

Programme Specification

BA Accounting and Business

For students entering Part 1 in September 2023

UCAS Code: NN41

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This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	4 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BA Accounting Studies - 4 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with a degree-level education in accounting and business combined with integrated work placements and the opportunity to apply for credit for prior learning in respect of all professional level exams of the ICAEW ACA qualification. As a result the programme will prepare students for professional leadership in their chosen employment sector. The study of accounting progresses through the programme, so that students obtain a critical grasp of core theory underpinned by a thorough knowledge of the discipline, and related skills of application and analysis. This study is grounded in a wider understanding of the external environment such as markets, marketing and business strategy and includes ethical considerations throughout. The programme is differentiated from other accounting degree programmes by having a greater emphasis on professional accounting and by offering integrated work placements and is differentiated from other four-year accounting programmes with a work placement by integrating work placements throughout the second, third and fourth years of the programme.

Part 1:	Introduces students to the basic principles of financial and management accounting in the broader context of business and starts to develop students' transferable skills.
Part 2:	Part 2 extends the core knowledge gained at Part 1 and encourages the further development of analysis and application of that knowledge and confidence in transferable skills. Professional skills, theory and technical knowledge is further enhanced through the first work placement.
Part 3:	In year 3 students will develop further depth and breadth of technical accounting knowledge and deeper critical evaluation and discussion of contemporary accounting issues, as well as continuing to hone transferable skills. Professional

	skills, theory and technical knowledge are further enhanced through the second work placement.
Part 4:	The final year of the programme brings together deep technical knowledge, professional skills, and strong critical evaluation, with the aim of ensuring students are capable of being confident, well rounded, valuable members of PwC staff when they graduate. Professional skills, theory and technical knowledge is further enhanced through the final work placement.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AC102	Assurance, Governance and Ethics	20	4
AC107	Management Information	20	4
AC108	Principles of Taxation	20	4
AC109	Introduction to Business	20	4
AC110	Introduction to Accounting	20	4
LW1A05	General Introduction to Law	10	4
LW1A06	Introduction to Business Law	10	4

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AC205	Audit and Assurance	20	5
AC206	Financial Accounting	20	5
AC209	Accounting work placement 1	40	5
AC213	Business Strategy for Accountants	20	5
AC217	Tax Compliance	20	5

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AC212	Accounting Work Placement 2	40	5
AC218	Financial Management	20	5
AC305	Financial Accounting and Reporting	20	6
AC307	Business Planning: Tax	20	6

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Henley Business School and elsewhere in the University, at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Part 4 modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AC309	Accounting Work Placement 3	40	6
AC313	Business and Professional Ethics	20	6
AC314	Business Analysis	20	6
AC315	Contemporary Issues in Accounting	40	6

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

Costs are indicative, but will vary according to module choice and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. The estimates were calculated in 2020.

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget between £50.00 to £85.00 per year.

Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

Many students find it advantageous to have their own personal computing facilities though there are central facilities available.

Placement opportunities

Placements are a compulsory part of the programme in years 2, 3, and 4. The placement modules are AC209, AC212 and AC309 and these are undertaken at PwC, one of the partners in this programme. These modules are 40 credits each and contribute to the

approved technical work experience required by the ICAEW to qualify as a Chartered Accountant.

Teaching and learning delivery:

Teaching is primarily through a combination of lectures, seminars and practical workshops.

Scheduled classes constitute approximately 180 hours per part and will depend upon your module combination; however information about module contact hours can be located in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

Students are required to achieve the ICAEW pass mark for ICAEW accredited modules, as set out in individual module description forms.

Assessment

The programme will be mainly assessed through a combination of written examinations and coursework, although other methods may be used. Information about module assessment can be located in the relevant module descriptions.

Progression Requirements:

University-wide progression requirements:

Part 1

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.'

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance. The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if he or she leaves the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 2

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2;
- (ii) Marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and

(iii) Marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

Programme-specific progression requirements:

To progress to from year 1 to year 2 a student must:

- (i) obtain at least 50% in AC110, AC102, AC107, AC108, LW1A05, and LW1A06
- (ii) obtain at least 40% in all remaining modules
- (iii) have confirmation of a PwC contract of employment for year 2.

Typically, students are offered a work placement for year 2 if they can demonstrate that they are on track to achieve a 2.i classification after year 1.

Students who do not meet the above requirements for progression to year 2 maybe eligible to transfer to another programme.

In order to progress from year 2 to year 3, a student must:

- (i) obtain at least 55% in AC205 and AC217;
- (ii) obtain at least 50% in AC206 and AC213;
- (iii) obtain a pass in AC209 and have confirmation of a PwC contract of employment for year 3.

Typically, students are offered a work placement for year 3 if they can demonstrate that they are on track to achieve a 2.i classification after year 2 and have met the employer performance criteria for the first work placement.

Students who do not meet the above requirements for progression to year 3 may be eligible to transfer to another programme.

To progress from year 3 to year 4 a student must:

- (i) obtain at least 55% in AC307 and AC305;
- (ii) obtain at least 50% in AC218;
- (iii) obtain at least 40% in all remaining modules;
- (iv) obtain a pass in AC212;
- (v) have confirmation of a PwC contract of employment for year 4.

Typically, students are offered a work placement for year 4 if they can demonstrate that they are on track to achieve a 2.i classification after year 3 and have met the employer performance criteria for the second work placement.

Students who fail to progress from year 2 to year 3 or from year 3 to year 4 are permitted one re-sit examination in each module in which they fail to meet the progression requirements. For any module passed in a resit examination the maximum mark carried forward into the final degree classification will be the higher of

- (a) the first attempt and
- (b) the lower of
 - (i) the required module pass mark (i.e. 40%, 50% or 55% depending on the module), and
 - (ii) the mark achieved on the re-examination.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark	Interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Four-year programmes:

Level 5 modules: total one-third

Level 6 modules: two-thirds

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Accounting and Business for students entering Part 1 in session 2023/24
8 June 2022

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