# Programme Specification ARO 034a

**MSc BANKING & FINANCE – INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

## Section 1 Key Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awarding Body</th>
<th>University of Stirling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner Institution</td>
<td>Amity – Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Name</td>
<td>MSc Banking and Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Award</strong> e.g. BSc (Hons), MA etc.</td>
<td>MSc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Stirling Management School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division (if applicable)</td>
<td>Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCAS Code (UG only)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Code</td>
<td>T.B.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode of Study</td>
<td>Full Time ☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location/Method of Study</td>
<td>International ☒&lt;/br&gt;Where: Amity – Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission Points</td>
<td>September ☒&lt;/br&gt;February ☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of Programme</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCQF Level</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credit Value</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECTS Credit Value</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant <strong>QAA Subject Benchmark</strong></td>
<td>Mathematics, Statistics and Operational Research (MMath) and Business and Management (2015)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Body Accreditation</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Director</td>
<td>Dr Theo Diasakos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisor of Studies</td>
<td>Dr Theo Diasakos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Approved</td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Updated</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
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</table>
Section 2 Overview

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

This MSc gives you the knowledge and analytical skills you’ll need for a successful career in banking or finance or a related role. It’s suitable for students who already have related qualifications or experience, and those who don’t. It will also support your progress towards recognised professional qualifications.

You’ll develop an understanding of the concepts and methodologies of banking practice, an appreciation of the value and limitations of research, and a critical awareness of the current and potential problems facing the industry. You’ll also develop your ability to read, understand and compile economic reports, company accounts and financial forecasts.

Graduates aren’t limited to careers in banking; studies in finance equip students to succeed in the financial world in general.

Real-world Experience

The course includes an innovative, global financial trading Boot Camp, similar to the one run by our partner Amplify Trading at Stirling. Students trade futures contracts on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) using University of Stirling computer labs on which Amplify Trading’s bespoke software links to live CME market prices through the Internet. By enabling students to trade in real time, but with virtual money, the Boot Camp bridges the gap between an academic understanding of financial markets and how they function in practice.

The Stirling Amplify Trading Boot Camp won the CFA Institute’s Innovative Delivery of Education (IDEA) Award in 2015.

It was also shortlisted in 2015 for the Herald Higher Education Awards for Scotland, in the Innovation Technology Excellence category, and for the Wharton-QS Stars Reimagine Education Awards, in the Presence Learning category.

Students at International Partner Institutions will participate in an equivalent investment boot camp.

PROGRAMME AIMS

On successful completion of this programme, you should have:
1. a systematic understanding of knowledge in banking and finance;
2. the ability to develop a critical knowledge and understanding of contemporary issues in the banking industry;
3. a practical understanding of the techniques of enquiry and research used in banking and finance, and of how they are used to create and interpret knowledge;
4. the ability to develop a conceptual understanding for evaluating methodologies and (where appropriate in a dissertation) for formulating hypotheses;
5. the ability to gain a knowledge and understanding of the role of banking and finance within the global economy;
6. obtained a knowledge of the statistical and computing skills needed to understand the banking and finance literature and to operate in a commercial banking and finance environment;
7. the ability to develop a critical knowledge and understanding of professional ethics in the banks and other financial institutions;
8. the ability to develop a critical knowledge and understanding of risk management techniques used in the banking industry;
9. the ability to develop the skills and ability to make professional judgements and informed decisions in relevant work situations;
10. knowledge and understanding of the principles of economics and their application to banking and finance;
11. the ability to develop a critical awareness of current problems and new insights in banking and finance.

**WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?**

On successful completion of this programme, you should have:

**Knowledge and Understanding:**
1. a basic knowledge and understanding of how financial institutions operate at an international level;
2. the ability to understand the link between access to finance, financial instruments and economic development, and illustrate the role of banks and international institutions in achieving these objectives;
3. the ability to demonstrate critical understanding of investments and portfolio management;
4. a basic knowledge and understanding of the modern techniques of risk management used by banks and financial institutions;

**Intellectual, Practical and Transferable Skills and other graduate attributes:**
5. the statistical and computing skills needed to understand the modern finance literature and to operate in a commercial finance environment;
6. the ability to understand the main economic fundamentals of banks’ activities;
7. identify, classify, measure, and manage different types of financial business risks in order to create economic value;
8. the ability to analyse the functioning of banks, understand their financial statements and risk management problems;

**Values and Attitudes:**
9. the ability to demonstrate extensive, detailed and critical knowledge and understanding of the factors involved in making professional judgments;
10. the ability to critically analyse and evaluate the legal and regulatory framework that underpins professional decision-making in a banking environment;
11. the ability to differentiate between a range of cultural models and assess their potential impact on ethical and professional behaviour in a banking environment;
12. the ability to analyse and evaluate the role in society of banks and other financial institutions.

**HOW WILL I LEARN?**

This is a one-year full-time course of two semesters, followed by a three-month independent study period on a dissertation.

You will be taught in lectures, seminars, workshops, presentations and through practical case study exercises.

**WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?**

**Assessment and Assessment Criteria**
A varied approach is also taken to assessments i.e. examinations are used to test core knowledge and techniques; assignments and essays are used to test research skills with a strong emphasis on critical analysis and reflective insights. The assignments also provide the opportunity to develop and assess your problem definition and management communication skills, and capability with key software packages; presentations (some of which are assessed) provide a test of oral communication skills, as well as providing another mechanism for assessing case study analysis.

**Feedback on Assessment**
You will receive feedback on coursework within 3 weeks of completion of the assessment. Feedback is usually
provided electronically on formal coursework. Feedback and Guidance sessions with teaching staff are available on all modules. These provide regular opportunities to discuss feedback further. More information about feedback on assessment can be found here; 
http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at the University of Stirling, please see the full version of the assessment regulations at: 
https://www.stir.ac.uk/regulations/postgraduate/assessmentandawardofcredit/

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Year 1 – AMITY, SINGAPORE

Total year 1 credit value = 180
Compulsory credits = 180
Option credits = 0

SEPTEMBER ENTRY

Compulsory Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Methods in Finance</td>
<td>BFIPC13</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contemporary Issues in Banking</td>
<td>BFIPC36</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Finance</td>
<td>INVP01</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics for Banking and Finance</td>
<td>BFIPC25</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionalism, Regulations and Ethics</td>
<td>BFIPC19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Management in Banking</td>
<td>BFIPCRB</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Banking and Development Finance</td>
<td>BFIPCIB</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derivatives</td>
<td>INVP10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>BFIPC8D</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Summer</td>
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FEBRUARY ENTRY

Compulsory Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>40</td>
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<td>11</td>
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READING LIST

The information given below applies for the academic year 2017-18 and is only representative. Details of the actual reading will be provided in the module outline available at the beginning of the relevant
What is listed below as “core textbooks” should be viewed as “essential purchases.” These textbooks will be available for purchase from the university bookshop (John Smith & Sons) on campus at the start of semester.

### Module Code | Reading list
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**Additional Readings:**  


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**Section 3 Student Support [PLEASE UPDATE AS NEEDED FOR THE STUDENT COHORT]**

**SUPPORT FOR STUDENT LEARNING**

At an overseas partner institution, you will have access to some of the on-line support materials (such as
Study Skills Support. You will also be allocated a Personal Tutor (see below) and will have access to our library resources as well as being given generic pastoral support from your local partner institution.

In addition, Stirling Management School have appointed International Directors for each partner, and an Associate Dean for Internationalisation, who visit the partners annually, and are available to provide support to you on these visits if you request it.

Induction
Students attending Stirling Management School programmes in Amity, Singapore will be inducted in four complementary ways:

Firstly, you will be able to use the online discovery process to create your own ‘Stirling’ information system and student identity. This provides you with an email address, access to online systems (such as the library and the virtual learning environment (VLE)) and enables you to confirm your registration for the programme.

Secondly, a Stirling staff member along with Singapore colleagues will welcome you at a series of events in the first week of study. During these induction events, the programme team will explain the operation of the Stirling programme in detail, covering topics such as the programme schedule, Stirling Student services, the online learning environment and how studying at an international centre will be similar or different to studying in Scotland. You will be able to ask as many questions as you like about your Stirling programme, or more generally the University of Stirling during the live induction events.

Thirdly, colleagues from Amity Singapore will introduce you to their facilities, ensuring that you fully understand the local regulations, infrastructure and operational approach.

Fourthly, in the first week of study, you will receive tuition from a Stirling staff member. This will enable you to become familiar with the ‘Stirling’ approach to teaching, the style of materials and the virtual learning environment. It also will provide you direct support from a Stirling member of staff as they become familiar with the expectations of Honours degree level study.

Study Skills Support
Student Learning Services are committed to providing comprehensive guidance on all aspects of effective and efficient learning. The ultimate aim of the service is to enable you to make the most of your academic studies with the University and for you to become an independent, successful learner during your time with University. As you will study for your degree at a partner institution, you will have access to the on-line study skills support tools available via the VLE, Canvas.

More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/student-learning-services/

Academic and Pastoral Support

Personal Tutor: You will be allocated a Personal Tutor when you register for your programme. The role of a personal tutor is to help you feel part of the University community. They are a specific and consistent source of guidance, information and support for you throughout your studies. The tutor should be your first formal point of contact for general academic guidance and pastoral support. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/tse/personal-tutor/

General Support: General support and guidance is available from XXXX, based in Singapore.

Learning Resources
You can find out more about the resources available to support your learning here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/
Section 4 Programme Evaluation and Enhancement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>METHODS FOR EVALUATING AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING</th>
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</thead>
</table>

**Module Evaluation**

Module evaluations are carried out each year and are an important way of getting student feedback on the modules we teach. We aim to evaluate every module we teach in every semester. You can find out more here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/studentinformation/moduleevaluation/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/studentinformation/moduleevaluation/)

**Student/Staff Consultative Committees (SSCC)**

Student/Staff Consultative Committees will meet twice per semester, and shall routinely address issues arising from student feedback on modules, the programme, as well as broader issues on academic policy.

**Module Review**

At the end of each semester, each Module Coordinator will complete a Module Review Form, which will highlight issue, how these were resolved, and areas of good practice.

**Annual Programme Monitoring Review**

Annual Programme Monitoring Review Forms will be completed at the end of each academic cycle. This is an opportunity for the Programme Director and the wider teaching team to review the programme. This includes a review of SSCCs minutes; feedback from the External Examiner; a review of all modules (strengths and areas of good practice, issues, responses); the range of assessment in the programme; the continuing appropriateness of the curriculum; adequacy of learning resources; quantity and quality of professional placements (if applicable); professional accreditation (if applicable); the effectiveness of changes implemented since the previous report; and outline any proposed changes for future cohorts.

**Programme Review**

Programmes are reviewed annually and on a 5 yearly cycle. You can get involved in a variety of different ways; by completing module evaluations, becoming a course representative and attending Student Staff Consultative Committees, or participating in the review process itself. You can find out more here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/review-and-monitoring/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/review-and-monitoring/)

**External Examiner(s) (To be added following Stage 2 approval)**

Name of External Examiner: Dr. Nichola Spagnolo

Institution: Brunel University London

Section 5 My Future

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON TO?</th>
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</thead>
</table>

The most common career path for graduates of this course is to work in banking, although many have gone on to succeed in different areas of the financial sector. The focus on the analysis and resolution of problems with ethical dimensions is highly attractive to employers who are committed to addressing structural and social challenges, and rebuilding corporate and industry reputations.

How does this programme facilitate your development of the Graduate Attributes?

Connected
• with their discipline(s) knowledge, understanding and skills with a range of complex real world issues;
• with contributions from alumni, private, public and third sector to develop their employability skills;
• with knowledge, experiences and people providing different perspectives, to understand different cultures, beliefs and traditions;
• work with one another as an inclusive learning community and with the wider community and communicate effectively through digital and other media.

Innovative
• through active and ethical research;
• through using the latest global research and new technologies to develop new understandings and creative solutions;
• through independent critical and reflective thinking;
• through identifying opportunities to improve what they do and taking action.

Transformative
• through their intellectual, sporting and cultural passion and excellence;
• through sharing new perspectives and broadening their horizons;
• through being professional, adaptable and resilient and equipped to succeed in the global market place;
• through being active global citizens who are socially, culturally and environmentally aware.

WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

n/a

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

n/a

WHAT FURTHER STUDY OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO ME?

Doctor of Business Administration
Doctor of Philosophy

WHAT OTHER INFORMATION DO I NEED TO KNOW?

n/a

Section 6 Admissions

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

You’ll need a minimum of a second-class honours degree or an equivalent professional qualification. In addition, you must have a minimum of three years’ postgraduate managerial work experience. Applicants without formal qualifications are encouraged to apply if they can demonstrate significant experience — normally a minimum of five years.

If English isn’t your first language, you must have one of these qualifications:
• IELTS: 6.5 with 5.5 minimum in each skill
• Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE): Grade C or above
• Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE): Grade B or above
• Pearson Test of English (Academic): 60 with 51 in each component
• IBT TOEFL: 90 with no subtest less than 17

More information on English language requirements
If you don’t meet the required score you may be able to register for one of our pre-sessional English courses. To register you must hold a conditional offer for your course and have an IELTS score 0.5 or 1.0 below the required standard. View our range of pre-sessional courses.