

LSE

Department
of Accounting

Diploma in Accounting and Finance



The programme

The Diploma in Accounting and Finance is a flexible postgraduate programme providing an opportunity for students with little or no background in accounting and finance to acquire a solid foundation in these areas. Based in the Department of Accounting, the programme allows students with varying levels of knowledge and experience to build or extend their understanding of topics such as financial accounting, managerial accounting, auditing, asset pricing, corporate finance, and valuation. Students can also acquire knowledge of, or specialise in, other areas within the social sciences such as economics, management, mathematics, and statistics.

The Diploma in Accounting and Finance is a qualification in its own right. It also acts as a conversion course for those interested in pursuing further study at Masters level. Admission to the Diploma in Accounting and Finance can lead to subsequent admission to the MSc Accounting and Finance, subject to satisfactory performance. The quantitative skills (in mathematics, statistics, microeconomics, and econometrics) that students acquire during the Diploma programme will enable them to take more advanced elective courses in the MSc programme. Those Diploma students who wish to apply for the MSc Accounting and Finance in the following year will not ordinarily be required to submit a GMAT test with their application.

Over the past five years, after successfully completing the Diploma programme, around one third of

students registered for further studies at Masters level, one third chose to work in investment banking, and the remaining third elected to work in accounting, consulting, auditing, finance, and general management.

The Department of Accounting is internationally renowned for its excellence in accounting and financial management research and education, and for its leading role in public policy issues. It is one of the most highly-rated departments in the subject area in the UK. The Department has 26 full-time academic staff, undertaking teaching and research across a broad range of theoretical, empirical and applied issues. The interface between accounting and managers, organisations, institutions, public policy and regulatory bodies is a particular teaching and research strength of the Department. Staff from the Department also have close links with the Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation.

Located in Central London, the London School of Economics and Political Science is a world class social science institution, attracting some of the best researchers and teachers in their respective fields, and providing a challenging environment for highly capable students. The dynamic intellectual environment of LSE facilitates a constant interchange of ideas between the School and major financial institutions, leading multinational organisations and key regulatory bodies. LSE also houses the British Library of Political and Economic Science, the largest social sciences library in the world.

Duration

The Diploma in Accounting and Finance programme takes place over nine months.

Programme structure

Students must successfully complete the equivalent of four full-unit courses to meet the requirements of the Diploma in Accounting and Finance. Students take a mix of undergraduate and masters level courses, selected according to their background and academic interests. Results from each of the courses carry proportionate weight in the final assessment of the degree.

Teaching Style

Courses are taught in lecture and class or seminar format. Lectures introduce the core theoretical and technical concepts whilst their associated classes allow students to apply these concepts through exercises and in-depth study. Seminars allow for the focused study of key concepts in a more informal style and often involve presentations by students on selected course materials. Many teachers adopt a variety of teaching methods to deliver their courses such as lectures, class exercises, team presentations, individual or group work, as well as case study discussions.



The courses

Paper 1: Compulsory Finance Course Choose one from:

Principles of Finance

An introduction to both the theory of financial decision making by firms and the behaviour of the capital markets in which these decisions are taken (for students without any prior exposure to finance).

Corporate Finance, Investments, and Financial Markets (by special permission)

An intermediate course providing a thorough exposure to financial markets, investments and corporate strategy and highlighting the organisation of markets and firms as well as the role of institutions and players.

Quantitative Finance (by special permission)

An advanced course providing a thorough exposure to asset pricing and financial forecasting, highlighting up-to-date methods and applications including investment theories, pricing of options and futures, risk analysis and return forecasting.

Paper 2: Compulsory Accounting Course Choose one from:

Managerial Accounting

An introductory course analysing the roles and applications of management accounting practices and concepts in contemporary organisations and enterprises. Given the changing nature of management accounting within and across modern organisations, the course explores key management accounting concepts and tools, and their institutional, strategic, behavioural and economic underpinnings.

Financial Accounting, Analysis and Valuation

An advanced course examining the theory and practice of financial reporting, looking at accounting practices in the light of historical development, regulatory requirements, theories of income and capital and other approaches to accounting theory.

Management Accounting, Decision and Control (H) Financial Accounting: Reporting and Disclosure (H)

An introduction to both management accounting and financial accounting, including issues related to costing, performance measurement, and investment appraisal, accounting regulation, and financial statement analysis.

Papers 3 and 4:

Any courses available from Departments around the School to a total of two full units, subject to the approval of the Programme Director, and where applicable, permission from the course leader. The following are some of the more popular choices made by students over the past five years:

Accounting, Strategy and Control
Applied Corporate Finance
Auditing, Governance and Risk Management
Financial Reporting, Capital Markets and Business Combinations
Managerial Accounting (if not already selected under paper 2 above) or Management Accounting, Financial Management and Organisational Control or Management Accounting, Decisions and Control (if not selected under paper 2 above)
Financial Accounting, Analysis and Valuation (if not already selected under paper 2 above)
Commercial Law
Corporate and Financial Crime
Design and Management of Organisations
European Models of Capitalism
Financial Risk Analysis
Game Theory I
Industrial Economics
Introduction to Econometrics
Macroeconomic Principles I or II
Mathematics of Finance and Valuation
Microeconomic Principles I or II
Organisational Theory and Behaviour
Quantitative Methods (Mathematics) and Quantitative Methods (Statistics) or The Process of Management Valuation and Security Analysis

Teaching staff

Students are taught by leading edge researchers with expert knowledge of the areas in which they teach. The international backgrounds of these teachers and their varied research interests provide students with a unique opportunity to learn from, and interact with, world-class faculty.

Department of Accounting

Dr Vasiliki Athanasakou,
Assistant Professor of Accounting
The impact of regulation on corporate financial communication; earnings management; analyst forecasts; voluntary disclosure.

Professor Alnoor Bhimani,
Professor of Management Accounting
Management accounting in the digital economy, international comparative management accounting; strategy and cost management; the socio-cultural analysis of accounting and governance systems.

Dr Stefano Cascino,
Lecturer in Accounting
Accounting conservatism; corporate governance; international accounting; debt markets; disclosure regulation in capital markets; family firms.

Dr Yasmine Chahed,
Lecturer in Accounting
Accounting change in its social and institutional context; regulation of non-financial and future-oriented reporting; corporate accountability and disclosure; integrated performance measurement and reporting-systems.

Dr Pascal Frantz,
Lecturer in Accounting and Finance
Securities analysis; the economics of disclosures and auditing.

Dr Martin Giraudeau,
Lecturer in Accounting
Accounts of the future; entrepreneurship and strategy; economic sociology: market devices, emergent market ties, financial interaction, calculative practices; business history; history of economic thought; anthropology of the future.



Dr Matthew Hall,
Associate Professor of Accounting
 Management accounting, management control systems and performance measurement; behavioural accounting and professional commitment of accountants; accounting education

Professor Bjorn Jorgensen,
Professor of Accounting
 Risk measurement; risk disclosure; risk management; equity valuation and capital markets; earnings management.

Dr Liisa Kurunmäki,
Associate Professor of Accounting
 Accounting in the New Public Sector, with special reference to healthcare.

Professor Richard Macve,
Professor of Accounting, Emeritus
 Conceptual framework of financial accounting and reporting; financial reporting in the insurance industry; the historical development of accounting; environmental accounting and reporting; interactions between insurance and environmental management.

Dr Andrea Mennicken,
Associate Professor of Accounting
 International accounting and auditing; audit and accounting regulation and harmonisation; accounting, economic transition and social transformation in post-Soviet Russia; the sociology of calculative practices; public sector accounting reforms.

Professor Peter Miller,
Professor of Management Accounting
 Investment appraisal in new manufacturing environments; accounting in the new European public sector; accounting as a social and institutional practice.

Dr Julia Morley,
Lecturer in Accounting
 The influence of financial economics on financial reporting practice; economic valuation methods for pensions; changing performance metrics for social enterprises; the role of professionals in the market for social investment.

Dr Tommaso Palermo,
Lecturer in Accounting
 Management control systems and performance measurement; linking risk management to performance management, management accounting and public sector management.

Professor Michael Power,
Professor of Accounting
 The role of internal and external auditing in the corporate governance process; Internal control systems and corporate risk management and regulation; risk reporting and communication.

Dr Rita Samiolo,
Lecturer in Accounting
 Social and institutional studies of accounting; accounting in the public sector; risk management and regulation.

Dr Ana Simpson,
Assistant Professor of Accounting
 Voluntary disclosure – incentives and consequences; analysts' forecast efficiency; earnings management.

Professor Ane Tamayo,
Professor of Accounting
 Impact of accounting information on capital markets; role of financial intermediaries in capital markets; empirical asset pricing and portfolio allocation; corporate governance/finance.

Professor Wim A Van der Stede,
CIMA Professor of Accounting and Financial Management, Head of Department of Accounting
 Management control systems: budgeting, performance measurement, and incentive systems; corporate governance: executive compensation, boards of directors, and internal controls.

Department of Finance
Dr Jon Danielsson,
Reader in Finance
 Financial risk analysis; value at risk; volatility modelling and forecasting; extreme value theory.

Dr Amil Dasgupta,
Associate Professor of Finance
 Information economics and game theory with applications to finance; the theory of financial crises; delegated portfolio management.

Dr Jack Favilukis,
Assistant Professor of Finance
 Consumption based asset pricing; incomplete markets; heterogeneity and inequality; limited participation and participation costs.

Professor Christopher Polk,
Professor of Finance
 Asset pricing; corporate finance; hedge funds; macroeconomics.

Dr Michela Verardo,
Associate Professor of Finance
 Empirical asset pricing, investment anomalies, the information efficiency of stock markets; the impact of analyst forecasts on stock returns; financial and bayesian econometrics.

Professor David Webb,
Professor of Finance
 Financial economics and insurance economics; economics of information; corporate finance and financial markets



The application

The application process

Applicants for the Diploma in Accounting and Finance programme do not require prior academic courses in accounting or finance. Minimum entry requirements are a good upper second class honours degree from a UK University or equivalent from an overseas degree.

Applicants for whom English is a second language, or those who have not studied to degree level in English, should provide evidence of the language. For the Diploma in Accounting and Finance programme, this would be a Minimum of 7.0 in IELTS (at least 6.0 in speaking and writing, and 6.5 in reading and listening) or 107 in the internet-based TOEFL (at least 20 in speaking, 21 in writing and 22 in reading and listening).

Once an application has been submitted, candidates can keep up to date with its progress online by visiting: lse.ac.uk/collections/graduateAdmissions/apply/trackYourApplication.htm

Given the high competition for places on this programme, applicants who indicate an interest in the Diploma in Accounting and Finance specifically as their first choice will maximise their prospect of admission to the programme. Equally, candidates should note the differentiated nature of the graduate programmes in the Department of Accounting, and are advised to identify their first choice accordingly.

Funding your studies

The School has a variety of named scholarships and other forms of support available, administered by the Financial Support Office. Applicants can find out more about these scholarships from the Financial Support Office website: lse.ac.uk/Financialsupportoffice

The application process for all graduate programmes is managed by the Graduate School at the LSE. All correspondence relating to offers and registrations should be directed to the Graduate Admissions Office at the Graduate School:

Graduate Admissions Office
PO Box 13420
Houghton Street
London WC2A 2AR
Online enquiries:
lse.ac.uk/collections/graduateAdmissions
tel: +44 (0)20 7955 7160

“The Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting and Finance allowed to me to become an independent thinker and equipped me with sufficient knowledge to be able to differentiate myself in the highly competitive job market.”

Ekaterina Savelyeva, Class of 2011

The students

Student profiles

International diversity of both faculty and students is a key feature of studying at LSE and in the Department of Accounting which offers the Diploma in Accounting and Finance. In addition to an international faculty, the Diploma in Accounting and Finance programme attracts students from 18 countries, with ages ranging from 21-35 years.

Profile of registered students 2013-14

Average Age: 23 yrs

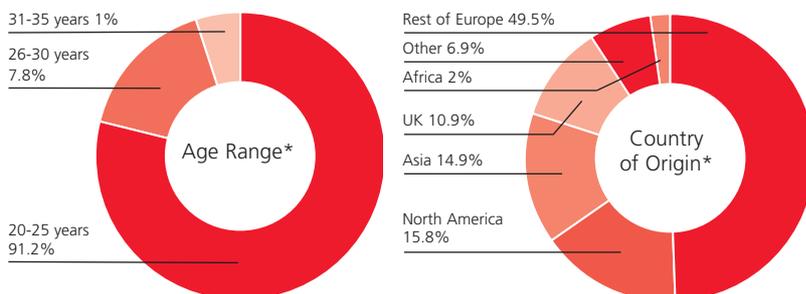
Age Range: 21-30 yrs

Registrations to applications: 31.5%

Careers

Students who successfully complete the Diploma in Accounting and Finance programme pursue careers across a wide range of sectors, in accounting, corporate finance, equity research, fund management and management consultancy. A significant proportion of Diploma students have gone on to study for an MSc degree.

Companies who have employed recent graduates from the Diploma in



* Data for registered Diploma in Accounting and Finance students 2010-11 to 2013-14

Accounting and Finance programme include Barclays Capital, Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein, HSBC, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley. Many leading organisations make careers presentations at the School during the year.

LSE's Careers Service has a wide range of resources available to assist students in their job search. Staff at the Careers Service are available to help students with their research into potential employers, completing application

forms, writing a curriculum vitae (CV) and covering letters. The Careers Service also organises and publicises on-campus recruitment events held by employers. It has set up a range of online resources to provide students with access to careers-related information and to link students with potential employers.

The department

Departmental facilities

The Department has a Student Information Centre to serve as a central point for enquiries and for the distribution of relevant course materials such as lecture notes, handouts and class exercises.

The Department also provides a study room for graduate students which include computer access and network points for laptops. Through the School's IT Services, students have access to free IT training for the core software packages they will need to use during their studies.

Useful links for further information

Graduate School (lse.ac.uk/programmesandcourses/graduate)

For online applications and further information on studying at LSE.

Careers Office (lse.ac.uk/careers)

For further details on graduate employment opportunities, internships and vacation work.

Financial Support Office (lse.ac.uk/studentServicesCentre/financialsupportoffice)

For information on scholarships and applying for financial support.

Department of Accounting (lse.ac.uk/accounting)

For further information on the programmes, faculty and activities of the Department of Accounting.

For further information on this programme, contact:

Diploma Programme Manager
Department of Accounting
The London School of Economics
and Political Science
Houghton Street
London WC2A 2AE

Tel: +44 (0)20 7852 3780
Email: accounting@lse.ac.uk

Other graduate programmes available in the Department of Accounting:

MSc Accounting and Finance
MSc Accounting, Organisations
and Institutions
PhD in Accounting