



LSE

Department
of Accounting



MSc Accounting and Finance

The programme

The MSc Accounting and Finance programme provides a comprehensive and rigorous treatment of key areas of accounting and finance. Through research-led teaching by acknowledged experts in their fields, the programme brings students to the forefront of theory and practice in relevant and topical areas.

The programme is structured so that students can specialise through the appropriate choice of courses offered by the Department of Accounting and the Department of Finance. Pathways are available for specialisation in Accounting and Financial Management; Finance; and International Accounting and Finance. Given the high level of academic performance expected from students, a significant amount of independent study and preparation is required to get the most out of the programme.

The MSc Accounting and Finance is housed within the Department of Accounting. The Department is widely recognised throughout Europe 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 of Accounting 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. The Department of Finance, which has 26 full-time academic staff members, is devoted to excellence in teaching and research across the full range of subfields in finance. The two Departments benefit from affiliations with two major research centres located at LSE, the Financial Markets Group and 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.

Programme timetable

| Paper | Michaelmas Term | Lent Term | Summer Term |
|---------|---|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | Corporate Finance and Asset Markets (F) or Asset Markets (H) and Corporate Finance (H) or another approved paper | | |
| 2 | Financial Reporting in Capital Markets (F) or a combination of Accounting, Strategy and Control (H) and Financial Reporting, Capital Markets and Business Combinations (H) | | Revision Lectures |
| 3 and 4 | Financial Reporting in Capital Markets (F) | | |
| | Financial Risk Analysis (H) | Forecasting Financial Time Series (H) | |
| | Accounting, Strategy and Control (H) | Accountability, Organisations and Risk Management (H) | |
| | Financial Reporting, Capital Markets and Business Combinations (H) | Fixed Income Markets (H) | Examination Preparation |
| | Quantitative Methods for Finance and Risk Analysis (H) | Applied Corporate Finance (H) | |
| | Global Financial System (H) | Derivatives (H) | |
| | Accounting in the Global Economy (H) | Valuation and Security Analysis (H) | |
| | | Portfolio Management (H) | |
| | | Corporate Finance Theory (H) | Examinations |
| | | International Finance (H) | |

(F) = full-unit course; (H) = half-unit course

Elective options may vary

Duration

The MSc Accounting and Finance programme takes place over nine months, beginning with an introductory course to review quantitative methods and relevant accounting concepts and techniques.

Programme structure

Students must successfully complete the equivalent of four full-unit courses to meet the requirements of the MSc Accounting and Finance. Results from each of the full-unit courses carry proportionate and equal weight in the final assessment of the degree. Compulsory core courses in accounting and finance provide the foundation for developing an understanding of a variety of topics, themes and core principles. Students can then select from a combination of optional full and half-unit courses in specific areas of accounting and finance to fit their interests and preferred specialisation. Options from outside the two Departments are also available.

Programme specialisation

Specialisation options are available for this programme to reflect the interests of the students, and to highlight the focus of their studies. On graduation, the specialisation is noted on students' degree certificates. For all specialisation options, students must take compulsory core courses in accounting and finance, plus additional courses to make up four full units as specified below:

Option 1 MSc Accounting and Finance

Any choice of approved options to the value of two full units.

Option 2 MSc Accounting and Finance: International Accounting and Finance

If you take Accounting in the Global Economy and International Finance as Paper 3, you can elect to have this specialisation shown on your degree certificate.

Option 3 MSc Accounting and Finance: Accounting and Financial Management

Options selected must include Financial Reporting in Capital Markets and Accounting, Strategy and Control (whichever is not taken as one of the compulsory courses), and further approved courses to the value of one full unit.

Option 4 MSc Accounting and Finance: Finance

Options selected must include two full-unit equivalent courses in the finance area.

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 discuss and 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 class exercises, team presentations, individual or group work, or case study discussions.

The courses

Compulsory core courses

Corporate Finance and Asset Markets: aims to equip students with the fundamental concepts and tools underlying modern finance, both in the asset markets and the corporate finance side. The course provides a foundation for subsequent finance courses offered by the Department.

Financial Reporting in Capital Markets*: examines the current approach to corporate financial reporting to investors and other groups in countries with active capital markets (such as the UK and USA).

Students with a substantive and verifiable background in accounting must do either **Financial Reporting in Capital Markets** as Paper 2, or a combination of **Accounting, Strategy and Control (H)** and **Financial Reporting, Capital Markets and Business Combinations (H)** which are offered under Paper 3 and 4.

Optional courses

Financial Risk Analysis: aims to provide an overview of the main theoretical concepts underlying the analysis of financial risk and to show how these concepts can be implemented in practice in a variety of contexts. This course shares some topics with Quantitative Methods in Finance and Risk Analysis.

Forecasting Financial Time Series: examines the techniques involved with forecasting key variables in finance. Students will learn both the theory and the practice of forecasting in finance.

Accounting, Strategy and Control: aims to provide an advanced overview of current developments in thought and practice in the area of accounting, strategy and control. Particular emphasis is given to strategic and organisational aspects of control systems design.

Accountability, Organisations and Risk Management: is an advanced course focusing on the organisational and institutional settings within which risk is managed.

Financial Reporting, Capital Markets and Business Combinations: aims to provide students with exposure and understanding on relevant and timely financial reporting policies and procedures, and the implications of financial statement information in global capital and financial markets.

Fixed Income Markets: provides a thorough grounding in recent developments in fixed income securities pricing, hedging and portfolio management.

Applied Corporate Finance: provides a thorough grounding in recent developments in applied corporate finance.

Corporate Finance Theory: provides a thorough grounding in recent developments in the theory of corporate finance.

Derivatives: provides a thorough grounding in the theory of derivatives pricing and hedging.

Quantitative Methods for Finance and Risk Analysis: examines the quantitative and statistical tools that are important in applied finance. Students will be exposed to application of these tools and the key properties of financial data through a set of computer-based classes and exercises.

Valuation and Security Analysis: aims to introduce students to security analysis and valuation from both theoretical and empirical perspectives. Students are also provided with an opportunity to apply their skills by valuing, in small groups, from the point of view of a "sell-side analyst", a firm's equity of their choice using technologies based on the present values of free cash flows and economic value added. The course should appeal to students interested in investment analysis and fund management.

Portfolio Management: focuses on empirical and applied problems in portfolio management.

Trading and Institutions: focuses on the sources of liquidity, volatility, informative prices and trading profits in equity markets.

Global Financial System: examines the academic and policy debates on the operation of the global financial system. The course will aim to be topical, but the analysis of the issues will be based on rigorous economic arguments.

Financial Intermediaries: examines financial strategies of firms and investors in imperfect financial markets, on financial intermediation and on some key macroeconomic aspects of such settings.

Accounting in the Global Economy: examines the fast changing international dimensions of financial reporting to external users of financial statements and the impact of those changes on business entities and their stakeholders in the global economy.

International Finance: examines key issues in international finance, focusing on recent developments and incorporating theoretical, empirical, policy and institutional dimensions.

One option from the wide variety of courses available in other departments (with permission).

Subject to approval, it may be possible to substitute an extended essay of not more than 10,000 words on an agreed topic for one optional course.

Assessment

All full-unit courses are assessed by three-hour unseen examinations in the Summer term. Half-units are assessed by two-hour unseen examinations. Some of the half-unit optional courses also have group/individual project work as part of the assessment.

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 financial management; strategy and cost management; the social analysis of accounting and governance systems.

Professor Michael Bromwich,
CIMA Professor of Accounting and Financial Management, Emeritus
Accounting standards; economics of information and organisations; management accounting in the new manufacturing environment; strategic management accounting; accounting for utilities.

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, and accounting education.

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

* can also be taken as an option if not selected as a compulsory course

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.

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.

Professor Peter Pope,
Professor of Accounting
IFRS implementation in Europe; global equity market anomalies; fundamental valuation models, with particular reference to the links between financial statement factors, risk and equity returns.

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 accounting and control, budgeting systems, incentive systems, performance measurement and evaluation; corporate governance: boards, controllers, and executive compensation.

Department of Finance

Professor Ronald Anderson,
Professor of Finance, Emeritus
Dynamic corporate finance; contingent claims analysis, risk management; financial market structure and regulation.

Dr Ulf Axelson,
Abraaj Group Reader in Finance and Private Equity
Private equity; financial innovation and security design; corporate finance, auction theory; and financial intermediation.

Dr Elisabetta Bertero,
Lecturer in Finance
Sub-sovereign debt; the financial role of the state: the interaction between governments and financial markets; budget constraints and state-owned firms; international finance.

Dr Maria Cecilia Bustamante,
Assistant Professor of Finance
Dynamic corporate finance; asset pricing implications of corporate decisions; real options; game theory.

Dr Georgy Chabakauri,
Assistant Professor of Finance
Asset pricing; portfolio choice, risk management.

Dr Vicente Cuñat,
Associate Professor of Finance
Corporate finance; applied theory; applied econometrics; industrial organization; labour and personnel economics.

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 delegated portfolio management and consequences for financial markets; the theory of financial crises.

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

Professor Daniel Ferreira,
Professor of Finance
Corporate finance and governance; organizational economics; FMG research programmes: corporate finance and governance.

Juanita Gonzalez-Uribe
Assistant Professor of Finance
Empirical corporate finance; venture capital; private equity and innovation.

Dr Christian Julliard,
Associate Professor of Finance
Macroeconomics; finance; applied econometrics; international economics and finance; real estate finance.

Dr Dong Lou,
Assistant Professor of Finance
Empirical asset pricing; behavioural finance; empirical corporate finance.

Dr Philippe Mueller,
Assistant Professor of Finance
Macro-finance; empirical asset pricing; fixed income; financial econometrics.

Dr Daniel Paravisini,
Associate Professor of Finance
Corporate finance; credit and banking; development economics.

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

Igor Makarov
Associate Professor of Finance
Asset pricing; information in asset markets; delegated portfolio management; hedge funds.

Ian Martin
Professor of Finance
Disasters in asset markets; asset pricing; equilibrium models of comovement between financial assets.

Dr Rohit Rahi,
Associate Professor of Finance
Arbitrage in segmented markets; financial innovation and security design; asset pricing with asymmetric information; general equilibrium theory; incomplete markets.

Dr Andrea Tamoni,
Assistant Professor of Finance
Asset pricing; financial econometrics, macro-finance.

Professor Dimitri Vayanos,
Professor of Finance, Head of Department
Liquidity and asset pricing; information in asset markets; delegated portfolio management; behavioural finance.

Dr Andrea Vedolin,
Assistant Professor of Finance
Asset pricing; derivatives pricing; financial econometrics; portfolio theory.

Dr Michela Verardo,
Associate Professor of Finance
Empirical asset pricing; market efficiency and investment anomalies; trading behaviour of institutional investors; behavioural finance.

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

Dr Moqi Xu,
Assistant Professor of Finance
Corporate governance; corporate finance: capital structure; M&A; SEOs.

Professor Kathy Yuan,
Professor in Finance
Bubbles and crises; liquidity; heterogeneous information; mutual funds; hedge funds; network theory; short-sale and margin constraints; global games; asset pricing.

Dr Kostas Zachariadis,
Assistant Professor of Finance
Market microstructure and design; information economics and game theory with applications to finance; corporate governance as related to economic efficiency.

Dr Jean-Pierre Zigrand,
Associate Professor of Finance
General equilibrium asset pricing; financial intermediation and delegation; continuous time asset pricing; herding; market crashes; foundations of arbitrage.



The application

The application process

Applicants for the MSc Accounting and Finance programme should have prior academic courses in financial reporting, management accounting, finance, economics and quantitative methods. Strong candidates who do not have the appropriate background in one or more of these areas may be required to take additional courses before being accepted.

Minimum entry requirements are a good upper second class honours degree from a UK University or equivalent from an overseas University. GMAT is required for all students without a UK undergraduate degree. The GMAT is also recommended for all students with UK undergraduate degrees, particularly those whose quantitative skills are not demonstrated by their undergraduate studies. Under very exceptional circumstances, waiver of the GMAT may be considered. A GMAT waiver request form is available from the Graduate Admissions website:
lse.ac.uk/collections/graduateadmissions

Applicants for whom English is a second language, or those who have not studied to degree level in English, should provide evidence of their command of the language. For the MSc 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). 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

Admissions decisions are made on the basis of academic merit, the achievement of a diverse group of strongly qualified candidates on the programme and the number of places available. Early application is strongly recommended.

Given the high competition for places on this programme, applicants who indicate an interest in the MSc

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 from the Financial Support Office website:
lse.ac.uk/Financialsupportoffice

The application process for masters programmes is managed by the Graduate School at LSE. All correspondence relating to offers and registrations should be directed to the Graduate Admissions Office at the Graduate School which can be contacted as follows:

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

"I joined the MSc in Accounting and Finance with high expectations, and LSE certainly delivered! The combination of professors that are world-leading researchers within the fields they lecture, combined with a multi-cultural and talented student mass, brings the learning experience up to a whole new level. The programme gave me a deep understanding of the world of accounting and finance, great career prospects and friends for life."

Petter Helstrom, Class of 2011

The students

Student profiles

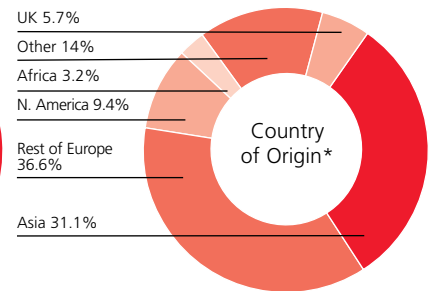
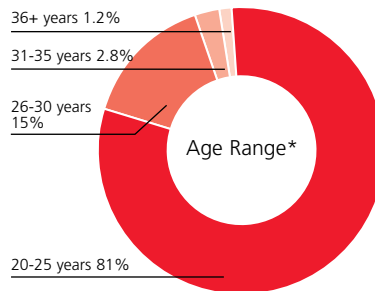
International diversity of both faculty and students is a key feature of studying at LSE and in the Department of Accounting which offers the MSc Accounting and Finance degree. In addition to faculty from around the world, the MSc Accounting and Finance programme attracts students from more than 70 countries, many from continental Europe, South Asia and the Far East. Female students are well represented, making up close to 50 per cent of MSc Accounting and Finance student body in recent years.

Profile of registered students 2013-14

GMAT range: 560-780
Average GMAT score: 689
Average Age: 23 yrs
Age Range: 20-37
Registrations to applications: 14.2%

Careers

Students who successfully complete the MSc Accounting and Finance programme pursue careers across a wide range of sectors, in financial institutions, accounting firms, management consulting, industry, government and academia.



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

Companies who have employed recent graduates from the MSc Accounting and Finance programme include ABN Amro, Allied Irish Bank, Bain & Company, Barclays Capital, Citigroup, CSFB, Deloitte, Ernst & Young, FSA, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and Schroder Salomon Smith Barney. 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

Both the Department of Accounting and the Department of Finance each have 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.

Study space is continually being refurbished and enhanced throughout the School. The two departments provide study rooms for graduate students which include computer access and network points for laptops.

Computer facilities are also provided through the School's IT Services Department and 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/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.

Department of Finance website (lse.ac.uk/finance)

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

For further information on this programme, contact:

MSc Accounting and Finance Programme Manager
Department of Accounting
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:

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