



Programme Specification

Accounting and Finance [Villa]

Version: 2027-28, v1.0, 19 Mar 2025

Contents

Programme Specification.....	1
Section 1: Key Programme Details.....	2
Part A: Programme Information	2
Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes	2
Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes	3
Part B: Programme Structure.....	8
Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis	9
Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks	9
Part E: Regulations	9

Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Accounting and Finance [Villa]

Highest award: MSc Accounting and Finance

Interim award: PGCert Accounting and Finance

Interim award: PGDip Accounting and Finance

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Affiliated institutions: Villa College

Teaching institutions: Villa College

Study abroad: No

Year abroad: No

Sandwich year: No

Credit recognition: No

School responsible for the programme: CBL Bristol Business School, College of Business and Law

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies: Not applicable

Modes of delivery: Full-time

Entry requirements:

For implementation from: 01 September 2027

Programme code: N34E66

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: The MSc in Accounting and Finance is designed to equip business managers with the skills needed to analyse and interpret financial information effectively, using it to inform strategic business decisions in a rapidly changing environment. This programme enhances the expertise of students with prior accounting and finance education while also providing a conversion pathway for those from quantitative or business backgrounds without formal training in these fields.

The award also aims to deepen and broaden knowledge and skills for graduates and experienced practitioners alike. Depth is achieved through detailed exploration of financial strategy and accounting, while breadth is fostered by examining these subjects within their historical, social, and organisational contexts. This critical approach encourages students to challenge conventional practices typically encountered at the undergraduate level.

The programme prepares students for successful careers in the dynamic global accounting and finance industries, emphasising social responsibility throughout. It focuses on cultivating a comprehensive set of attributes, including technical competencies, digital skills, critical thinking, ethical values, and effective communication. This diversified skill set not only supports personal career ambitions but also encourages positive contributions to society.

With a curriculum grounded in a practice-led approach, the programme integrates cutting-edge research in governance, accountability, and sustainability from university scholars. This enables students to gain practical insights and skills that are vital for success in the financial industry, preparing them to navigate and lead in an increasingly complex financial landscape.

Features of the programme: The MSc Accounting and Finance is seeking accreditation from the main accounting PSRBs. This aspect of the programme empowers students as they transition into the accounting and finance workforce, making them competitive candidates in a challenging job market.

The curriculum is anchored in a practice-led methodology, integrating cutting-edge research on governance, accountability, and sustainability. This emphasis on

practical insights enables students to apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios, enhancing their readiness for the industry. Recognising the critical importance of digital literacy, the programme incorporates digital technologies into its teaching methods. Students gain hands-on experience with financial databases and other digital tools, empowering them to leverage technology effectively in their future careers.

Sustainability is a key focus of the programme. Through real-world case studies, students are encouraged to critically assess their roles in promoting sustainability within the accounting and finance sector. This focus not only prepares them to contribute positively to environmental and social responsibility but also shapes them into forward-thinking professionals who understand the broader implications of their work.

A distinctive feature of the MSc programme is the professional development stream, which is embedded as a core module in the curriculum. This stream is designed to document students' developmental journeys, providing a consistent narrative that they can present to potential employers. It showcases their educational experiences and growth throughout the programme, enhancing their employability.

Educational Aims: The Accounting and Finance programme is designed to reflect the dual nature of this field as both a vocational discipline and a rigorous academic study. It offers an intensive and academically relevant curriculum that critically evaluates and synthesises contemporary concepts, theories, and research to tackle key issues within the realm of accounting and finance.

A primary goal of the programme is to cultivate an objective appreciation of current practices in the field, equipping students with specialised analytical skills and knowledge. This foundation enables them to recognise and seize opportunities while effectively navigating the complexities and challenges of the real-world environment. Students are encouraged to purposefully develop and refine their own comprehensive “toolbox” of accounting and finance techniques. This hands-on approach not only reinforces their understanding but also emphasises the practical application of these tools in various contexts. As they progress through the programme, learners gain deeper subject-specific knowledge and skills that are vital in applied settings, preparing them for the realities of the profession.

Moreover, the programme focuses on enhancing students' problem-solving and

decision-making abilities.

Central to the programme is a commitment to fostering lifelong learning. Students are encouraged to adopt a structured and reflective approach to their personal development, recognising the importance of continuous growth and learning in their professional lives. This emphasis on lifelong learning ensures that graduates not only acquire the technical competencies required for their careers but also develop a sense of responsibility towards their contributions to society.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Programme Learning Outcomes

- PO1. Apply critical knowledge and understanding of advanced concepts in Accounting and Finance.
- PO2. Resolve complex problems in challenging business contexts through critical evaluation and analysis.
- PO3. Generate impactful conclusions and recommendations by conducting critical research into accounting and finance issues.
- PO4. Communicate complex ideas effectively using a variety of media in manners appropriate to the needs of diverse audiences.
- PO5. Collaborate effectively in teams to address complex issues.
- PO6. Plan personal professional goals, evidencing a critical understanding of the attributes and skills necessary in accounting and finance.
- PO7. Apply professional standards in ethics recognising one's role in socially responsible business and global citizenship.

Assessment strategy: The programme is designed to enhance students' employability by developing both professional skills and technical competencies necessary for success in the real world. The main aim is the application of technical knowledge to real-world scenarios, fostering problem-solving abilities among financial decision-makers. Consequently, our assessment approach emphasises authentic assessments to promote engagement, participation and learning through

assessment. Additionally, the programme emphasises the development of professional skills such as effective communication and teamwork, which are assessed through case studies, group work, presentations, and professional reports in both formative and summative assessments. Exams are deployed to evidence knowledge and competencies required for professional body exemptions. Principles for inclusive learning and assessment underpin our assessment design.

Formative support is embedded throughout the programme, with continuous feedback provided through various channels such as in-class activities, peer evaluations, mentor meetings, interactive platforms, and early "touch points" to identify and address students requiring additional support.

Our assessment and evaluation approach is centred on the concept of assessment as learning, emphasising continuous learning and growth rather than just evaluating outcomes. Through this blend of assessments coherently displayed across the programme with a holistic and programmatic view, we aim to personalise the student experience and equip future accounting and finance professionals with a diverse set of technical and professional competencies.

Student support: Learning Resources:

Student learning is fully supported by UWE Library Services through print and electronic resources and a variety of learning spaces. Additional support is provided through the library by means of information and academic skills sessions and self-directed online tutorials available via the University Study Skills website, supported by the online library enquiry service. There is excellent access to electronic resources both on and off campus, facilitated by the extensive student computing network and Wi-Fi, and access to accounting and finance database. This supports students and facilitate their access to digital technologies.

All modules make use of VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) for web-enhanced delivery and for communications with students. All modules have teaching/learning resource booklets.

Student Support and Guidance:

Student support for all issues relating to the content, delivery and assessment of modules is provided by Module Leaders, and for more general academic and professional concerns, by Programme Leaders.

Where students have problems of a personal nature they are to be referred as appropriate to UWE Student Services Student Advisors and to UWE Careers regarding employability issues.

Student Advisors provide timely, accurate and confidential advice where necessary on all aspects of the provision, for example coursework and examination arrangements, extenuating circumstances procedures, progression counselling, as well as personal issues such as problems with studying or meeting deadlines, financial matters, ill health and so on, including when relevant how to access the wider support provided by the University.

Students and graduates are also supported by UWE Careers who help them to access skills, experience and knowledge to improve their employability prospects. There is specialist support for international students including specific resources developed for a range of countries where students are recruited from. Students are introduced to the service during the induction to the course and are encouraged to use the service all through their programme and for three years after graduation.

All students take part in an Induction programme at the start of their studies. All new students are provided with a short Student Handbook to help them through their first weeks at university and to act a guide to the complex information environment in which they now find themselves. Together with the student portal my UWE, the university's Essential Student Information web pages provide support and the more detailed and up to date information to students.

An important part of the programme is the involvement of students. Two or three student representatives are elected to serve on the Student Representatives and Staff Forum meetings that are held each term to discuss issues raised by students in relation to their experience of studying at UWE and on the programme. The meetings are arranged by cluster group and are chaired by programme leaders. The aim of the meetings is to discuss issues raised by students in an open and friendly

atmosphere so that students feel able to contribute openly and honestly about their experiences. Any issues raised are taken forward by programme leaders.

Support to students with disability is coordinated centrally through Disability Services. This acts as a holistic service for disabled students and applicants to the University but also supports the academic and administrative staff who work with disabled students.

In addition to the above The University's Student Services offers a range of services to support students during their time at university and beyond.

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1

The student must take 180 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UMATCV-15-M	Financial Statement Analysis 2027-28	15
UMATCW-15-M	Forensic Accounting 2027-28	15
UMATCQ-45-M	Accounting and Finance Project 2027-28	45
UMATCR-15-M	Career Catalyst: Developing Skills For Long Term Success 2027-28	15
UMATCS-30-M	Financial Accounting and Reporting 2027-28	30
UMATCT-30-M	Corporate Financial Strategy 2027-28	30
UMATCU-30-M	Managerial Accounting and Finance 2027-28	30

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

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. Aligning with the UWE Strategy and professional standards, 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.

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

The programme is designed to meet the requirements and expectations of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) of a level 7.

Subject benchmark statements (Please note that there is currently no QAA subject benchmark for Accounting at the postgraduate level, and therefore the programme is benchmarked to similar programmes which exist within other UK institutions)

The programme is aligned to UWE principles and 2030 strategy.

Our curriculum aligns with the syllabus required by professional bodies, with assessment strategies designed to meet their standards.

The programme and the module contents are continuously evaluated to reflect current developments in accounting and finance, feedback from the PSRBs, feedback from employers and students.

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures: Academic regulations and procedures - Academic information | UWE Bristol