

UNIVERSITY of STIRLING  
**Management  
School**



**REDEFINE**

**WITH A  
MASTERS**

**MSc FINANCE**

**REDEFINE AT STIRLING**

## WHY AN MSc FINANCE?

**The University of Stirling Management School's 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.

## WHAT IS 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.



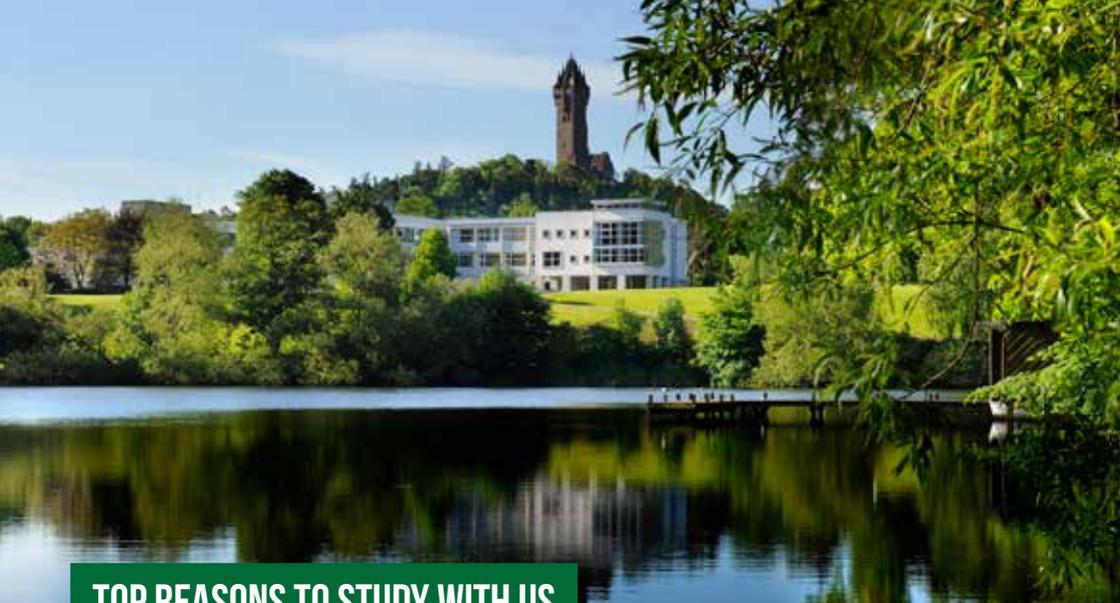
For further information on the course content, visit: [stir.ac.uk/r](http://stir.ac.uk/r)



*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



## TOP REASONS TO STUDY WITH US

1

### **Week long masterclass and access to industry**

masterclass run by Amplify Trading will give you practical experience of trading markets and complimented by regular guest lectures from senior figures in the finance industry

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2

### **Access to financial databases**

such as DataStream, S&P Capital IQ and the Financial Times that contain real-time information about international financial markets

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3

### **Expert teaching team**

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

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4

### **Stirling's global research rating**

we're among the top 25 in the UK according to REF 2014

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### **Student Managed Investment Fund**

practical experience analysing the value of stocks, and constructing and managing a portfolio using professional data sources with regular input and visits from industry professionals

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## DEVELOPING REAL-WORLD EXPERTISE

As part of the Management School's focus on enhancing graduate employability we offer an intensive trading Boot Camp for Masters 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 PEARCE**  
MSc Investment Analysis (UK)



## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Financial management is at the heart of decision making in business and the Stirling MSc 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.

Students have the opportunity to participate in the Alumni Mentoring Scheme and receive support from former students working in the industry.

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, Black Rock, T Rowe Price 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)

## PREPARING BUSINESS LEADERS OF THE FUTURE

Postgraduate education at the University of Stirling Management School goes beyond textbooks and lecture rooms by also focusing on professional and personal 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.

## 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.



For further information on the course content, visit: [stir.ac.uk/r](http://stir.ac.uk/r)

## 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 nine modules:**

#### Derivatives

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

#### International Corporate Finance

Provides in-depth study of some of the key areas of corporate finance within an international environment and in particular the operation of the foreign exchange market, the interaction between exchange rates.

#### 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.

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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

## **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 can apply for University accommodation and use study areas conducive to working towards successful completion of a Masters 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; in partnership with the Chartered Management Institute; and are signatories to the Principles for Responsible Management Education.





## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You'll need a minimum of a second class Honours degree in any subject, or an equivalent qualification. However, you can still apply if you don't have these formal qualifications, but bring significant work experience in a relevant area. 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.

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If you don't meet the required criteria for this course, you can complete the Graduate Diploma in Business, Finance and Sport to gain a guaranteed entry onto this Masters degree: [stir.ac.uk/1z4](https://www.stir.ac.uk/1z4)

## 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.

In addition, CFA Scholarships which reduce the cost of undertaking CFA Level 1 are available on a competitive basis and students may apply during their studies.

Information on some of the most common funding and scholarship opportunities that are available to you can be found here:

[stir.ac.uk/39](https://www.stir.ac.uk/39)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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[stir.ac.uk/management](https://www.stir.ac.uk/management)

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