part 2: Description**

The award aims to provide an opportunity for graduates, and experienced practitioners in the field of accounting and finance to deepen and broaden their knowledge and skills. Depth should be achieved by detailed exploration of aspects of financial strategy and accounting, especially by the specialist knowledge that will be gained in the area of the dissertation. Breadth should be achieved by viewing accounting and financial management within its historical, social and organisational contexts and by encouraging the adoption of a critical, questioning approach to conventional 'first degree' protocols.

The award will contribute to students' career and personal development by building on undergraduate and professional curricula - covering much of the content of the final stage of professional syllabuses but, by re-engaging with the underlying conceptual fundamentals, going beyond the constraints conventionally imposed. We seek to provide an intensive, academically rigorous programme with a framework of concepts, theory and literature within which participants can position their work experience in order to improve their effectiveness. A forum for the exchange of information and ideas among participants is provided, with the intention of broadening student experience and enhancing their ability to work with others.

Accounting and financial management (AFM) is both a vocational discipline and a subject of academic study. The programme seeks to reflect this by:

Providing an intensive, academically demanding and applied programme that both critically evaluates and synthesises current academic concepts, theories and research to address key issues in AFM.

Engendering in students an objective appreciation of current practice in the field of AFM, and equipping them with specialist analytical skills and knowledge to take advantage of opportunities and minimise threats within the complex real world environment

Enabling students to develop purposefully and refine their own comprehensive 'toolbox' of AFM techniques and encouraging them to practice the application of such tools

Facilitating students in the development of the deeper subject specific knowledge and skills in applied settings

Developing students' problem-solving and decision-making skills and judgement in the field of AFM.

Setting in place an approach to life-long learning and the acquisition of skills which will enable them to apply a structured and reflective approach to both their personal development and their contribution to society.

**Description of any Distinctive Features**

The programme is accredited by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA). On successful completion of the programme, UK graduates are eligible for exemption from a range of ACCA and CIMA professional examination papers. Partner institution eligibility is subject to negotiation with the PSBRs

Students already holding professional accountancy qualifications ( CIMA, ACCA, ACA) and a minimum period of work experience are generally entitled to exemption from six modules totalling 105 credits. Students can opt to take the remaining 75 credits either as online distance learning modules or as face-to-face modules. Students will typically be able to complete an additional 25 credits in one semester, and will submit their 50 credit dissertation one year after registration.

The MSc programme is distinguished from professional training programmes by the additional material and by the broader and deeper underlying ethos. By reference to historical background it will critically examine the assumptions which attempt to explain the dominant theories of current AFM practice, and it will encourage speculation about potential future developments. The programme will critically review alternative theories of AFM, and will assess current practice and consider the needs of the users of financial information against an ever changing political, commercial, and financial background. It will therefore go beyond the constraints of professional practice.

At an early stage in the programme, students will be encouraged to identify research projects which interest them, are possibly of relevance to their past or intended work situation, and which could be appropriate for their dissertation. This process will be initiated in the Research Methods module. Once they have identified the broad area of their proposed dissertation they will be allocated an appropriate supervisor. The supervision of the dissertations of the online distance learning students will be similar to that of the on-campus students, except that the lack of face-to-face meetings will be compensated by a

<b>Part 2: Description</b>
<p>greater level of virtual communication.</p> <p>The programme seeks to support and test the achievement of learning outcomes by aligning the learning outcomes with teaching and learning methods and with appropriate forms of assessment. Accordingly, a variety of forms of assessment are practiced. While many learning outcomes are developed by more than one module, each contributing to the assessment of that outcome, the principal <i>de facto</i> 'managed units' are the individual modules. The emphasis is therefore on linking assessment methods to individual module's learning outcomes as shown in the module descriptions and reflected in the programme's learning outcome matrix.</p>
<b>Programme requirements for the purposes of the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)</b>
<p>The programme aims to prepare financial managers for the changing demands of the financial world and the increasing complexity of contemporary financial reporting and decision making</p> <p>Aligning with the UWE Strategy, the programme aims to integrate theory and practice, developing students both academically and professionally. Students will be able to integrate new knowledge with their experience and apply it to new financial contexts and challenges. They will be able to engage in theory and practice based learning and develop a range of transferable skills.</p>
<b>Regulations</b>
Approved to <a href="#">University Regulations and Procedures</a>

**Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme**

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	UMACTA-30-M	UMACTU-15-M	UMSCTW-15-M	UMACTF-15-M	UMACRQ-15-M	UMACTT-15-M	UMAC3Y-10-M	UMAC48-50-M
<b>A) Knowledge and understanding of:</b>								
1. a range of accounting issues in their historical, socio-political, institutional, organisational, epistemic and technical contexts		x					x	
2. an appropriate cross section of significant accounting research writings, demonstrating an understanding of their assumptions, methodology, methods and significance		x					x	x
3. how organisations and their information systems are influenced by environmental forces such as legal systems, ethical, social, economic and technological change issues and international developments	x	x	x	X	x	x		
4. the relationship between theory, research approach and research method		x					x	x
5. the principal traditions, methodologies and approaches of accounting research							x	
6. the ethical issues in social scientific research							x	
7. the process which underpins corporate strategy			x					
8. the strategies in corporate finance and the corresponding risk implications				X				
9. the development of the regulatory framework of financial reporting		x				x		
10. discuss the principles of good corporate governance for listed companies and the need for internal controls.		x						
<b>(B) Intellectual Skills</b>								
1. present an appropriate, critical review of some aspect of the literature		x						x
2. analyse complex problems relating to corporate strategy, performance measurement , financial reporting , decision making and control, corporate risk management and control, and corporate finance, and summarise relevant factors	x		x	x	x	x		x
3. apply relevant knowledge, techniques and concepts systematically and creatively to situations and problems in the field	x		x	x	x	x		x
4. evaluate and provide insightful comment on current and potential future developments in the discipline	x	x	x	x	x	x		
5. provide an analysis and realistic prescriptions of situations relating to corporate financing, investment and dividend decisions	x			x				
6. employ a range of accounting, reporting and financial skills and techniques that will assist organisations in the shaping and meeting of corporate objectives	x			x		x		

**Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme**

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	UMACTA-30-M	UMACTU-15-M	UMSCTW-15-M	UMACTF-15-M	UMACRQ-15-M	UMACTT-15-M	UMAC3Y-10-M	UMAC48-50-M
<b>(B) Intellectual Skills (contd.)</b>								
7. prescribe appropriate formats and contents of communication between organisations and a range of stakeholders					x	x		
8. analyse and critically appraise published financial reports						x		
9. interpret and apply international financial reporting standards to various situations						x		
10. discuss and critically evaluate a range of costing and internal accounting systems					x			
11. evaluate and critically appraise performance measurement systems of an organisation					x			
12. evaluate the impact of e-business and e-commerce on organisations			x					
13. produce a plan for the audit of various organisational activities including management, accounting and information systems			x					
14. evaluate strategic options and make sound recommendations			x	x				
<b>(C) Subject/Professional/Practical Skills</b>								
1. engage in analytical and evaluative thinking about texts, sources, arguments and interpretations, assessing their relevance to the issue in question, discriminating between opposing viewpoints and forming judgements on the basis of evidence and argument.		x					x	x
2. create a range of valid alternative responses to situations and problems and evaluate and discriminate between them in a critical way	x		x	x	x	x		
3. engage in lateral thinking, drawing on understanding and techniques accumulated through prior learning, to provide innovative and creative perspectives on problems requiring a multi-disciplinary approach	x		x	x	x	x		x
<b>(D) Transferable skills and other attributes</b>								
1. select from a comprehensive range of relevant primary and secondary sources, including theoretical and research based evidence to extend knowledge and understanding.		x		X			x	x
2. communicate information, ideas, arguments, concepts, theories and develop an argument in a clearly and effectively organised essay, report or dissertation.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3. undertake independent/self-directed study/learning, including time management.		x					x	x
4. use IT and computer skills for data capture, to identify source material, and support research.	x		x	x	x	x		x

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(D) Transferable skills and other attributes (contd.)								
5. make discriminating use of a range of information resources in order to identify appropriate source material, compile bibliographies, inform research and enhance presentations.	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
6. evaluate and creatively work on issues in the context of partial and uncertain information.				X	x			
7. work co-operatively within a group to address complex issues to tight deadlines.	x	x	x	x	x	x		
8. design appropriate research strategies having due regard to time constraints, methodological approaches, practical matters and ethical issues.							x	x
9. deploy a range of practical research skills.							x	x

**Part 4: Programme Structure****UWE Delivery**

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from Entry through to Graduation for a typical **full time student** including:

- level and credit requirements
- interim award requirements
- module diet, including compulsory and optional modules

<b>ENTRY</b>	<p><b>Compulsory modules</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundamentals of Financial Management UMACTA-30-M</li> <li>• Financial Context and Contemporary Issues UMACTU-15-M</li> <li>• Corporate Strategy UMSCTW-15-M</li> <li>• Corporate Financial Strategy UMACTF-15-M</li> <li>• Performance Measurement and Management UMACRQ-15-M</li> <li>• Corporate Financial Reporting UMACTT-15-M</li> <li>• Research Methods – Accounting and Financial Management UMAC3Y-10-M</li> <li>• Dissertation-Financial Management UMAC48-50-M</li> </ul>	<p><b>Optional modules</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Investments in Practice UMADEQ-15-M</li> <li>• Financial Statement Analysis UMACLK-15-M</li> </ul>	<p><b>Interim Awards:</b></p> <p><i>Interim Awards</i> PGCert Accounting and Financial Management</p> <p><i>Credit requirements:</i> 60 credits from programme (not including dissertation)</p> <p>PGDip Accounting and Financial Management</p> <p><i>Credit requirements:</i> 120 credits from programme</p>
<b>GRADUATION</b>			

<b>Part 4: Programme Structure Villa College Delivery</b>			
<b>ENTRY</b>	<p><b>Compulsory modules</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundamentals of Financial Management UMACTA-30-M</li> <li>• Financial Context and Contemporary Issues UMACTU-15-M</li> <li>• Corporate Strategy UMSCTW-15-M</li> <li>• Corporate Financial Strategy UMACTF-15-M</li> <li>• Performance Measurement and Management UMACRQ-15-M</li> <li>• Corporate Financial Reporting UMACTT-15-M</li> <li>• Research Methods – Accounting and Financial Management UMAC3Y-10-M</li> <li>• Financial Statement Analysis UMACLK-15-M</li> <li>• Dissertation-Financial Management UMAC48-50-M</li> </ul>	<p><b>Optional modules</b></p> <p>None</p>	<p><b>Interim Awards:</b></p> <p><i>Interim Awards</i> PGCert Accounting and Financial Management</p> <p><i>Credit requirements:</i> 60 credits from programme (not including dissertation)</p> <p>PGDip Accounting and Financial Management</p> <p><i>Credit requirements:</i> 120 credits from programme</p>
	<b>GRADUATION</b>		



**Part 5: Entry Requirements**

The University's Standard Entry Requirements apply with the following additions/exceptions\*:

In order to be eligible to enter the programme students will normally have one of the following qualifications:

- a good first degree in Accounting or Accounting and Finance;
- a good first degree in a business area with a strong accounting and financial management bias, (normally at least 120 credits);
- work experience in an appropriate accounting environment with successful completion of CIMA or ACCA professional examinations up to the final stage or the equivalent with the ICAEW.

Students who have completed their initial qualifications overseas will normally be required to have an English language qualification at a level sufficient to allow them to take full advantage of the learning opportunities.

The following factors may be taken into account when applications are considered:

- If the candidate's experience and knowledge will considerably add to cohort diversity
- If the candidate is demonstrably in a position to benefit from undertaking a Masters programme (and in particular the dissertation) and is perceived to have the ability to successfully complete a postgraduate programme of study
- If the student has significant managerial work experience

All entry decisions are subject to the discretion of the programme director.

**Part 6: Reference Points and Benchmarks**

The programme design reflects:

- QAA subject benchmarks for Accounting (February 2016) , and Draft Finance Subject Benchmarks (Jan 2015); these benchmarks refer to honours level but provide guidance concerning the generally understood scope of accounting and specialist first degree 'platform' levels.
- Descriptor for a qualification at Masters (M) level: Masters degree – extracted from the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, October 2014
- ABS/QAA, Draft Benchmark for Master's awards in business and management (2007)
- The University's 2020 Strategy
- University teaching and learning policies: Faculty of Business and Law Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategy
- The SEEC Credit Level Descriptors 2016
- Ongoing formal and informal feedback from current and completed students
- Developments (where appropriate) in syllabuses adopted by professional accounting institutes and related taught masters programmes at other UK universities.

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

First CAP Approval Date	QMAC September 2011			
Revision CAP Approval Date	22 March 2017	Version	6	<a href="#">link to RIA</a>
Next Periodic Curriculum Review due date	2022			
Date of last Periodic Curriculum Review	25 June 2016			