

## Programme Specification

**BSc Economics and Finance with International Foundation  
Year**

**For students entering Foundation year in September 2025**

**UCAS Code:  
LN14 LN15**

**UFECOFINFF**

**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
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.

This programme comprises of a foundation year (Part 0) provided through the International Foundation Programme (IFP) with entry points in both September and January. The IFP provides access to higher education in Britain to international students who do not possess the normal entry requirements of GCE Advanced level qualifications or the equivalent. Through the part 0 you will be equipped with subject specific and general study skills which will enable you to cope with the demands of undergraduate study. This is achieved through the provision of high quality teaching which is sympathetic to the needs of students from a wide range of educational backgrounds.

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.

Foundation year:	In the Foundation year you will study 140 credits, which includes developing transferable skills in the compulsory 20 credit Academic Skills module. The key skills relate to Critical Thinking, Essay Writing, Research, Referencing and avoiding plagiarism, Group Work and Projects, Presentations, and Assessment and Examination techniques. You will take two 20 credit modules in economics and two 20 credit modules in mathematics. Your remaining credits will be taken from a choice of optional modules or if your level of English is below the
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	<p>standard specified for undergraduate study, you will take two 20-credit modules in Academic English.</p> <p>Students starting Part 0 in January will join Part 1 in September of the same year.</p>
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 with International Foundation Year**

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:

<b>Learning outcomes</b>	
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	
N/A	

### Module information

Part 0 comprises 140 credits and Parts 1, 2 and 3 each comprise 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

#### Foundation modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
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Students entering the programme in September will take the following compulsory modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IF0ACA	Academic Skills	20	0
IF0CMA	Core Mathematics	20	0
IF0EC1	Foundation Economics - Microeconomics	20	0
IF0EC2	Foundation Economics - Macroeconomics	20	0
IF0QM	Quantitative Methods	20	0

The remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available from a list provided by the International Foundation Programme. If your level of English is below the standard specified for undergraduate study, you must take the modules Academic English 1 (IF0AE1) and Academic English 2 (IF0AE2).

Students entering the programme in September will take the following compulsory modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IF0ACJ	Academic Skills	20	0
IF0CMJ	Core Mathematics	20	0
IF0C1J	Foundation Economics - Microeconomics	20	0
IF0C2J	Foundation Economics - Macroeconomics	20	0
IF0QMJ	Quantitative Methods	20	0

The remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available from a list provided by the International Foundation Programme. If your level of English is below the standard specified for

undergraduate study, you must take the modules Academic English 1 (IF0E1J) and Academic English 2 (IF0E2J).

**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
IC215	Data Science 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.

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**

N/A

**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 International Foundation Programme will include at least 15 hours of classroom-based teaching each week.

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**

### *Foundation Year*

To achieve a threshold performance in the Foundation Year, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 0;
- (ii) Have no more than 40 credits of modules at Part 0 with marks below 35%; and
- (iii) Achieve a mark of at least 40% in the Academic Skills module.

BSc Economics and Finance with International Foundation Year Specific Progression Requirements above Threshold.

In order to progress from Part 0 to Part 1 and be eligible for transfer to BSc Economics and Finance, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (i) at least 40% in both the 20 credit Academic Skills (one of IFORAS, IF0ACA) and 20 credit subject skills (one of BIOMF1, PY0FIR, EN0SFS, PM0PHS) modules;

and achieve the following in the remaining 80-credits

- (i) at least 60% in all modules

The achievement of a threshold performance at Foundation Year qualifies a student for a Certificate of Completion if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

### *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.

### **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:*

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

*Five 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 with International Foundation Year for students entering Part 1 in session 2025/26

18 December 2024

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