MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert Banking and Finance
University of Stirling Management School
This course is uniquely designed to meet the needs of professionals in the renewed global landscape of the financial and banking sectors. It offers insights into the international financial architecture, banking theory and practice, corporate and household finance and quantitative methods.

Dr Siobhán Lucey, Course Director

The accredited MSc Banking and Finance provides a strong grounding in finance with a specialist knowledge of banking. It provides students with a deep understanding of banks, central banks and other financial institutions and their place in the economy as well as the structure and behaviour of financial markets.

This course is designed for students from a variety of backgrounds and does not require any previous training in economics or accountancy. It also caters for the aspirations of individuals who wish to develop their specialist knowledge of banking and finance to a very high level and are working towards professional qualifications and recognition from industry institutes.

A particular strength of the MSc Banking and Finance is the focus on the practical application of key banking and finance concepts and financial reporting and risk management tools. By the end of this course, students are able to use spread sheets and econometric techniques to analyse corporate performance and identify trends in financial markets. They have the ability to appraise investment projects using internationally accepted capital budgeting methods and have the capacity to appraise and compile economic and financial reports.

The MSc Banking and Finance emphasises high ethical, professional and technical standards across the curriculum. We also work on developing our students as well-rounded, socially responsible citizens through personal and professional development programmes that are unique to the University of Stirling Management School.
Why study Banking and Finance at Stirling?

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

2. **Chartered Banker Accreditation**
The Chartered Banker Institute is the only professional banking Institute in the UK. The Institute recognises the Stirling MSc Banking and Finance degree and will award subject specific credits to programme graduates that wish to attain Chartered status with the Institute. This recognition allows graduates of the MSc to fast-track attainment of a globally recognised, professional qualification. For more information on the Institute, please visit: http://www.charteredbanker.com/.

3. **Wide-ranging expertise**
Students are taught by lecturers who have global reputations for advancing knowledge in the fields of banking and finance. The course reflects current developments in banking and finance and students are encouraged to explore contemporary challenges with academic staff in seminars and workshops.

4. **Flexible course structure**
The flexible design of the degree programme means that you can build on the core curriculum from a suite of optional modules to suit your career aspirations.

5. **Enhanced employment opportunities**
Banking and finance qualifications, especially with a focus on the ability to analyse and solve problems with ethical dimensions, are highly attractive to employers committed to addressing structural and social challenges and rebuilding reputations.

6. **Santander Universities Work Skills Programme**
Students on the MSc Banking and Finance will have the opportunity to apply to participate in the Santander Universities Work Skills Programme. This programme will involve working in the Santander University branch and developing their skills across a range of competencies including Risk Management, World Class Service Ethics, Sales Management and HR functions including People Management.

7. **Professional development for long-term success**
A personal and professional development programme at the start of your course enables you to develop self-awareness about your strengths and acquire new competencies in a way that is entirely tailored to your individual attributes. Our students also have the opportunity to participate in a course for professional stock market traders.
What is Banking and Finance?

Finance is the backbone of any organisation. Specialists work for every entity in the public, private and voluntary sectors. Finance has a more narrow focus than accounting, and practitioners must employ a range of statistical, mathematical and other tools in the decision-making process. Increasingly ethical considerations must be included.

The study of Banking explores the commercial, retail and investment arms of institutions that are integral to modern economies. It includes foreign exchange markets.

The discipline of Banking and Finance combines knowledge of the related industries of banking and finance. Its scope is broad, including theoretical insights into banking, corporate finance, financial markets, portfolio management, investments and risk management. It has a strong practical component, requiring the use of a range of methodologies and techniques to assess monetary aspects of companies, countries and global systems as well as organisation-specific factors.

This combined subject specialism develops sophisticated insights into the operations, strategy and regulatory functions of institutions in the banking and finance industries. It covers the efficient allocation of capital and banking regulation and the use of financial instruments, and debt, as well as the valuation of securities and hedging risk in global markets.

It is aimed at developing specialist knowledge for individuals who work within the financial services sector and for government bodies and regulators who are required to solve complex problems. Graduates are not limited to careers in banking; studies in Finance equip students to succeed in the financial world more generally.

“I chose this course because the University of Stirling has a very high ranking in Finance. There were several practical modules, including International corporate finance, portfolio management and derivatives, which should stand me in good stead in my career.”

Thi Hai Anh Nguyen, MSc Banking and Finance

Course content

For further information on the course content, visit http://stir.ac.uk/c
Career opportunities

The University of Stirling is ranked 7th in the UK for graduate employability. Our graduates have gone on to build careers in a variety of sectors in countries including China, Ghana, Greece, India, Malaysia, Malta and Norway. They have enjoyed success within different organisations, ranging from multinational banks to asset management companies. In addition to working for banks and financial services organisations, our graduates have found opportunities at specialist property companies, government agencies and other organisations that must deal with banks daily.

Alumni who have had time to build their careers after graduating more than 10 years ago have been appointed to posts such as: Regional Head of Novartis, Switzerland; Credit Partner, Santander Corporate Banking; and Head of Banking Trends, Egnatia Bank (Greece).
Preparing 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, like effective public speaking, to developing ways to work under pressure in difficult situations and manage conflict.

Course structure

**Semester 1**
- **Quantitative Methods in Finance**
  Provides students with key statistical concepts, methods and computing skills necessary to fully understand modern banking and finance operations.

- **Contemporary Issues in Banking**
  Explores the main theories and practices underlying modern banking and financial services businesses, from the industrial structure of organisations to determinants of interest rates.

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

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

**Semester 2**
- **Professionalism, Regulation and Ethics**
  Provides students with a knowledge and understanding of professional ethics in the banking industry.

- **Risk Management in Banking**
  Enables students to critically analyse key risk management concepts in banking and develops knowledge of modern risk management techniques used by banks and financial institutions.

Choose two of the following modules:
- Derivatives; Investment and Portfolio Management; International Banking and Development Finance; International Corporate Finance; Mergers and Acquisitions; Behavioural Finance.

About the course

The MSc Banking and Finance is a full-time one-year course of two semesters. A dissertation project is undertaken in summer. Teaching is carried out through lectures, seminars, workshops and computer labs. Assessment includes coursework and examinations. A diploma is awarded on success in examinations, while the MSc follows satisfactory completion of the dissertation.
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 on some of the most common funding and scholarship opportunities that are available to you can be found here: [http://stir.ac.uk/39](http://stir.ac.uk/39) or [www.stir.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.stir.ac.uk/scholarships)

Entrance requirements

The basic entrance requirement is a lower second class Honours degree from a UK university in economics, finance or a related area, or an equivalent professional qualification. Applicants with an upper second class Honours in an unrelated discipline will also be considered, as will those with relevant work experience. A background in banking or 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](http://stir.ac.uk/3f)

Developing real-world expertise

As part of the University of Stirling Management School’s focus on enhancing graduate employability we offer a week-long global financial trading and training Boot Camp for Masters students on our finance-related courses. The aim of the Master Class, delivered on campus in conjunction with industry training specialist Amplify Trading, is to bridge the gap between an academic understanding of financial markets and the implementation of trading strategies in the real world.

Students are presented with live market data and have the opportunity to trade across multiple asset classes in order to gain experience of how intra-day trading actually works.

Amplify Trading recently received a global award for innovative teaching delivery.
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 we will support you in making the most of your 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; in partnership with the Chartered Management Institute; and are signatories to the Principles for Responsible Management Education.

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