Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

2013-14

Programme Title	Investment Analysis
UCAS/JACS Code	N100
School/Subject Area	Aston Business School Finance & Accounting Group
Final Award	MSc
Interim Award(s)	Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma
Mode(s) of Study	Full-time and part-time on campus, flexible credit accumulation
Normal Length of Programme	FT: 12 months PT: 24 months minimum, up to 3 years allowed by the University FCA: up to 3 years
Total Credits	Certificate 60, Diploma 120, MSc 180
Programme Accredited By	None
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	17/11/08, 08/06/09, 30/08/10, 27/05/11, 15/06/12, 21/06/13

Educational Aims of the Programme	• To provide a programme of study that meets the needs of local, national and international candidates, enabling them to learn by the exchange of experience as well as formal academic study. • To meet the needs of recent graduates and those already in employment who wish to acquire specialist skills and knowledge in Investment Analysis in order that they may embark or progress successfully on their chosen careers. • To provide students with an excellent learning experience that draws on the research and consultancy of Aston academic staff, utilising the University's links with business, professional and public sector organisations. • To provide students with opportunities to enhance their employability by developing life long learning and personal development skills. • To produce well qualified graduates who are equipped for and aspire to senior positions. • To cause students to reflect upon and develop their own positions in relation to corporate responsibility, sustainability and ethics. • To provide graduates with the skills and knowledge to operate in the field of finance. • To • To understand the international dimensions of finance and financial analysis. • To understand and apply the main valuation techniques used in the investment analysis industry. • To develop an understanding of financial market structures and how they operate. • To develop quantitative skills appropriate for the financial sector which will facilitate the decision making process in a finance context. • To develop an understanding of the main trading strategies used in financial markets. • To develop understand financial decision making at the firm level and how this is influenced by financial management.

Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other External and Internal Reference Points used to inform programme outcomes	• Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Benchmarking Statement in Business and Management for Masters level programmes. • UK Quality Code Part A.1 (2011) • Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Codes of Practice

TAUGHT STAGE

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits

Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Option	Condoneable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Valuation of Investments(A)	15	7	BFM102A	Core	Y	N
Valuation of Investments(B)	15	7	BFM102B	Core	Y	N
Quantitative Methods for Finance	15	7	BFM114	Core	Y	N
Trading Techniques	15	7	BFM117	Core	Y	N
Security Analysis	15	7	BFM119	Core	Y	N
Investment Management	15	7	BFM120	Core	Y	N
Business Finance	15	7	BFM206	Core	Y	N
International Finance	15	7	BFM208	Core	Y	N
TOTAL	120					

DISSERTATION STAGE

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits

Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/Option	Condoneable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Investment Analysis Dissertation	60	7	MSCDISS	Core	N	N
TOTAL	60					

Programme Outcomes, Learning and Teaching and Assessment Strategies			
A. Knowledge and Understanding			
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to have knowledge and understanding of:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Valuation of main securities traded in financial markets.	• Lectures: • convey essential knowledge • provide guidance to students on effective use of learning materials Practical classes, as appropriate for each module.	A mix of final examinations problem sets and practical classes, as appropriate to each module.
2	Financial market dealing room environments.		
3	Strategic decision-making within a financial context.		
4.	Risk management techniques		
5.	Use financial statements to analyse financial performance		
6.	International dimensions to finance		

B. Intellectual Skills			
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Problem solving	• Tutorials: • to provide support to student learning • Dissertation supervision to help students develop research and analytical skills	• Coursework assessment • Final examinations • Dissertation work and orals to assess analytical skills.
2	Critical analysis		
3	Synthesis		
4	Apply valuation and trading techniques		
5	Demonstrate competence in critical reasoning and decision making		

	C. **Professional Skills**		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Use decision making tools in finance and investments.	• visiting lecturers from industry who connect theoretical studies with practical experience Lectures and tutorials classes as appropriate to each module.	Assessed work, final exams Investment analysis Dissertation
2	Apply the main valuation models used in finance and investment analysis.		
3	Be able to make investment recommendations based on financial statements and other financial information.		

	D. **Transferable Skills**		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to show:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
	A range of general and specific skills and management competencies including:	computer and IT skills seminars and practicals	IT and quantitative skills Investment analysis Dissertation Assessments and examination in all modules Essays and problem sets.
1	IT and computing skills		
2	Report writing skills		
3	Oral presentation skills		
4	Trading skills		
5	Competency in understanding relevant statistical analyses and financial reports		
6	Information retrieval.		

Entry Requirements	**Direct Entry:** • A relevant UK honours degree or an overseas degree recognised by Aston or • A relevant degree-equivalent professional qualification • Evidence of quantitative aptitude in mathematics to a level of a good GCSE pass or equivalent. **English Language Requirements (for candidates whose first language is not English):** • A TOEFL score of 100 (internet-based with minimum 23 in writing and speaking and 22 in reading and listening). • An IELTS score of 6.5 overall with no less than 6.5 in writing and speaking and 6.0 in listening and reading. • A Pearson Academic score of 61 overall with 61 minimum in writing, speaking, reading and listening • Candidates with TOEFL 85 or above (internet-based) with 21 minimum in writing and reading, 20 in listening and 22 in speaking, or IELTS 6.0 overall with 6.0 or above in all sections, or Pearson Academic 59 overall with a minimum score of 59 in each section are offered the opportunity of attending an 8-week pre-sessional course. • Candidates with TOEFL 75 overall (internet-based) with minimum 18 in reading and writing, 17 in listening and 20 in speaking, or IELTS 5.5 overall with 5.5 or above in all sections, or Pearson Academic Pearson Academic 51 overall with a minimum score of 51 in each section are offered the opportunity of attending a 12 week pre-sessional course. • Candidates with TOEFL 70 overall (internet-based) with a minimum score of 17 in reading and writing, 16 in listening and 19 in speaking, or IELTS 5.0 overall with 5.0 or above in all sections, or Pearson Academic 47 overall with a minimum score of 47 in each section are offered the opportunity of attending a 16 week pre-sessional course. • Candidates with TOEFL 65 overall (internet- based) with a minimum score of 16 in reading, 17 in writing, 15 in listening and 18 in speaking , or IELTS 5.0 overall with a minimum of 5.0 in writing and 4.5 or above in speaking, listening and reading, or Pearson Academic 42 overall with a minimum score of 42 in each section are offered the opportunity of attending a 20 week pre-sessional course. • A GMAT of 550 minimum may be required

Programme Regulations	**Attendance requirements:** Students are required to attend all sessions as specified for the course. **Flexible Credit Accumulation – Receiving an award:** The Programme Examination Board will consider students on this mode of attendance at least annually. The Board will agree the options open to students accept a Postgraduate Certificate and withdraw from the programme or continue w programme. Students will receive a 'statement of progress' letter at least once per year usually after a Programme Examination Board indicating: which credits have been passed, whether the credit passed entitles the student to an award and the period of study remaining until the time-limit for FCA programmes is reached (5 years from the start of the programme). If a student wishes to accept an award and leave before the end of the programme they must respond to the statement as soon as possible indicating they wish to receive an award
	Specific assessment requirements for modules / module pass marks: The Board of Examiners may apply condonement to allow one or more assessments marked at 49% or below (but not normally below 40%) as passes. The Board of Examiners will normally condone a maximum of 30 credits of taught modules.
	Dissertation Requirements. Each student will undertake an investment analysis Dissertation for a single company. Each student will be allocated a different company. During the Dissertation students will use the tools they have learnt from the course to appraise the company using information about the market, industry, share price and recent financial statements. Dissertation length should be between 10,000 and 15,000 words.

General Regulations (http://www1.aston.ac.uk/registry/for-staff/regsandpolicies/general-regulations/) and the Regulations for the programme (above) take precedence over other information sources such as student handbooks if there is a conflict. If there is a conflict between General Regulations and Programme Regulations then General Regulations take precedence unless an exemption has been approved.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the threshold learning outcomes that a student might normally be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. **The individual modules included in the programme may differ from those included in this programme specification as our programmes are subject to continuous review.** Information on admissions requirements and career opportunities is available in the relevant prospectus. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the appropriate module guides and programme handbook(s) which are available to students on enrolment.