

Finance and Economics BSc (Hons) Programme Specification

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/finance-and-economics-bsc/>

Academic Year:	2024/25
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
Subject Benchmark(s):	Finance (QAA 2016); Economics (QAA 2015)
Target Degree Award:	Bachelor of Science with Honours (BSc Hons) Finance and Economics [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level 6]
Interim/exit awards:	Ordinary Degree of Bachelor (BSc) [FHEQ Level 6] Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) [FHEQ Level 5] Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) [FHEQ Level 4]
Programme Admission:	September
Programme Modes of Study:	(UCAS code L113) 3 years full-time (UCAS code L115) 4 years full-time with placement year or study abroad

Please note: This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

Minor Modification Schedule

1. June 2019: Updated Placement and Study Abroad Options
2. January 2021: Specification reformatted and made accessible
3. June 2021: Added new modules for 2021/22 academic year and updated admissions text
4. October 2022: Annual changes for 2022/23 academic year published
5. October 2023: Update to Study Abroad semester
6. April 2024: Updated options
7. May 2024: Annual update for 2024/25 academic year

Introduction

The BSc in Finance and Economics programme provides a structured approach to the disciplines of economics and finance to develop subject knowledge and understanding together with subject-specific skills including numeracy and quantitative skills, data analysis and communication. The BSc in Finance and Economics aims to equip students with grounding in accountancy, financial markets, investment appraisal and risk management, along with a thorough background to economics, qualitative and mathematical research methods, always highlighting the link between theoretical aspects and real-world applications.

Careers in finance and economics are extremely diverse. Depending on the student's area of interest, this degree will help them enter a multitude of industries as a professional with

an eye for finance and/or economics. Their studies will equip them with all the necessary tools, including analytical and problem-solving skills, to analyse global financial and economic phenomena. Apart from core modules the programme also offers a choice of complementary options from other subject disciplines. We provide excellent support and opportunities for students who wish to undertake an internship or study abroad as part of their studies.

Our Finance and Economics degree is taught by staff who are experienced academics as well as having experience working for, or advising, numerous organisations. The programme is oriented towards research-led-teaching from academic staff with research interests in various fields including trade, economic integration, macroeconomic policy, finance, and accounting, individual behaviour, and social economics. Our staff are active in key economics networks and have an awareness of on-going developments (e.g. CORE) as well as working as external experts and external examiners in other institutions.

Programme Aims

The programme is intended to:

- A1. Provide students with a thorough grounding in economic and finance principles, theories, concepts, methods and tools.
- A2. Give students strong foundations for further studies in economics, finance and allied disciplines and equip them with the necessary skills for successful job employability.
- A3. Provide students with an appreciation and understanding of the wider international economic and finance context as well as knowledge and understanding of historical, political, institutional, international, social and environmental contexts in which specific economic and finance analysis is applied.
- A4. Give students knowledge of how to apply economic reasoning to policy issues in a critical manner. Examine the factors that shape sustainable economic and financial decision-making and the developments in government policy that impact on the regulatory environment.

Programme Learning Outcomes

To be eligible for the FHEQ Level 4 Certificate of Higher Education award, students will be able to:

1. Understand and evaluate, at an introductory level, the theories and concepts of economics, finance and accounting, the relevant methods and analytical techniques, and the applications of ethical economic, accounting and financial principles to diverse areas of national and international affairs
2. Apply IT skills, use written and electronic sources of information, discuss and communicate effectively and fluently in speech and writing. Students will also develop the capacity to work in a team, to work independently and to self-manage their learning.

Additionally, to be eligible for the FHEQ Level 5 Diploma of Higher Education award, students will be able to:

3. Abstract and examine essential features of complex economic and finance systems. Demonstrate analysis, deduction and induction applied to assumption-based models. Show awareness of the potential problems of economic and financial theories, of models and methods and their applications and develop the ability to be critical and creative in problem solving.
4. Display understanding of data sources and of data access, synthetisation, quantification, design and organisation and framing of parameters in economic and financial problems. Apply critical thinking and use numerical and statistical techniques to construct reasoned arguments and present empirical evidence.
5. Recognise and explain the factors influencing the investment and finance behaviour of private individuals and firms both in national and in international contexts. Research, make decisions and action plans, demonstrate self-evaluation and reflection, and construct effective applications in relation to career planning.

Additionally, to be eligible for the FHEQ Level 6 Honours Degree award of Bachelor, students will be able to:

6. Select and apply the relevant methods and techniques to critically review, consolidate, or extend knowledge and understanding in economics and finance at both theoretical and applied level.
7. Recognise that many economic and financial problems may accept more than one approach and may accept several solutions. Be aware of different methodological and theoretical approaches and of their drawbacks.
8. Show the skills required to be an independent learner, seek out solutions to unfamiliar problems and work collaboratively. Evaluate and debate theory and practice in economics and finance.
9. Understand and apply the financial instruments and techniques which can be used by businesses and individual investors in the assessment and management of risk.
10. Critically evaluate and discuss current research in economics and finance, practice and policies related to economics and finance and how this research impacts individuals, businesses and societies. Apply critical thinking to construct reasoned arguments and present empirical evidence

Learning and Teaching Strategy

The approach to teaching and learning aims to integrate applied and theoretical knowledge, taking into consideration the learning outcomes, progression through the levels of study, the nature of the mode of study and the need for students to take greater responsibility for their own learning as they progress through the programme.

The strategy for learning is to enable students to achieve their optimum level of competence and understanding at each stage in order to be well prepared, and feel confident, to progress to higher levels of skill and knowledge. While online lectures (synchronous and asynchronous) are the main teaching method, a wide variety of other learning activities take place including: tutorials (on campus and online) and supplementary reading, exercises, projects and workbooks, independent study and group work.

The Stage 3 dissertation is a substantial piece of work that gives students the opportunity not only to increase their specialist subject knowledge, but also to demonstrate their ability to undertake independent study. Throughout the programme, students will acquire skills that will be useful not only in economics and finance, but in whatever profession students choose to follow. These will be taught, practised and assessed.

Assessment Strategy

Methods of assessment vary according to the learning outcomes of particular modules and the stage of study. Accordingly, a mixture of essays and other written work, problem solving exercises will be used in assessment of their work. While mid-semester tests are intended to provide feedback on their progress. Throughout the programme their learning will be supported using various methods of formative assessment and feedback. This is to help students progress their studies and support their continuing development.

For all taught modules their learning will be directed, supported and reinforced through a combination of lectures, tutorials, virtual learning environment activities and guided private studies. The School of Management is also committed to demonstrating the relevance of taught material to real economic and business problems; and students can expect to see guest industry lectures and the use of real business and economic problems for assessment purposes. Generally, for each module, students will attend one lecture and one tutorial each week during which they will be in contact with teaching staff. Their learning will be supplemented by private study following the direction of module teaching staff. All teaching will be supported by information and activities provided through the University's virtual learning environment.

One of the School of Management's main aims is to address major challenges for business and society such as global responsibility and sustainable development. Accordingly, the School seeks to prepare students who are able to contribute in an effective manner to debates about sustainable development and critically appraise the relationship(s) between the social, economic and environmental dimensions. Our intention is to nurture students who can apply the principles of sustainable development in their professional capacity. Whilst there are a number of individual modules that focus specifically on sustainability issues, awareness of the importance and principles of sustainability is emphasised in modules.

Curriculum

The Finance and Economics programme consists of 360 credits, made up mainly of core modules. Students take 120 credits at each Stage. Each 'Stage' or taught 'year' of an Honours programme consists of two semesters.

Stage 1 [Level 4]

Stage 1 consists of core modules to provide the essential foundation for their further study. By the end of this year students will have gained knowledge and understanding of the core introductory modules, which provide grounding in the basic ideas in economics, accounting, finance, and quantitative methods.

Alongside these, key graduate learner skills including communication and the correct sourcing, use of and presentation of information including referencing will be introduced. Such skills will enable students to write in an academic manner and begin to reflect on the value and usefulness of the information with which they are presented, engage in team working and consider their future career paths.

To support their learning of mathematics an initial screening is undertaken to identify if students require additional support provided by specialists from the academic skills development unit. If needed, we will then refer students to the academic skills advice service, and they will work with students to support them in the relevant areas. Additionally, this unit offers a wide range of study skills advice such as: critical thinking, effective learning strategies, exam skills, note-taking, group working skills, communication skills and time management.

Table a: Stage 1 Core Modules (FHEQ Level 4/CertHE)

Study Period	Code	Title	Credit	Level
Academic Year	AFE4005-B	Introduction to Accounting	20	FHEQ 4
Academic Year	AFE4004-B	Introduction to Finance	20	FHEQ 4
Academic Year	AFE4011-B	Introduction to Macroeconomics	20	FHEQ 4
Academic Year	AFE4010-B	Introduction to Microeconomics	20	FHEQ 4
Academic Year	OIM4013-B	Principles of Responsible Management and Practice	20	FHEQ 4
Academic Year	AFE4013-B	Quantitative Methods for Economists	20	FHEQ 4

Stage 2 [Level 5]

In Stage 2 students will take core modules in microeconomics, macroeconomics, financial management, finance and investment at an intermediate level and they will further enhance their knowledge of the relevant research and statistical methods used in economics and finance in order to prepare themselves for the final year dissertation. The Employability and Enterprise Skills module will develop their understanding of the job market, their goals and how they can present themselves to prospective employers.

By the end of this Stage students will have a critical awareness of the tools and principles in finance and economics and their applicability, an understanding of statistical techniques

relevant to both economic and finance, an awareness of the skills necessary to identify, frame and research a dissertation topic in their chosen area of economics and finance and understanding of how they can develop their career and set appropriate personal goals.

Students may elect to arrange a Study Abroad Semester at Stage 2. See the **Placement and Study Abroad Options** section for more details.

Table b: Stage 2 Core Modules (FHEQ Level 5/DipHE)

Study Period	Code	Title	Credit	Level
Semester 1	HRM5015-B	Entrepreneurship and Employability	20	FHEQ 5
Semester 1	AFE5011-B	Financial Management	20	FHEQ 5
Semester 1	AFE5021-B	Intermediate Microeconomics	20	FHEQ 5
Semester 2	AFE5022-B	Intermediate Macroeconomics	20	FHEQ 5
Semester 2	AFE5013-B	Multinational Finance and Investment	20	FHEQ 5
Semester 2	AFE5023-B	Research Methods for Economists	20	FHEQ 5

Between Stage 2 and Stage 3, students who did not take a Study Abroad Semester may elect to take a year in an integrated work placement or period of study abroad. See the **Placement and Study Abroad Options** section for more details.

Stage 3 [Level 6]

In Stage 3 students will research and write-up a dissertation in their chosen topic within Financial Economics, with guidance from their supervisor. This will build upon the Level 5 module Research Methods for Economists and can be complemented by the semester 1 Level 6 Econometrics module.

By the end of this Stage students will demonstrate understanding of advanced economic and financial analysis. Students will develop a deeper, more specialised knowledge and understanding of the application of economic and finance principles. Students will have the opportunity to examine economic issues from a range of perspectives; for example, social dimensions ethics, finance, trade and policymaking.

Upon completion students will be able to explain ideas to a wide range of audiences and complex ideas to non-technical audiences. Students will possess insight into the current direction in economics teaching regarding interlinkages between microeconomics and macroeconomics.

At stage 3, students study the following 80 credits of core modules:

Table c: Stage 3 Core Modules (FHEQ Level 6/BSc)

Study Period	Code	Title	Credit	Level
Academic Year	AFE6030-D	Dissertation in Financial Economics	40	FHEQ 6
Semester 1	AFE6013-B	Risk Management and Derivatives	20	FHEQ 6
Semester 2	AFE6020-B	Advanced Economics	20	FHEQ 6

At Stage 3 students will select and study two optional modules (40 credits), one from each semester. Optional modules are available from a wide range of subjects and students can opt to take up to 20 credits at level 5:

Table d: Stage 3 Optional Modules (FHEQ Level 6/BSc)

Study Period	Code	Title	Credit	Level
Semester 1	AFE5011-B	Financial Management ⁱ	20	FHEQ 5
Semester 1	AFE6019-B	Econometrics	20	FHEQ 6
Semester 1	HRM5008-B	Human Resource Management ⁱ	20	FHEQ 5
Semester 1	HRM6014-B	Leading and Managing People	20	FHEQ 6
Semester 1	MAR6014-B	Digital Campaign Planning and Content Management	20	FHEQ 6
Semester 1	MAR6013-B	Product and Corporate Brand Management	20	FHEQ 6
Semester 1	SIB5001-B	International Business Strategy ⁱ	20	FHEQ 5
Semester 1	SIB5006-B	European Business and Management ⁱ	20	FHEQ 5
Semester 2	AFE6002-B	Taxation	20	FHEQ 6
Semester 2	AFE6018-B	Contemporary issues in Economics	20	FHEQ 6
Semester 2	AFE5009-B	Auditing ⁱ	20	FHEQ 5
Semester 2	HRM6010-B	Business Ethics and Social Responsibility	20	FHEQ 6
Semester 2	MAR6011-B	Interactive Services Marketing	20	FHEQ 6
Semester 2	SIB5003-B	Strategic Management ⁱ	20	FHEQ 5
Semester 2	SIB6009-B	Cross Cultural Management	20	FHEQ 6
Semester 2	SIB6011-B	Multinationals in Emerging Economies	20	FHEQ 6

i: A maximum of 1 FHEQ Level 5 module may be selected at this Stage.

Please note: The curriculum in any stage may change, subject to availability and the University's programme approval, monitoring and review procedures.

Placement Year and Study Abroad Options

This programme provides the option for students to undertake a work placement or period of study abroad between Stages 2 and 3. Students wishing to take this option will be registered for the 4-year programme.

We promote a placement or study abroad year as there is overwhelming evidence as to the benefits. Research indicates that students benefit academically and professionally from a period abroad as part of their degree. Undergraduate students who went abroad during their studies were more likely to find a graduate job and had higher starting salaries than their non-mobile counterparts (Source: International facts and figures 2019).

There are regular visits to the School of Management by representatives of both local and national companies, looking to recruit graduates. There are also great opportunities for students to do shorter internships (6 or 8 weeks) or in-company projects. The International Opportunities team can advise students about the available funding to support their study or work experience abroad.

Placement Year (MAL5009-Z module)

Work placements are extremely valuable in helping students to develop their understanding of all aspects of economics. Our students are highly successful in securing both summer and year-long internships and placements with prestigious employers, including the competitive Government Economic Service placement scheme (e.g. Department for Work and Pensions, Department of Health and the Treasury), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and a range of private sector companies involved in marketing, finance and the voluntary sector.

Students are responsible for finding a placement, but they are fully supported by our dedicated work placements team who will advertise placement vacancies, help them with applications, CV writing, interview techniques and preparing for their time in work.

A year spent in employment provides an excellent opportunity to apply the knowledge, understanding and skills that students have developed during the earlier Stages of their programme. It will also enable students to further develop their transferable skills and may even secure their entry onto the graduate career ladder as many employers use a placement year as a method of recruitment onto their graduate training scheme. Our students are increasingly securing work placements, either during the summer vacation or for a full year in industry and the public sector.

Study Abroad Year (MAL5010-Z module)

Instead of a placement year, students can opt to study abroad for one year in one of our partner institutions worldwide, where students will be taught in English. Study abroad has a number of benefits, not only as a unique experience in itself but also enhancing academic insights, employability and life skills and the Faculty and the University wish to encourage it, if the circumstances are appropriate.

Any student wishing to study abroad for a year should contact at first instance the International Opportunities Team to discuss the available year abroad opportunities. Then, they will have to consult with the Faculty Exchange Coordinator on the academic aspects of the exchange including the programme and modules. The student will have significant freedom in the selection of institutions and modules during the year abroad exchange. Finally, the Bradford Programme leader will be informed and consulted about the exchange to ensure compliance with any Bradford programme requirements. During the exchange the students will have support from the relevant University services.

The list of exchange partners and network of Universities available for Study Abroad Year, as well as further information about international opportunities can be found online at: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/exchanges/current-students/>

Study Abroad Semester

Alternatively, students can choose to study abroad for a semester in Stage 2 and only in specified approved partner Universities. This list is a subset of the Study Abroad Year partners offered and changes year-to-year depending on the curriculum offered.

The semester abroad can be used during semester 2 OR 1 depending on the programme. This option can be available ONLY if the modules offered by the host institution allow the student to meet the learning outcomes of the Bradford Programme at stage 2 AND ONLY if the exchange does not have a negative effect on the professional accreditations of the Bradford programmes and modules. The negative effect occurs when some Bradford modules carry exemption from professional examinations whereas modules studied abroad may not grant the same professional examination exemptions. Students are, therefore, strongly recommended to verify the status of professional module exemptions with the Institution they plan to study at.

Any student wishing to study abroad for a semester should first contact the International Opportunities Team to explore the opportunities and funding in place and, secondly, the Faculty Exchange Coordinator to check if the available options and relevant modules are in line with the University requirements. Following these checks, the International Opportunities Team and the Faculty Exchange Coordinator will liaise with the relevant Programme Leader to validate the modules and the semester exchange.

Unlike the year abroad exchange, the semester exchange requires students to study only modules suitable to the Bradford programme when abroad. Therefore, all modules selected for the exchange will have to be mapped to the Bradford programme learning outcomes and be approved by the Programme leader and the Director of Studies in Bradford in advance of the exchange. During the exchange, if the student needs to change the modules, this can only be done after approval of the Programme Leader and Director of Programmes.

If the student fails a module abroad, the student must explore the possibility of re-taking any exams at the host university and inform immediately the International Opportunities Team and the Faculty Exchange Coordinator.

During the exchange, students will have support from the relevant University services. All credit successfully obtained whilst on study abroad semester will count towards the student's final degree.

The list of exchange partners and network of Universities available for Study Abroad Year, as well as further information about international opportunities can be found online at: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/exchanges/current-students/>

Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Undergraduate Assessment Regulations which are available at the following link: www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations

At the end of stage 1, students will be eligible to exit with the award of **Certificate of Higher Education** if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

At the end of stage 2, students will be eligible to exit with the award of **Diploma of Higher Education** if they have successfully completed at least 240 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

On successful completion of the Placement Year module, MAL5009-Z, students will be eligible for the award of **University Diploma in Professional Studies**.

On successful completion of the Study Abroad Year module, MAL5010-Z, students will be eligible for the award of **University Diploma in Professional Studies (International)**.

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of **Ordinary Degree of Bachelor** if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits at Stage 1, at least 120 credits at Stage 2 and at least 60 credits at FHEQ Level 6 or higher.

Students will be eligible for the award of **Honours Degree of Bachelor** if they have successfully completed at least 360 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Admission Requirements

We take into consideration a number of factors when assessing your application. It's not just about your grades; we take the time to understand your personal circumstances and make decisions based on your potential to thrive at university and beyond.

A typical offer to someone seeking entry through the UCAS scheme would be **120 points**, including one full A-Level or BTEC, with Grade 4 (national Grade C) or above in GCSE Maths and English or the equivalents in other RQF Level 2 qualifications such as Key Skills.

The standard requirements for international students apply for English language and numeracy. Visit <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/international/country/> for details of accepted equivalent qualifications from your country.

Access and Recognition of Prior Learning

Applications are welcome from students with non-traditional qualifications, and/or significant personal/professional experience.

The University of Bradford has always welcomed applications from disabled students. To discuss adjustments or to find out more about support and access, you may wish to contact the Disability Service before you apply at: www.bradford.ac.uk/disability/before .

Applications are particularly welcomed from adult learners (those aged 21+ at the start of the programme), armed forces families, carers and care leavers, estranged or orphaned learners, refugees and asylum seekers, and Romani or Traveller families. To find out more about the University of Bradford Progression Scheme, visit the webpage: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/applicants/progression-scheme/> .

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme. For more details visit our RPL webpage at: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/teaching-quality/prior-learning/> .

Please note: These requirements are correct for the contemporary recruitment cycle and may be different when you are reading this document. The UCAS tariff applicable may vary and is published here: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/finance-and-economics-bsc>
