

## BA (Hons) Financial Studies



**The BA (Hons) Financial Studies degree is a one year full-time 'top-up' programme open to you if you have achieved qualifications equivalent to years one and two of the Business School's BA (Hons) Accounting and Finance degree.**

Your qualifications, from a recognised institution, must include strong elements of financial and management accounting.

The programme will provide you with an opportunity to complete an Honours degree which will not only broaden and enhance your studies but will provide a critical and integrative approach to the area of accounting and finance or financial services.

The programme is suitable not only for students with a previous international qualification, but students who have studied the first two years of a UK degree in the areas of finance and accounting or

financial services. It is also open to BA (Hons) Accounting and Finance students at the Business School who wish to follow a less specialised final year.

### Special Features

- Recent developments in the structure of this programme have increased the opportunities to widen your area of study into a broad financial arena. You can choose to specialise in either corporate or personal finance.
- If you choose the personal finance route, you may have the opportunity on graduation to 'fast track' onto the

Institute of Financial Planning Certified Financial Planner programme.

- Some professional accountancy body exemptions are available with this top-up degree. You will be able to apply to the professional accounting bodies on an individual paper basis. For example, taking Taxation as one of your options may give you exemption from a professional Taxation paper.

### Further information

For further information about study opportunities in the Business School please visit our website at [www.business.mmu.ac.uk](http://www.business.mmu.ac.uk)

Enquiries about this programme should be made to:

[courses@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:courses@mmu.ac.uk)  
+44 (0)161 247 6969

## Fact File

### Full/Part-time:

Full-time

### Duration:

1 year

### UCAS Code:

N300

### Institution Code:

M40

## Programme Content and Structure

The programme has two core units and four option choices, and you will be able to specialise in either corporate or personal finance.

On the corporate finance route, your core units will be either Advanced Corporate Finance or Corporate Financial Management (if you have little previous knowledge of corporate finance), together with a case study unit. These subjects are studied alongside students on the BA (Hons) Accounting and Finance degree.

Advanced Corporate Finance evaluates not only finance theories and the empirical research in this area, but also gives a practical appreciation of global financial markets. Corporate Financial Management covers some element of Advanced Corporate Finance, but starts from a lower knowledge base and also covers investment appraisal techniques in more detail. You will be advised by your academic tutor which of these two units is appropriate for you, depending on your previous studies. The case study unit enhances your personal skills, combining both group and individual study with the requirement to produce business reports and make presentations.

On the personal finance route, your core units will be Personal Financial Planning and Case Studies in Financial Planning. These subjects will be studied alongside students on the BA (Hons) Financial Services degree.

The Personal Financial Planning unit will allow you to develop skills such as estate planning, retirement planning, long-term care funding and an understanding of the impact of these on individuals at both a theoretical and practical level. The case study unit will develop knowledge and understanding of the concepts, theories, techniques and management practices involved in the preparation of financial plans by business entities and individuals.

You can then choose four optional units from a wide variety on offer, from further accounting subjects such as Audit and Taxation to subjects which may be new to you such as Risk Management, Marketing or Strategic Management.

### Assessment

Assessment throughout your degree will be both informal and formal.

The informal assessment will be based on work prepared for tutorials and your contribution to these tutorials together with homework questions which you may be required to submit. It will not form part of your formal marks but is useful for both you and your lecturer to determine whether or not you have understood material and whether you are working to a satisfactory standard.

The formal assessment includes examinations, group or individual presentations, written essays and reports and poster presentations. Not every subject is assessed in the same way, but you will probably meet all these forms of assessment during your top-up year. These formal assessment marks will determine the classification of your degree from Manchester Metropolitan University.

### Students' Experiences

"I was impressed with the multitude of electives available across different departments of the Business School. I greatly appreciated the cultural diversity of students' backgrounds, which, coupled with many team-based projects, enabled stimulating cross-cultural interactions. I liked the fact that subjects were graded in different ways – most were examinable, but many included also team assignments, projects, and presentations."

I found all the Business School staff very helpful and supportive at all times. The course gave me direction in terms of my interests and career objectives, and helped determine what career path I was interested in pursuing. Upon graduation I applied to a number of graduate schemes with prestigious institutions in the corporate and finance industry. I eventually embarked on a career on Bloomberg's Graduate Sales Training Programme in London as this was most compatible with my interests and aspirations."

**Wojtek Buczynski**, BA (Hons) Financial Studies graduate

### Career Development Opportunities

International graduates often return home to successful careers in the accountancy profession, having gained a degree from a well recognised institution. In addition, the career opportunities open to Accounting and Finance graduates are equally available to Financial Studies graduates. A few examples of the types of jobs graduates have entered and the companies employing them are:

BDO Stoy Hayward  
Trainee Chartered Accountant  
Co-op Bank  
Credit Risk Analyst  
Siemens  
Finance Officer

Successful completion of the BA (Hons) Financial Studies with an upper second class degree (2.1) and an additional year of study can also lead to a Masters level degree. If you wish to build on your first degree and enhance your career prospects within the financial and international business areas you might apply to join the MSc Finance and Business, MSc Strategic Financial Management, MSc Accounting and Finance or MSc International Business Management programmes at the Business School.

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### Entry Requirements

Appropriate qualifications are Advanced Diplomas in Accounting or Business Studies or successful completion of the first two years of a degree programme all of which will contain significant elements of Financial and Management Accounting.

Applicants whose first language is not English are required to produce evidence of English Language proficiency to IELTS (or equivalent) minimum score 6 overall with 5.5 in any element.

You must be confident that your level of English language is sufficient to meet the demands of this course which will require you to contribute to case study discussions and assessments within just a few weeks of starting.

Application for all of our programmes is through UCAS.

Application forms can be obtained from [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) or call **0870 1122211**

