Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

MSc Investment Analysis

Academic Year: 2012-13

Programme Title	Investment Analysis
UCAS/JACS Code	N100
School/Subject Area	Aston Business School Finance & Accounting Group
Final Award	MSc
Interim Award(s)	Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma
Mode(s) of Study	Full-time and part-time on campus, flexible credit accumulation
Normal Length of Programme	FT: 12 months PT: 24 months minimum, up to 3 years allowed by the University FCA: up to 3 years
Total Credits	Certificate 60, Diploma 120, MSc 180
Programme Accredited By	None
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	17/11/08, 08/06/09, 30/08/10, 27/05/11, 15/06/12

Educational Aims of the Programme	• To provide a programme of study that meets the needs of local, national and international candidates, enabling them to learn by the exchange of experience as well as formal academic study. • To meet the needs of recent graduates and those already in employment who wish to acquire specialist skills and knowledge in Investment Analysis in order that they may embark or progress successfully on their chosen careers. • To provide students with an excellent learning experience that draws on the research and consultancy of Aston academic staff, utilising the University's links with business, professional and public sector organisations. • To provide students with opportunities to enhance their employability by developing life long learning and personal development skills. • To produce well qualified graduates who are equipped for and aspire to senior positions. • To cause students to reflect upon and develop their own positions in relation to corporate responsibility, sustainability and ethics. • To provide graduates with the skills and knowledge to operate in the field of finance. • To • To understand the international dimensions of finance and financial analysis. • To understand and apply the main valuation techniques used in the investment analysis industry. • To develop an understanding of financial market structures and how they operate. • To develop quantitative skills appropriate for the financial sector which will facilitate the decision making process in a finance context. • To develop an understanding of the main trading strategies used in financial markets. • To develop understand financial decision making at the firm level and how this is influenced by financial management.

Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other External and Internal Reference Points used to inform programme outcomes	• Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Benchmarking Statement in Business and Management for Masters level programmes. • Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) • Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Codes of Practice

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits
Stage I

Module Title	**Credits**	**Level**	**Module Code**	**Core/ Elective**
Valuation of Investments	30	M	BFM102	Core
Quantitative Methods for Finance	15	M	BFM114	Core
Trading Techniques	15	M	BFM117	Core
Security Analysis	15	M	BFM119	Core
Investment Management	15	M	BFM120	Core
Business Finance	15	M	BFM206	Core
International Finance	15	M	BFM208	Core
Investment Analysis Dissertation	60	M	BFMDISS	Core
TOTAL	180			

Programme Outcomes, Learning and Teaching and Assessment Strategies			
A. <u>Knowledge and Understanding</u>			
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to have knowledge and understanding of:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Valuation of main securities traded in financial markets.	• Lectures: • convey essential knowledge • provide guidance to students on effective use of learning materials Practical classes, as appropriate for each module.	A mix of final examinations problem sets and practical classes, as appropriate to each module.
2	Financial market dealing room environments.		
3	Strategic decision-making within a financial context.		
4.	Risk management techniques		
5.	Use financial statements to analyse financial performance		
6.	International dimensions to finance		

B. <u>Intellectual Skills</u>			
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Problem solving	• Tutorials: • to provide support to student learning • Dissertation supervision to help students develop research and analytical skills	• Coursework assessment • Final examinations • Dissertation work and orals to assess analytical skills.
2	Critical analysis		
3	Synthesis		
4	Apply valuation and trading techniques		
5	Demonstrate competence in critical reasoning and decision making		

	C. **Professional Skills**		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Use decision making tools in finance and investments.	• visiting lecturers from industry who connect theoretical studies with practical experience Lectures and tutorials classes as appropriate to each module.	Assessed work, final exams Investment analysis Dissertation
2	Apply the main valuation models used in finance and investment analysis.		
3	Be able to make investment recommendations based on financial statements and other financial information.		

	D. **Transferable Skills**		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to show:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
	A range of general and specific skills and management competencies including:	computer and IT skills seminars and practicals	IT and quantitative skills Investment analysis Dissertation Assessments and examination in all modules Essays and problem sets.
1	IT and computing skills		
2	Report writing skills		
3	Oral presentation skills		
4	Trading skills		
5	Competency in understanding relevant statistical analyses and financial reports		
6	Information retrieval.		

Entry Requirements	**Direct Entry:** • A relevant UK honours degree or an overseas degree recognised by Aston or • A relevant degree-equivalent professional qualification • Evidence of quantitative aptitude in mathematics to a level of a good GCSE pass or equivalent. **English Language Requirements (for candidates whose first language is not English):** • A TOEFL score of 100 (internet-based with minimum 23 in writing and speaking and 20 in reading and listening). • An IELTS score of 6.5 overall with no less than 6.5 in writing and speaking and 6.0 in listening and reading. • A Pearson Academic score of 61 overall with 61 minimum in writing and speaking and 53 in reading and listening • Candidates with TOEFL 100 (internet-based with 23 minimum in writing) or above, or IELTS 6.5 overall with no less than 6.5 in writing and speaking and 6.0 in listening and reading, or Pearson Academic 61 overall with a minimum score of 61 in writing and speaking and 53 in reading and listening are offered the opportunity of attending an 8-week pre-sessional course on a voluntary basis. • Candidates with TOEFL 92 (internet-based with minimum 22 in writing) or above, or IELTS 6.0 overall and no less than 6.0 in writing and speaking and 5.5 in reading and listening, or Pearson Academic 53 overall with a minimum score of 53 in writing and speaking and 48 in reading and listening may be admitted, subject to attendance at and satisfactory performance in a 12 week pre-sessional course. • Candidates with TOEFL 83 (internet-based with minimum 21 in writing) or above, or IELTS 5.5 overall and no less than 5.5 in writing and speaking and 5.0 in reading and listening, or Pearson Academic 48 overall with a minimum score of 48 in writing and speaking and 42 in reading and listening may be admitted, subject to attendance at and satisfactory performance in a 16 week pre-sessional course. • Candidates with TOEFL 76 (internet- based with minimum 20 in writing) or above or IELTS 5.0 overall and no less than 5.0 in any section, or Pearson Academic 42 overall with a minimum score of 42 in each section may be admitted, subject to attendance at and satisfactory performance in a 20 week pre-sessional course. • A GMAT of 550 minimum may be required

Programme Regulations	**Attendance requirements:** Students are required to attend all sessions as specified for the course. **Flexible Credit Accumulation – Receiving an award:** The Programme Examination Board will consider students on this mode of attendance at least annually. The Board will agree the options open to students e.g. accept a Postgraduate Certificate and withdraw from the programme or continue with the programme. Students will receive a 'statement of progress' letter at least once per year usually after a Programme Examination Board indicating: which credits have been passed, whether the credit passed entitles the student to an award and the period of study remaining until the time-limit for FCA programmes is reached (5 years from the start of the programme). If a student wishes to accept an award and leave before the end of the programme they must respond to the statement as soon as possible indicating they wish to receive an award
	Specific assessment requirements for modules / module pass marks: The Board of Examiners may apply condonement to allow one or more assessments marked at 49% or below (but not normally below 40%) as passes. The Board of Examiners will normally condone a maximum of 30 credits of taught modules.
	Dissertation Requirements. Each student will undertake an investment analysis Dissertation for a single company. Each student will be allocated a different company. During the Dissertation students will use the tools they have learnt from the course to appraise the company using information about the market, industry, share price and recent financial statements. Dissertation length should be between 10,000 and 15,000 words.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the threshold learning outcomes that a student might normally be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. **The individual modules included in the programme may differ from those included in this programme specification as our programmes are subject to continuous review.** Information on admissions requirements and career opportunities is available in the relevant prospectus. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the appropriate module guides and programme handbook(s) which are available to students on enrolment.