MSc
Finance and Economics

Be Stirling
BE THE DIFFERENCE
WHY STUDY MSc FINANCE AND ECONOMICS?

Combining practical, applied economics insights with finance prepares students for a career in the finance and banking sector, central banks, treasury offices, and different offices at national, supranational and local government level around the world.

The MSc Finance and Economics focuses on practical issues with global relevance. During the course, economics theory and models are derived from, and challenged by, evidence and real world applications. This approach is combined with finance theory and practice to gain a deep understanding of, and the capacity to analyse, financial markets, investment potentials and risks.

WHAT IS FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

Economics is the study of how societies can overcome scarcity to prosper with well designed markets and policies, while Finance deals with the allocation of capital and includes activities such as investing, borrowing and saving, among others. Combining both subjects will form leaders capable of navigating the world of finance, banking, investment in the private and public sector with the confidence.

“ The MSc Finance and Economics will equip students with the skills to interpret markets, identify risks, formulate policies and anticipate financial opportunities”

DR MIRKO MORO
Head of Economics

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON COURSE CONTENT VISIT: STIR.AC.UK/2S2

Five Reasons

YOU SHOULD CHOOSE THIS COURSE

1. New Core Economics approach to teaching economics based on problem-solving where each module is motivated by complex contemporary problems (see core-econ.org).

2. Amplify Trading Boot Camp where students get first-hand experience in real-world trading.

3. Students will have access to professional financial databases including Bloomberg, Thomson Reuters Eikon, Datastream, S&P Capital IQ and Financial Times.

4. Stirling’s global research rating we are among the top 25 in the UK according to REF 2014.

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.
Our course in Finance and Economics develops the skills you need for a career in the finance, banking and public sector, opening the doors to a variety of jobs. Our graduates will be able to analyse trends in markets and Government policies, and to use data to make effective policy, investment and business decisions. Financial economists are appreciated for their analytical skills, which they can apply to many areas and can find roles such as:

•  Market and investment analysts and specialists in financial and energy companies such as RBS, Coal Marketing Ltd, China Asset Management Company, China Investment Corporation
•  Consultants in global economic and financial firms such as NERA Economic Consulting, McKinsey & Company, Mackenzie Consulting Group, Oxera
•  Advisors, officers and researchers in Central Banks around the world

“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)

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, 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.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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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.
The MSc Finance and Economics is a one-year, full-time course. You’ll undertake eight taught modules over two 15-week semesters followed by a supervised dissertation. The teaching includes lectures, practical workshops and computer lab sessions. The dissertation gives you the opportunity to apply your knowledge by undertaking independent work on an area that matches your interests and career objectives. 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.

**Semester 1**

**Economics of Strategy, Markets and Policy**
Provides students with training in microeconomics of firms and households in a real-world and policy-based setting.

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

**Quantitative Methods in Finance**
Provides the computing skills necessary to fully understand modern economics, banking and finance operations.

**Semester 2**

**Wider Economic Interactions and Wellbeing**
Provides the skills to understand how economic systems work in a global world, including the actions of central banks and monetary policies.

**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.

**Financial Statement Analysis**
Students to work together as part of a team to prepare and present an investment analysis report on a real listed UK company drawing together all aspects of finance, investment and economics.

**Behavioural Finance**
Drawing on insights from psychology, this module provides an alternative perspective to that of traditional finance theory which is based upon rational decision making.

**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.

And up to 3 modules chosen from the following nine modules:

**Applied Data Analytics Using R**
Provides the skills to analyse and visualize data using the programming language R.

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

**Evidence-based decision Making**
Focuses on how decision makers in the private and public sector can use data and experiments to test programmes, processes and systems rigourously.

**Investment Regulation and Ethics**
Introduces investment regulation and ethics, with a focus on the international context.

**Financial Risk Assessment**
Provides students with a critical and practical understanding of how to use techniques and models that are necessary to measure, assess and manage financial risks.

**International Corporate Finance**
Covers international finance aspects including risk link with exchange rates.

**Mergers and Acquisitions**
Covers both the theory and practice of M&As, and adopts valuation and performance measurement issues.
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.

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/124

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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stir.ac.uk/management

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

This publication can be made available in different formats. Please contact Student Recruitment and Admissions for further information: recruitment@stir.ac.uk

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