



**REDEFINE**

**WITH A  
MASTERS**

**MSc INVESTMENT ANALYSIS**

**REDEFINE AT STIRLING**

## WHY AN MSc INVESTMENT ANALYSIS?

The University of Stirling Management School's MSc Investment Analysis is the UK's longest established postgraduate level course in the field of investment management education.

The CFA Institute is the global body of investment professionals that partners with a select group of affiliated academic institutions and awards the prestigious Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) qualification to individuals who pass their exams and hold the requisite work experience.



## WHAT IS INVESTMENT ANALYSIS?

This is a discipline that involves the use of qualitative and quantitative techniques to value investments and to develop and evaluate portfolio management strategies. Investment analysts have the ability to extract essential information from financial reports and have expert knowledge of risk management tools such as derivatives. Investment analysis includes examination and assessment of macroeconomic and financial market trends as well as the analysis of financial data relating to specific investments.



*The MSc Investment Analysis covers at least 70% of the material included in the CFA level I, II and III syllabus. This is a great help to any student intending to sit these examinations.*

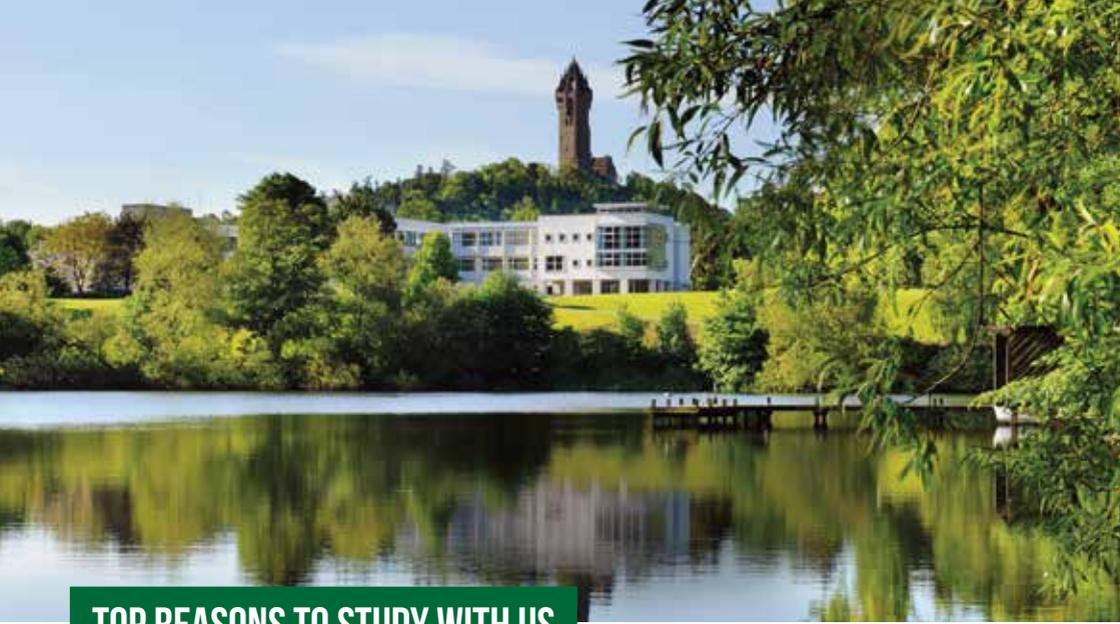


**ELAINE CALLEJA**  
MSc Investment Analysis (Malta)

## THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE CFA INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY AFFILIATION PROGRAM (UAP)

University Affiliation Program (UAP) status is conferred only on elite global institutions that cover a minimum of 70% of the CFA syllabus and have close links with the investment industry. Membership of this exclusive club emphasises the quality of the MSc Investment Analysis course and its relevance to professional practice and career advancement.

CFA Program Scholarships are available each year to enable up to 10 MSc students to sit the CFA Level 1 exam at a significantly reduced fee. A full set of CFA study materials are available at the University of Stirling. MSc Investment Analysis students are also invited to local CFA events.



## TOP REASONS TO STUDY WITH US

1

### **CFA Institute University Affiliation Program (UAP) member**

our course is an ideal route to progress towards CFA Charter-Holder status

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2

### **Week long masterclass**

run by Amplify Trading this will give you practical experience of trading markets

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3

### **Expert teaching team**

led by Dr Kevin Campbell, who has published regularly in a range of prominent business and finance journals

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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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5

### **Student Managed Investment Fund**

gain 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 financial trading Boot Camp for Masters students on our finance-related courses. Delivered on campus in conjunction with industry training specialist Amplify Trading, the week long course 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.



*I have learnt so much about the financial markets, the various players that exist and the different asset classes that are traded. I've also had the opportunity to take decisions in real time based on economic news as it is released.*



**ANTHONY KYIU**  
MSc Investment Analysis (Ghana)

## LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER PATHWAY?

The course is designed to accommodate those with little or no previous knowledge of accounting or finance. It is a popular choice for graduates from a wide range of disciplines and for mature students refocussing their career strategies.



## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Investment analysts have career opportunities in both the 'buy side' and the 'sell side' of the investment industry. The 'buy side' refers to those investing their own money or their client's money: for example, mutual funds, pension funds, insurance firms, hedge funds, private equity funds and high net worth individuals. The 'sell side' refers to the broking firms and investment banks that trade stocks and provide opinions of investment value that are available in the public domain, as opposed to the research created by 'buy side' analysts that is only available internally.

Recent graduates of the course have secured employment with companies such as Citibank, Investec Securities, JP Morgan, Standard Chartered Bank and Baillie Gifford.



*The fact that the course is CFA-affiliated provides the student with an opportunity to impress potential employers and ultimately gain a foot in the door of some of the major players in the industry.*

**JAMES BOWDEN**  
MSc Investment Analysis, (UK)

## ASTUTE TRADERS



Another indicator of the elite status of the course is the success of MSc Investment Analysis teams in reaching the final Championship round of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) Group Trading Challenge in 2016 and 2017, with the 2016 team achieving a top 10 finish. In doing so, they traded futures contracts online based on predictions of whether the prices of commodities such as corn, live cattle, crude oil and gold would rise or fall.

## THE HEIGHT OF SUCCESS

A team of five students from the MSc Investment Analysis won the UK final of the prestigious global CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) Institute Research Challenge in 2016, the 2017 team following this with second place and the 2019 team achieving third place in the UK final. Considered to be the 'Investment Olympics' for university students, the Investment Analysis course has had a team reach the UK final in ten of the last twelve years, a feat not achieved by any other CFA Institute affiliated university.



## ABOUT THE COURSE

The MSc Investment Analysis is a one-year, full-time course. It consists of two 15-week semesters of teaching followed by a supervised dissertation.

Taught courses provide a structured framework for study through lectures, seminars, computer labs, group exercises, case studies and workshops. Over 70% of the content of CFA Levels I, II and III is covered on the taught modules of the Investment Analysis course.

Upon successful completion of nine core modules, students have the opportunity to apply their knowledge by undertaking research on an area that matches their interests and career objectives. Students may opt to produce an investment analysis case study of a specific company or an empirical analysis of an investment-related 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, assuming no prior knowledge of economics, and focuses on aspects most relevant to careers in banking and finance.

#### Quantitative Methods in Finance

Provides the basic statistical and computing skills necessary to fully understand modern financial practices.

### Semester 2

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### Investment Regulation and Ethics

The regulatory environment governing financial markets, with an emphasis on standards of ethical behaviour as detailed in the CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct.

For further information on the course content, visit: [stir.ac.uk/1a](http://stir.ac.uk/1a)

# STIRLING MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

## RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

We are building our global reputation for academic excellence through a wide range of international research and education delivery partnerships.

Stirling Management School has established successful international partnerships in several regions, including Asia and the Middle East.

We are exploring additional sustainable overseas partnerships in order to attract the world's best academics to work with us and the most talented students to enrol on our courses.

## 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.

A number of our taught programmes are recognised and accredited by professional bodies, including: the CFA Institute (MSc in Investment Analysis); ACCA (MSc International Accounting and Finance); ACCA, CIMA and ICAS (Bacc Accountancy); the CiM (MSc Marketing); and Chartered Banking Institute (MSc Banking and Finance).

# 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, students are supported in making 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.

At least two prestigious Karen Napier Scholarships are offered annually in the memory of Karen, a graduate of the course, with the generous support of the Karen Napier Charity. These scholarships meet course fees and include a maintenance award. Find out more at: [stir.ac.uk/1iy](http://stir.ac.uk/1iy)



## 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 accounting or finance is not required, but you should be comfortable with the level of numeracy required to interpret statistics and financial reports.

For those whose first language is not English, evidence of language proficiency must be provided. For details of English language requirements for this course, visit:

[stir.ac.uk/3f](https://stir.ac.uk/3f)

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://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.

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://stir.ac.uk/39)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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[@stirmanschool](https://twitter.com/stirmanschool)



Photography: For a list of photographers who have contributed to the University of Stirling photo library, contact: [marketingtools@stir.ac.uk](mailto:marketingtools@stir.ac.uk)

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