MSc Finance

REDEFINE YOUR FUTURE

REDEFINE AT STIRLING
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 AN MSc IN FINANCE?**

Finance deals with the allocation of capital in an 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.

**WHAT IS FINANCE?**

The MSc Finance equips students with all the necessary technical and conceptual skills to pursue a career in finance. Many of our students have secured posts with prestigious employers in financial institutions around the globe.

**Dr Isaac Tabner**  
Course Director

For further information on the course content, visit [http://stir.ac.uk/r](http://stir.ac.uk/r)
Week long masterclass
run by Amplify Trading this will give you practical experience of trading markets

Access to financial databases
such as DataStream, that contain real-time information about international financial markets

Expert teaching team
course leader Dr Isaac Tabner, CFA, has had his research published widely and is an academic consultant to the CFA Society of the UK

Stirling’s global research rating
we’re among the top 25 in the UK according to REF 2014

Build your global network
study alongside international students across a range of business disciplines
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.

“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
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 Chartered 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.

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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)
ABOUT THE COURSE

The MSc Finance is a one-year, full-time course. Students undertake ten 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 taught 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

Up to six modules may be chosen from the following eight modules:

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

Investments: Equity Portfolios and Pricing
Provides an understanding of equity portfolio management and pricing. Focuses on the valuation of equities and the management of equity portfolios.

Investments: Fixed Income and Alternative Investments
Provides an understanding of security valuation and portfolio management. Focuses on the valuation of both fixed-interest securities and issues around alternative investment products such as hedge funds, fund of funds and venture capital.

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.

For further information on the course content, visit http://stir.ac.uk/r
Financial Statement Analysis must be taken by students planning a case study dissertation. Students planning a research dissertation are advised to take either one or both research methods modules

**Introduction to Research Methods**
Introduces students to generic and subject-specific research training. It also aims to prepare students for the dissertation module as well as to lay the foundations for more advanced postgraduate research.

**Empirical Methods in Accounting and Finance**
Introduces students to econometrics techniques required to undertake research in finance and to understand empirical papers published in academic journals. It also prepares students for the dissertation module as well as lays the foundations for more 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.

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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.

**ACCREDITATION AND AFFILIATION**
We are a member of the Association of Business Schools; the European Foundation for Management Development and in partnership with the Chartered Management Institute.
ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should have a good Honours degree, an equivalent professional qualification or relevant experience. A background in finance is not required, but you should be comfortable with the level of numeracy required to interpret statistics and financial reports.

If English is not your first language you must provide evidence of your proficiency.

For details of English language requirements for this course, visit: http://stir.ac.uk/3f

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 your studies at the University of Stirling.

Information about scholarships and funding may be found at: www.stir.ac.uk/scholarships

CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.stir.ac.uk/management

Join our community

@stirmanschool

Photography: For a list of photographers who have contributed to the University of Stirling photo library, contact:

marketingtools@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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