MSc Accounting and Finance Programmes

People at the heart of business and business at the heart of society
Introduction to Birmingham Business School

We are a dynamic, international school offering programmes across the full range of business and management disciplines. The School’s academic staff conduct world-leading research, in addition to achieving excellence in teaching and enriching students’ learning and understanding. We pride ourselves on students graduating with a range of knowledge and skills that give them a competitive edge in the global marketplace.

Our mission at Birmingham Business School is to put people at the heart of business and business at the heart of society. This means we are a research-led, multidisciplinary, international business school developing a new generation of responsible global business leaders and entrepreneurs.

We are committed to making a difference at all levels. We enable our graduates to add value throughout their careers, we provide superior business intelligence to our partners, and we focus our research on the key challenges that face our global economy and society.

Birmingham Business School is consistently found in international ranking tables and accredited by leading bodies, AMBA, EQUIS and AACSB. The triple-crown accreditation confirms our position within an elite group of global business schools.

We have an enviable Advisory Board that we work closely with, an excellent level of engagement with regional and international businesses and strong links with policy makers involved with economic growth and business.

We are proud that Birmingham Business School is an international learning and research community. With students representing over 60 countries currently studying at our main campus, our courses being taught in a range of international business schools, and an international faculty and global alumni community of around 29,000 graduates, we have a global footprint that ensures worldwide impact.

We were initially founded to improve the way businesses were managed and our partnerships with global companies, organisations and people ensures we are carrying on that proud tradition of borderless and boundary-free innovation. Our dedication to providing our students with a rich educational experience has led to increased investment in our career services and corporate relations programmes. This will further enhance the already-excellent career prospects of our graduates, with additional opportunities for project work and internships with leading global businesses.

In addition, our continued commitment in providing an exceptional standard of education has seen the construction of a £10 million dedicated Business School Postgraduate Teaching Centre.

We know that diversity, innovation and globalisation will continue to reshape global business in the future. To this end, our goal is to provide an education that will inspire and equip our graduates to navigate the ever-changing and evolving landscape of global business.

I look forward to welcoming you to our Business School.

Professor Catherine Cassell
Dean, Birmingham Business School
Why choose Birmingham Business School:

- In the 2016 FT European Business School Rankings, we are ranked 73 overall and positioned 17th out of all the UK Schools that made the list.
- In the Guardian University Guide 2018 we are ranked 15th in the UK University league table.
- In The Complete University Guide 2018 we are ranked 16th out of the UK Institutions and rank in the top 20 for Accounting and Finance, Business and Management Studies and Economics.
- The CISI has awarded the Department of Accounting and Finance with the title of ‘Centre for excellence in Finance teaching’.
- Our University has one of the largest international student communities in the UK: 6,500 students from 150 countries, and 31% of our academic staff from overseas, our campus is truly a diverse and global place.

Globally impacting research
- Our academic staff are world-leading researchers who are recognised globally for their impact on policy and change.
- Our leading research centres undertake engaged and relevant research that contributes to academic debate worldwide, with projects funded by the Research Councils, major trusts, professional institutions, government departments and the EU.

‘Triple-crown’ accredited
Invest in your future in finance
MSc International Accounting and Finance

The worlds of accounting and finance are ever-changing, with innovations emerging constantly to deal with the complex business and economic problems of today. Our MSc is for graduates with a strong background in both accounting and finance. Our programme is designed to strengthen your existing knowledge, and to help you develop the technical and critically reflective skill sets you will need in your future career.

Why study at Birmingham Business School?

Our programme is accredited by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), and so develops in-depth practical accounting skills, as well as theoretically informed understandings of accounting as a global practice, in both private and public-sector settings. The programme provides you with the opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of specialist areas such as corporate financial management: the roles of accounting in strategic planning: private-sector investment; and foreign exchange markets.

Central to our programme is our commitment to helping each of you develop your ethical understanding and professional integrity. The combination of strong technical skills and reflective understanding is, in our view, the best preparation you can have for your future career and professional life; it is also a combination that can give you a strong competitive advantage when it comes to starting your career.

The Accounting and Finance department also holds the gold standard of recognition as a Centre of Excellence in the provision of finance teaching by The Chartered Institute for Securities and Investments (CISI).

The partnership between a Chartered Institute and a higher education institution is seen as an excellent opportunity for students to bridge the gap between academia and the work place.

Your MSc programme

You will take six modules and submit a research dissertation. As part of the dissertation module you will also take seminars on research methods and techniques in accounting and finance.

Choose TWO optional modules from:
- International Business Finance
- International Business Taxation
- International Financial Statement Analysis
- Social and Environmental Accounting
- Empirical Topics in Accounting and Corporate Finance
- Venture Capital and Entrepreneurial Finance
- Auditing Theory and Practice
- Advanced Management Accounting: Issues in Strategy and Accounting

Please note all modules are subject to change.

This programme offers two optional Pathways to undertake additional tuition and exams with Kaplan Financial towards ACCA Professional Qualification:

International Accounting and Finance (Pathway 2)
12 months, full-time. Two professional ACCA exams completed towards ACCA Professional Qualification.

International Accounting and Finance (Pathway 3)
16 months, full-time. Take four ACCA professional exams to complete your ACCA Professional Qualification.

Full details (including fees) on these pathways can be found on: www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/business/courses/masters/index

FACT FILE

Start date: September 2018
Duration: 1 year full-time
Study mode: On campus
Fees for 2017/18: UK/EU – £9,270
International – £19,890
Entry requirements: A good Honours degree (2:1 or higher) or postgraduate diploma from a UK university or equivalent in a relevant subject.

We accept a range of qualifications from different countries – learn more about international entry requirements on our website.

Standard English language requirements apply (IELTS 6.5 with no less than 6.0 in any band).

If you are currently studying at a Chinese university, please view our specific entry requirements including our list of acceptable universities for further study at Birmingham.

Modules

Compulsory modules:
- Professional Integrity and the Reflective Practitioner
- Financial Accounting Theory and Policy
- Theory of Financial Management
- Dissertation.

Choose ONE optional module from:
- Foreign Exchange and International Money Markets
- Management Accounting
- Managing Public Money

Choose TWO optional modules from:
- International Business Finance
- International Business Taxation
- International Financial Statement Analysis
- Social and Environmental Accounting
- Empirical Topics in Accounting and Corporate Finance
- Venture Capital and Entrepreneurial Finance
- Auditing Theory and Practice
- Advanced Management Accounting: Issues in Strategy and Accounting

Please note all modules are subject to change.
Trading up your career opportunities

MSc Investments

Trading and investing offers an exciting career path, but also demands a high level of theoretical knowledge and technical skill. This course offers you a springboard into employment with an investment corporation, or as an investment specialist or manager.

**Why study at Birmingham Business School?**

You will be taught theory and technique by our internationally renowned academics, while professional traders give you real-world insights into the industry, sharing their first-hand knowledge of current market regulations, techniques, customs and practices. The programme equips you with the skills and knowledge to begin and progress your career across both domestic and international markets.

The University of Birmingham is proud to have been accepted into the CFA Institute University Affiliation Program. Our MSc Investments programme has been acknowledged as incorporating at least 70% of the CFA Program Candidate Body of Knowledge (CBOK) and this positions students well to obtain the Chartered Financial Analyst designation, which has become the most respected and recognized investment credential in the world.

Entry into the CFA Institute University Affiliation Program signals to potential students, employers, and the marketplace that our curriculum is closely tied to professional practice and is well-suited to preparing students to sit for the CFA examinations. Through participation in this programme, Birmingham is also eligible to receive a limited number of student scholarships for the CFA Program each year.

The School’s Department of Finance also holds the gold standard of recognition as a Centre of Excellence in the provision of finance teaching by The Chartered Institute for Securities and Investments (CISI).

**Your MSc programme**

You will take ten modules and submit a research dissertation. As part of the dissertation module you will also have seminars on research methods and techniques.

**Modules**

**Compulsory modules:**
- Portfolio Theory and Investment Analysis
- Financial Modelling and Forecasting Techniques
- Financial Statement Analysis for Investors
- Foreign Exchange and International Money Markets
- Investment Mathematics, Concepts and Markets
- Risk Management
- Security Analysis and Valuation
- Fund Management.

**Choose TWO optional modules from:**
- Corporate Governance Theory and Practice
- Private Equity and Venture Finance
- Market Microstructure
- Trading Techniques.

Please note all modules are subject to change.

**FACT FILE**

- **Start date:** September 2018
- **Duration:** 1 year full-time
- **Study mode:** On campus
- **Fees for 2018/19:** UK/EU – £9,270, International – £19,890
- **Entry requirements:** A good Honours degree (2:1 or higher) or postgraduate diploma from a UK university or equivalent. The degree must be in a relevant subject and/or applicants must have obtained good grades in mathematical related modules at undergraduate level.

We accept a range of qualifications from different countries – learn more about international entry requirements on our website.

Standard English language requirements apply (IELTS 6.5 with no less than 6.0 in any band).

If you are currently studying at a Chinese university, please view our specific entry requirements including our list of acceptable universities for further study at Birmingham.

This course is also offered in a 24-month format. Applicants with a 2:2 Bachelors honours degree or overseas equivalent may be eligible for the 24-month version of this course. The first year of the 24-month course involves completing our Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (GDBA) programme.
Prepare for your lucrative career in finance
MSc Financial Management

At the heart of every nation’s economy, finance offers a world of interesting, challenging and highly lucrative careers. This makes competition for jobs intense, especially in financial management. Our dual-qualification MSc is designed for graduates with a quantitative background but who have limited knowledge of accounting, economics or finance. It provides the knowledge and skills you need to work in financial management and can give you a significant edge in this competitive global sector.

Why study at Birmingham Business School?
You will develop critical knowledge of corporate finance and foreign exchange markets, learn how to interpret and analyse financial statements, and build skills in a wide range of modelling techniques to analyse data, conduct research and forecast variables. Depending on your chosen modules, you may also acquire an in-depth understanding of the literature on private equity and venture finance, build the skills for valuing securities, controlling risks and managing treasury departments, and more.

The Association of Corporate Treasurers (ACT) have selected Birmingham Business School as an ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY. This means that on graduation you will hold both academic and professional qualifications, making our Financial Management programme unique. We are the first and only University to collaborate with ACT on the offering of a dual qualification programme for their new Certificates.

Your MSc programme
You will take nine modules and submit a research dissertation. As part of the dissertation module you will also take seminars on research methods and techniques in accounting and finance.

Modules
Compulsory modules:
- Corporate Financial Management
- Financial Modelling Techniques
- Financial Statement Analysis for Investors
- Foreign Exchange Markets
- Advanced Corporate Financial Management
- Dissertation.

Choose FOUR optional modules from:
- Ethics, Governance and Regulation in Treasury
- International Treasury Management
- Entrepreneurial Finance
- Quantitative Techniques in Finance
- Risk Analysis and Management
- Security Analysis and Valuation.

Please note all modules are subject to change.

FACT FILE

Start date: September 2018
Duration: 1 year full-time
Study mode: On campus
Fees for 2018/19: UK/EU – £9,270
International – £21,330
Entry requirements: A good Honours degree (2:1 or higher) or postgraduate diploma from a UK university or equivalent. Applicants must have a pass mark or a pass grade in any quantitative subject (such as econometrics, statistics, mathematics, physics, or any other relevant module) for at least two terms on the Bachelors degree programme, or any pass grade at GCE A level or overseas equivalent in mathematics, further mathematics, statistics or physics.

We accept a range of qualifications from different countries – learn more about international entry requirements on our website.

Standard English language requirements apply (IELTS 6.5 with no less than 6.0 in any band).

If you are currently studying at a Chinese university, please view our specific entry requirements including our list of acceptable universities for further study at Birmingham.
A flexible route to business

Graduate Diploma in Business Administration

This programme provides a thorough grounding in functional issues in management and is a qualification in its own right. It also empowers those who seek to gain entry to our MSc and MBA programmes. The student group consists of those studying the GDBA as a standalone qualification, as well as those undertaking both the first year of the MBA 24/21 month programmes, and the first year of the MSc 24 month programmes.

Key features of the Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (GDBA) include:
- A flexible Diploma route to MBA and MSc programmes
- An essential and recognised qualification in business
- Students take 12 modules over one academic year
- English language support is provided throughout the programme
- Students experience a wide range of teaching and learning methods
- The GDBA enhances employment opportunities for participants.

Programme content
We employ many teaching and assessment methods on this programme that reflect the standards required by our MBA and MSc programmes. For international students, we offer continuing English language support to enhance your learning experience. Students on this programme have gained employment in both private and public sector organisations, and it has launched many successful careers. It offers opportunities for higher study to those candidates whose experience, qualifications or language ability may be insufficient for direct entry to our Masters programmes.

Fact File

Start date: September 2018
Duration: 1 year full-time
Study mode: On campus
Fees for 2018/19: UK/EU – £7,440
International – £15,720
Entry requirements: A 2:2 degree or equivalent from a recognised university. Post-graduation work experience is desirable but not mandatory. Learn more about entry requirements on our website.

International students:
We accept a range of qualifications from different countries – learn more about international entry requirements on our website.

English language requirements:
IELTS 6.0 (with no less than 5.5 in any band); TOEFL IBT 82 (19 in Reading, 19 in Listening, 21 in Speaking and 19 in Writing); Pearson Academic Test of English 51 (in all four skills).

If you are currently studying at a Chinese university, please view our specific entry requirements including our list of acceptable universities for further study at Birmingham.

Modules
- Financial Accounting
- Quantitative Management Techniques
- Global Business Environment
- Cases in Global Business
- Operations Management
- Strategic Purchasing and Supply Management
- Managerial Accounting
- Marketing Concepts
- Cases in Marketing
- Business Policy and Entrepreneurship
- Organisational Behaviour
- Financial Analysis for Managers.

Please note all modules are subject to change.
Applying

There is no official application deadline date but you should apply as early as possible, especially if you need a visa to study in the UK, or you plan to apply for one of our scholarships.

An application can be made online, where you will need to upload the following:

- A copy of your academic transcript in English
- Two references, or contact details for your referees, at least one of which should comment on your academic abilities
- A personal statement explaining why you wish to join the programme and what makes you a suitable candidate (500 words max)

**Postgraduate Funding Database**

Our Postgraduate Funding Database contains details of postgraduate taught and research funding opportunities available to support your studies at the University of Birmingham. You can use your programme details to find the most up-to-date information, review eligibility criteria, and see details on how to apply for individual awards.

For full details visit: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding)

**Presessional programmes**

We offer Presessional Business Management English courses for those applicants who fail to achieve the required IELTS scores. Further details about these courses can be found on our presessional pages [www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/presessional](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/presessional)

A number of additional English language courses are also available from our Birmingham International Academy programme.

Alternative English qualifications can be accepted from some countries. For full details, please visit our website.
Taking your career further...

Careers in Business

Exclusively available for Business School Postgraduates. We pride ourselves on our graduates’ high levels of employability, and will help you plan, manage and achieve your career goals, giving you the competitive edge when it’s time to start job hunting.

Careers in Business is a dedicated service for postgraduate Business School students. We’ll help you with all aspects of your career management, from planning, job-seeking strategies, applying for jobs, preparing for interviews and assessment centres. We have specific expertise in helping students to identify their strengths and market them to employers.

Our service to you
Our consultants offer an individual advice service, which includes:
- Career planning
- Job-seeking strategies
- CV and application form checking
- Practice Interviews and Presentations
- Strengths based Coaching.

Skills development
Employers aren’t just looking for great qualifications. They want to see high-quality personal skills too, such as team working, leadership, presentation and interpersonal skills. Our Skills Development Consultants offer individual appointments to help you shape and hone these qualities.

After graduation
Our careers support does not end once you graduate. As a member of the Business School’s alumni community, you can retain your Careers in Business online account and continue to access the majority of our services. It is also not a problem if you are no longer on campus, we can assist you over the telephone, via email or by Skype.

Opportunities to meet industry professionals
We regularly invite employers and professionals to present to students and enhance their understanding of particular companies and industries. Example companies invited to speak in the past include Amazon, Mars, HSBC, Deutsche Bank and KPMG. Industry events cover a range of sectors such as Consulting, Finance and Marketing.

MSc Career Development Programme
Each week during Autumn and Spring term, you will have the opportunity to learn how to make effective job applications, perform well at interview, create contacts and networks and build your confidence and skills through our bespoke MSc careers programme. We also run an Open Workshop Programme throughout the year that will provide the opportunity to participate in practical workshops, including our Mock Assessment Centre.

Virtual learning
Our Careers in Business Canvas section contains information, video presentations and handouts. If you miss an event don’t worry, we make our presentations available online so you can catch up in your own time.

Accessing our service
We have an online booking system called Careers in Business Online where you can book places at events, one to one appointments and search for job vacancies. We’ll explain how to use our system at induction but if you would like to contact us before your course starts you are welcome to get in touch with us at careersinbusiness@bham.ac.uk
Our alumni

Your Birmingham Business School connection doesn’t end with your graduation; from alumni events and guest speakers to career support and mentoring, there are many opportunities to get involved with BBS Alumni.

Birmingham Business School Alumni Relations team is dedicated to providing outstanding support to benefit our students and graduates across the School. The team hosts bespoke events and offers a variety of volunteering opportunities, encouraging alumni to support our students’ experiences and career progression and also to offer advice on all that the Business School, University and city of Birmingham have to offer.

Opportunities for students include:
- Joining an international network of over 29,000 Business School alumni and 222,000 across the whole University
- Invitations to the Distinguished Leaders Lecture Series
- Opportunities to hear from alumni business leaders and successful senior alumni who provide company projects, give advice and offer career opportunities

For graduates we offer:
- Bespoke guest lectures and webinars
- A bi-monthly e-newsletter
- Access to regional alumni groups and events around the world
- An alumni contact service to reconnect with old friends or make new contacts
- Global networking and social events
- Exciting volunteering opportunities

‘When you graduate from Birmingham Business School you become part of a community of over 29,000 alumni worldwide. As a member of the BBS Alumni Group you have access to a variety of benefits and services for yourself or your business.’

PROFESSOR GLYN WATSON
Procurement and Operations Management

‘Birmingham gave me the tools to really get a head start in my career. The guest lecturers that came in to present to us offered some unique insights into business strategy, and the case studies that we worked on helped me to develop skills that are applicable in my career.’

MSC ALUMNUS DAVID KETTLE
High Growth & Entrepreneurs, Barclays
Planning your life in Birmingham

As a student living in Birmingham, you will enjoy a lower cost of living than many other cities in the UK. Of course the actual amount you spend will depend upon your lifestyle, but we can give you an approximate idea of how much you will need.

Budgeting for and securing your accommodation
We guarantee a place in University accommodation to all EU/international students who are new to Birmingham, providing you meet the criteria detailed in our International Guarantee Scheme. As we know that getting used to an unfamiliar environment and meeting new people, is difficult enough, it is reassuring not to have to worry about where you are going to live. Visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/study/accommodation/guarantee.aspx

The University of Birmingham website also tells you about our accommodation services for postgraduates, which you will find useful when planning your living costs while you study for your MSc. You’ll find information about the services we offer to help you find suitable accommodation along with a list of average rents in the local area here: www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/accommodation

Take a look at how the University of Birmingham estimates the cost of living for a single student by visiting: www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/support/moneyadvice/living.aspx
Birmingham...  
a great place to live and learn

Our city
- England’s Second City – Birmingham is multicultural, commercial and contemporary.
- It is the youngest city in Europe, with under 25’s accounting for nearly 40% of its population.
- Birmingham is culturally diverse, nearly one third of residents are of minority ethnic origin.
- With over 8,000 acres of parks and open space, Birmingham is one of the greenest cities in the UK.
- Birmingham is connected to the rest of the UK by excellent road and rail links. It is two hours to London by train and Birmingham Airport, just half an hour away from the city centre, connects you to the rest of the world.

Culture in Birmingham
- Food is important in Birmingham, there’s over 100 Balti houses, and more than 200 restaurants serving food from 27 countries.
- Chinatown offers tasty cuisines from across Asia with specialist supermarkets serving traditional goods.
- From Victorian Arcades, an Old Custard Factory to 21st-century shopping centres, there are stores to suit everyone’s tastes and budgets.
- Culturally Birmingham has it all! Theatres, cinemas, music arenas, art galleries, museums and sports stadiums, there’s plenty to get involved with.

Birmingham’s economic impact
- Birmingham was home to 17,436 start-ups in 2016
- The West Midlands is the third largest export region in the UK
- Birmingham has the highest concentration of businesses outside of London – 112,000 companies
- The West Midlands accounts for 80% of auto exports to China
Our Campus

- The campus is built upon 250 acres of parkland.
- You will find bars, shops, travel agents, opticians and major banks, as well as an art gallery, museum and concert hall all on site.
- 24/7 on campus security.
- The University of Birmingham is investing over £600 million in transforming its campus between 2016 and 2021.

In 2017 the £55 million University of Birmingham Sport & Fitness Club opened, encompassing an array of facilities, including Birmingham’s first 50m swimming pool, a large multi-sports arena, six glass-backed squash courts, a 10m climbing wall and five activity studios.

Work is undergoing to create the ‘Green Heart’ of campus. Measuring over 12 acres, the Green Heart project will open up the centre of campus for students, staff and the local community to enjoy.

Our new main Library, opened in 2016, was built at a cost of £60 million and described as heralding a new generation of libraries in UK higher education.
Dedicated Postgraduate Teaching Centre

The Alan Walters Building is Birmingham Business School’s bespoke teaching and learning centre built exclusively for postgraduate students.

As part of our campus development project, £10 million has been invested into a dedicated centre with excellent, modern facilities, situated in the new 'green-heart' of the University’s Edgbaston campus.

With the support of a generous donation from Lady Walters in memory of her husband, Sir Alan Walters, a leading economist and a Professor of Econometrics; the Alan Walters Building has been built centrally on campus and offers high-quality professional facilities. Providing a modern and pleasant environment where our students can work and relax, the look and feel of the new building recreates and develops the ambience of a modern corporate environment, with a linear, full-height atrium running the length of the building incorporating a café and social learning spaces.

Key features include: a state-of-the-art facility to simulate financial trading; a 100-seat ‘Harvard Style’ lecture theatre that promotes increased interaction between students and lecturers; and a dedicated ‘Careers in Business’ facility, staffed by experienced recruitment and employability professionals. There are social and breakout spaces on each floor to facilitate student collaboration and peer-to-peer learning.
This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study some courses may be discontinued and new ones offered in their place.