

Programme Specification

BSc Economics and Finance

For students entering Part 1 in September 2025

UCAS Code: LN13

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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	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BSc Economics and Finance (with Year Abroad) - 4 years (internal transfer only) BSc Economics and Finance (with Placement Experience) - 4 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Economics; Finance

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with a broad-based curriculum that leads to an in-depth understanding of both sub-fields. By the end of the programme, successful candidates will have acquired a detailed knowledge in both areas and will appreciate the interactions between them.

The programme will be of intrinsic value to those with an interest in both economics and finance. It will also develop a mix of skills of significant value in the graduate job market. Among those who will find it attractive will be those who intend to pursue a career in finance, but who wish to have a broader university education that encompasses a complementary area of study.

Part 1:	Part 1 introduces you to the basic underpinnings of economics, finance, financial markets, and quantitative techniques.
Part 2:	Part 2 provides you with the opportunity to further develop the core strands of economics and finance.
Part 3:	Part 3 gives you the opportunity to deepen your theoretical and practical knowledge and skills in core modules and allow students to apply what they have learnt in optional modules of their choosing in both finance and economics. This includes the opportunity to do a dissertation in economics. This allows you to do

research supervised by a staff member, enhancing independent learning, research, writing, econometric and analytical skills.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BSc Economics and Finance

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

Learning outcomes	
1	Critically understand the fundamental concepts of microeconomics and macroeconomics.
2	Critically understand the fundamental concepts at the core of financial knowledge comprising investment and corporate finance.
3	Establish links between economics and finance.
4	Apply the key techniques in econometrics comprising OLS estimation, hypothesis testing and model evaluation.
5	Structure, analyse and solve problems.
6	Use spreadsheet software to analyse complex practical problems in finance.
7	Operate in a dealing room environment including the ability to manage the bid/ask spread.
8	Use IT, including word processing, data exchange, graphics, Excel, econometric software and directed Website searches.
9	Communicate ideas in a logical way both verbally and non-verbally to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
10	Manage time to achieve goals.
11	Carry out careers planning.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes

Study Abroad

By the end of the Study Abroad Programme, students will have adapted to international study contexts in order to achieve the required academic outcomes determined by the host institution.

Placement

By the end of the Placement Year Programme, students will have explored and developed their professional experience, skills and knowledge, contributing significantly towards their continuous learning and career prospects as graduates.

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
EC144	Mathematical Methods for Economists	20	4
EC148	Introductory Economics	20	4
IC101	Introductory Securities and Markets	20	4
IC102	Introductory Finance/Trading Simulation I	20	4
IC104	Introductory Quantitative Techniques for Business and Finance	20	4

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Economics.

All students will take a preparatory module in core skills required for transition to undergraduate study.

In addition, students on the 4 year with placement year programme will take a preparatory module providing placement training.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
EC213	Microeconomics	20	5
EC214	Macroeconomics	20	5
IC201	Corporate Finance	20	5
IC205	Introductory Econometrics for Finance	20	5

Remaining credits will be made up of 20 credits of optional modules available in the Department of Economics and 20 credits of optional modules available in ICMA.

In addition, students on the 4 year with placement year programme will take a preparatory module providing placement training.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Module	Name	Credits	Level
EC2SAY	Study Abroad Year	120	5
EC2WEP	Work Experience Year	120	5

Students on one of the 4-year programmes will take one 120 credit module: Study Abroad Year (EC2SAY) or Work Experience Year (EC2WEP). The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

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
EC349	Financial Economics	20	6
IC212	Financial Modelling	20	5
IC317	Derivative Securities	20	6

Remaining credits will be made up of 40 credits of optional modules available in the Department of Economics and 20 credits of optional modules available in ICMA.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. 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.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught primarily through a mixture of lectures, tutorials (including some computer classes) and seminars, depending on the modules you choose. Some modules may include group work.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations and coursework (including class tests). Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression*Part 1*

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits.

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 they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students on Joint Honours programmes who achieve the University threshold standard for progression at Part 1 may transfer to a Single Honours degree in one of their joint subject areas if they have achieved at least 40% in 40 or more credits (i.e. 2 x 20 credit modules) of modules in the programme they wish to transfer. In addition, students must also have met any programme specific requirements on the Single Honours programme to which they may

wish to transfer. Students should seek advice about the titles of programmes they may be eligible to transfer to.

Part 2

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

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 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;

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Professional/placement year

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

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:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including study abroad / placement year:

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad/Placement year: not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

The classification method is given in detail in Section 17 of the Assessment Handbook.

Additional costs of the programme

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

For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget up to £400 per year. However, actual costs will vary depending on individual study technique, preferences, and requirements. Some textbooks are available to our students for free online which can significantly reduce costs. Students can also reduce their costs by buying books second-hand. 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. Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2024.

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.

BSc Economics and Finance for students entering Part 1 in session 2025/26

16 October 2024

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