MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert
Finance
University of Stirling Management School
The MSc Finance equips students with all the necessary technical and conceptual skills to pursue a career in corporate finance. Many of our students have secured posts with prestigious employers in financial institutions around the globe.

Dr Isaac Tabner, Course Director

The University of Stirling Management School MSc Finance provides a thorough grounding in the theory and analytical techniques required by finance professionals.

It offers students a global perspective on the process of financial decision-making and practical knowledge of the workings of financial markets and the price-setting process.

Students will also learn to critically evaluate research and advanced scholarship in finance.
Why study Finance at Stirling?

1. **Top international ranking**
The University of Stirling Management School was ranked among the Top 25 in the UK for business and management research in the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014).

2. **Exposure to specialist knowledge**
Students are taught by the leading academics in their field of research, many of whom have significant industry knowledge. The course reflects current international developments in financial markets and students are encouraged to explore contemporary challenges with academic staff in tutorials and workshops.

3. **Comprehensive education**
The MSc in Finance is ideal preparation for a career in finance or financial management. The course develops a range of specialist skills, providing students with an understanding of global financial markets, types of investment vehicles and financial instruments, risk management and corporate valuation.

4. **Career-relevant focus**
This MSc Finance connects subject matter with the modern financial world. In addition to being given opportunities to apply finance theory to real-world situations, students will be able to develop skills working with financial databases that are used within current research and corporate environments.

5. **Flexible career path**
With an emphasis on research methodologies, this degree is an ideal stepping stone to further postgraduate studies or a career in a research-oriented environment. It equips students with the skills to undertake sophisticated financial modelling for corporations as well as in-depth investigations that feed into policy decisions. The choice in modules in the second semester allows students to tailor the course to suit their career ambitions. The content of modules on the course covers much of the CFA® Candidate Body of Knowledge, giving MSc Finance graduates a head start on the CFA exams should they wish to pursue this globally recognised qualification.
What is Finance?

Finance deals with the allocation of capital in our economy. Factors such as risk, liquidity, cash flow, inflation, use and control of credit and taxation must all be taken into consideration.

The study of finance identifies the best ways to allocate assets and liabilities. This discipline encompasses global financial markets, including portfolio management and derivatives, as well as the ability to analyse company financial statements.

Career opportunities

Financial management is at the heart of decision-making in business and the Stirling MSc in Finance opens up a wide range of career opportunities which include fund management, security dealing, financial market regulation, treasury management, financial engineering and corporate finance work within merchant banking firms.

Recent graduates of the University of Stirling MSc Finance have been appointed to posts such as business manager in futures trading and senior assistant assessing country risk for an investment bank, and with employers such as Morgan Stanley, Standard Charted Bank, ABC Bank of China, and HSBC. The degree is recognised internationally and prospects for career advancement are excellent, with many of our alumni to be found in senior positions around the world.

“ My postgraduate degree in finance has a top rating. The course is relevant to my job and a number of modules are linked to the CFA® programme. The knowledge I have gained will be very useful in my career. ”

Yang Ye, MSc Finance (China)

⇒ For further information on the course content, visit: http://www.stir.ac.uk/r
About the course

The MSc Finance is a one-year, full-time course. Students undertake eight taught modules over two 15-week semesters followed by a supervised dissertation.

The teaching includes lectures, workshops and practical case study exercises. A Postgraduate Diploma is awarded after successful completion of the taught modules at the end of the second semester. Upon successful completion of eight core modules, students have the opportunity to apply their knowledge by undertaking research on an area that matches their interest and career objectives. Students may opt for a case study involving investment analysis of a company or they may research an academic topic.

Course structure

**Semester 1**

**Financial Reporting**
Methods for interpretation of reported accounting information are explored and applied to ‘live’ data.

**Corporate Finance**
Provides an understanding of how corporations raise finance and how they invest money.

**Economics for Banking and Finance**
Introduces students to economics as a discipline, and focuses on aspects most relevant to a career in finance.

**Quantitative Methods in Finance**
Provides the statistical and computing skills necessary to fully understand modern banking and finance operations.

**Semester 2**

**Two or three of the following modules:**

**Derivatives**
Focuses on the uses and the pricing of the key derivative instruments: options, futures, forwards and swaps.

**Investments and Portfolio Management**
Provides an understanding of security valuation and portfolio management.

**Mergers and Acquisitions**
Focuses on the financial and economic aspects of M&A activity and other forms of corporate restructuring, such as spin-offs, carve-outs and sell-offs.

**Behavioural Finance**
Drawing on insights from psychology, this module provides an alternative perspective to traditional finance theory based on rational decision-making.

One or both of the following core modules, depending on the type of dissertation you plan to undertake:

**Research Methods**
Introduces students to generic and subject-specific research training and lays the foundations for advanced postgraduate research.

**Financial Statement Analysis**
Develops skills in the interpretation and use of financial statements, focusing on company valuation and identification of companies that may become insolvent.
Developing real-world expertise

As part of the Management School’s focus on enhancing graduate employability we offer an intensive trading Boot Camp for Master’s students on our finance-related courses.

Delivered on campus in conjunction with industry training specialist Amplify Trading, it bridges the gap between academic theories of financial markets and the real world. Students have the opportunity to trade in a simulated environment across a variety of futures contracts quoted on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, which provides exposure to stocks, bonds, currencies and commodities. An Awards Ceremony concludes the week.

The Stirling Amplify Trading Boot Camp won the CFA Institute’s Innovative Delivery of Education (IDEA) Award in 2015 and was shortlisted for the Herald Higher Education Awards for Scotland in the Innovation Technology Excellence category and the Wharton-QS Stars Reimagine Education Awards, in the Presence Learning category.

Preparation business leaders of the future

Postgraduate education at the University of Stirling Management School goes beyond text books and lecture rooms by also focusing on personal and professional development. Our unique Flying Start Leadership programme, at the beginning of the academic year, equips students with the awareness, knowledge and techniques essential for building a successful career. These range from practical skills, such as effective public speaking, to developing ways to work under pressure in difficult situations and manage conflict.

“There is an exponential learning curve during the Amplify Trading Boot Camp. You get to execute your decisions right there, right then. The live prices, with which you trade, change every second, and you make gains and losses all the time.”

Kyle Pierce (UK)
Entrance requirements

Applicants should have a good Honours degree, an equivalent professional qualification or relevant experience. A background in accounting or finance is not required, but they should be comfortable with the level of numeracy required to interpret statistics and financial reports. If English is not their first language applicants must provide evidence of proficiency. For details of English language requirements for this course visit: http://stir.ac.uk/13f

Fees, funding and scholarships

The University of Stirling Management School is committed to investing in academically talented students. There are various categories of funding available to support the cost of studies at the University of Stirling. Information on some of the funding and scholarship opportunities that are available can be found here: www.stir.ac.uk/scholarships
Accreditation and affiliation
We are a member of the Association of Business Schools; the European Foundation for Management Development; in partnership with the Chartered Management Institute; and are signatories to the Principles for Responsible Management Education.

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Postgraduate study at Stirling

On Campus
Taking advantage of Scotland’s outstanding natural scenery, the University of Stirling is an inspiring and peaceful place to study. Postgraduate students are offered campus accommodation and study areas conducive to working towards successful completion of a Master’s degree.

The University offers extensive indoor and outdoor sports facilities, a shopping precinct and arts centre. There is a large team of librarians and IT specialists available for one-to-one guidance with research skills and use of the University’s high-tech learning environment. Assistive technologies are available for students with disabilities.

Student and alumni support
At the Management School support is provided to help students make the most of their time at Stirling. We have excellent links with major employers in business and industry and our Career Development Centre works closely with students in preparation for the transition to work. The relationship with students does not stop at graduation. We maintain links with our alumni through international events and social media.

The University of Stirling is a charity registered in Scotland, number SC 011159. For information on University of Stirling Management School photography, please contact the Management School at: management@stir.ac.uk
This publication can be made available in different formats. Please contact Student Recruitment and Admissions for further information: recruitment@stir.ac.uk

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