## Programme Specification ARO 034a

### 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, Next – Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Name</td>
<td>MSc Banking and Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award</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>
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<tr>
<td>Programme Code</td>
<td>TXX41-BFI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode of Study</td>
<td>Full Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location/Method of Study</td>
<td>On Campus – UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission Points</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of Programme</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCQF Level</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Credit Value</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECTS Credit Value</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark</td>
<td>Mathematics, Statistics and Operational Research (MMath) and Business and Management (2015)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Body Accreditation (all relevant accreditations to be listed)</td>
<td>Name of accrediting body: Chartered Banker Institute Required for programme: No Date of Accreditation: 2015 Date of Renewal: 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme Director</td>
<td>Dr Theo Diasakos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisor of Studies</td>
<td>Dr Isaac Tabner (Senior Advisor, SMS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Approved</td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Updated</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
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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.

Key Features of the Programme (including what makes it distinctive)

1. Chartered Banker Institute accreditation — offers graduates credits against its professional qualifications;
2. Real work experience opportunities — through the Santander Universities Work Skills Programme;
3. Flexible course structure — build on the core curriculum from a suite of optional modules;
4. Week long masterclass — run by Amplify Trading this will give you practical experience of trading markets.

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/

Assessment Regulations
You must achieve 50% in the sum of the weighted component marks, rounded to the nearest whole number; you must also achieve at least 40% in each component. Where a student fails to meet the 40% minimum requirement in any component a fail (X) will be awarded for the module. Re-assessment of failed
modules will follow the agreed Taught Postgraduate Regulations.

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 -**

Total year 1 credit value = **180**
Compulsory credits = **150**
Option credits = **30**

**Compulsory Modules**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Methods in Finance</td>
<td>BFIP013</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contemporary Issues in Banking</td>
<td>BFIP036</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Finance</td>
<td>INVP001</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics for Banking and Finance</td>
<td>BFIP025</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professionalism, Regulation and Ethics</td>
<td>BFIP019</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Management in Banking</td>
<td>BFIP08B</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>BFIP08D</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>11</td>
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</table>

**Option Modules** – you must select 30 credits in total from:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Banking and Development Finance</td>
<td>BFIP01B</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Derivatives</td>
<td>INVP010</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments: Equity Portfolio and Pricing</td>
<td>INVP012</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments: Fixed Income and Alternative Investments</td>
<td>INVP013</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data Analytics</td>
<td>ITNPBD6</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioural Finance</td>
<td>FINP006</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Corporate Finance</td>
<td>FINP013</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mergers &amp; Acquisitions</td>
<td>FINP014</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 semester.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Reading list</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BFIP018 - Risk Management in Banking | Core Textbook:
| BFIP001 - International Banking and Development Finance | Additional Readings:
| INVP012 - Investments: Equity Portfolio and Pricing | 
| FINP014 - Mergers and Acquisitions | Core Textbook:
| FINP014 - Mergers and Acquisitions | Additional Readings:

**ARO 034a August 2017 v1.4**
Section 3 Student Support [PLEASE UPDATE AS NEEDED FOR THE STUDENT COHORT]

SUPPORT FOR STUDENT LEARNING

Induction
You will receive an induction during the first days of your programme. This includes a range of social events, information sessions and activities to help you orientate yourself at Stirling and access the services available to you. These are opportunities to meet staff and other students from across the university, in the Faculty and on the programme.

The programme takes part in the wider SMS Flying Start Leadership programme. It’s exclusively for new students about to start one of our postgraduate courses. You take part in a wide range of group and individual activities, workshops and information sessions to help you prepare for the year ahead, and make the most of your time at the University of Stirling Management School.

The programme ensures that you:
- Discover more about the exciting period of learning ahead;
- Understand what is expected of you in your course;
- Get to know the teaching and support staff;
- Learn more about a diverse range of approaches to learning;
- Work as part of a successful team;
- Develop your personal goals for the year ahead;
- Activities range from practical skills – such as effective public speaking – to developing ways to work in groups with other students.

Study Skills Support
Student Learning Services (SLS) 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 at the University and for you to become an independent, successful learner during your time at the University of Stirling. This is facilitated through collaborative work with experienced tutors and by offering a variety of courses, workshops and tutorials.

All students, whatever stage of their academic studies, are welcome to use Student Learning Services.

However the service may be particularly beneficial:
- In your first two years of study.
- If you are making the transition from college to Higher Education.
- If you have been out of education for some time.

What SLS are able to do:
- Advise you on academic skills relevant to your studies at University.
Help you consolidate your previous learning and develop new learning strategies.
Advise on action-plans to potentially improve grades.
Suggest practical solutions if you feel overwhelmed by assignment work.
Help you gain confidence in the transition to Higher Education.

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

STEER
STEER is a University-wide peer support scheme linking in returning student "Captains" with new undergraduate or taught post-graduate "Crew" during their first year at Stirling.

The scheme aims to help you make the most of your time at the University, help new students - the Crew - settle in and realise the opportunities available to them. You can find out more information here: https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/steer/

Stirling Graduate School
For Research Postgraduate Students the Stirling Graduate School as well as your own faculty will provide support. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/graduateschool/current-pg-students/skills-development/

Academic and Pastoral Support
Personal Tutor: 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 the 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/

Support and Wellbeing: At university you may face non-academic issues where you need some expert help or guidance. There are lots of ways we can help you in your day-to-day life at University. Student Support Services provide a range of high-quality services to assist you during the course of your studies, help prepare you for life after graduation. We aim to enhance the student experience and help you to get the most out of your time at University. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/support-and-wellbeing/

Student Union: You can also access support through the Students’ Union, more information can be found here: https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/

Accessibility and Inclusion (A&I)
A&I are committed to offering a service which is welcoming and supportive of the needs of all students. Our service takes into account the full range of needs you may have, in a wide variety of circumstances including - physical and mobility difficulties, sensory impairments, specific learning difficulties including dyslexia and autistic spectrum disorder as well as medical conditions and mental health difficulties. A&I can also support you if you have short-term, temporary impairments or other difficulties as a result of an accident, injury, illness or surgery. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/student-support/accessibility-&-inclusion-service/

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

### METHODS FOR EVALUATING AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

**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

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Section 5 My Future

### WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON TO?

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?

Our programme is accredited by the Chartered Banker Institute (CBI). You will have automatic student membership of the CBI and be eligible to apply for Associate membership of the Institute upon graduation, with an accelerated route to Chartered Banker status - a globally recognised, professional qualification.

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.

Version: 2008-01
Date Version Approved: January 2018
For use from: September 2018