

Accounting, Finance and Strategic Investment

MSc

Programme Handbook

2020-2021

The University's Student Charter, requires that students are provided with a 'programme handbook which outlines any professional requirements, contact hours, mode of course delivery, assessment criteria, examination arrangements and regulations, academic guidance and support, and appeals and complaints procedures'. The purpose of this summary is to help you locate further details about this key information in your handbook. In the Business School the information will either be included in your Programme Handbook or in the PG Canvas Community under "PG Study Guide".	
Average number of contact hours for this Stage / programme:	<i>Please see PG Study Guide in NUBS PG Community on Canvas</i>
Mode of delivery:	<i>Please see "Your Programme" section of your programme handbook on page 4.</i>
Normal notice period for changes to the timetable, including rescheduled classes:	<i>Please see PG Study Guide in NUBS PG Community on Canvas</i>
Normal notice period for changes to the curriculum or assessment:	<i>Please see PG Study Guide in NUBS PG Community on Canvas</i>
Normal deadline for feedback on submitted work (coursework):	<i>Please see PG Study Guide in NUBS PG Community on Canvas</i>
Normal deadline for feedback on examinations:	<i>Please see PG Study Guide in NUBS PG Community on Canvas</i>
Professional Accreditation:	<i>Please see your programme Canvas Community for up to date information</i>
Assessment methods and criteria:	<i>Please see your programme Canvas Community for up to date information</i>
Academic guidance and support:	<i>Please see PG Study Guide in NUBS PG Community on Canvas</i> <i>Please see "contacts" section of your programme handbook on page 9.</i>

Use of programme handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with an overview of your Master's degree programme. This handbook should be read in conjunction with the Newcastle University Business School *Postgraduate Study Guide*. Together, these documents will provide you with a guide to the facilities offered to you both by the School and the wider University and are designed to complement other information provided by the University.

This handbook provides an accurate picture of the programme at the time of writing, but this may be subject to minor change during the course of the academic year. You will be informed of any changes through the appropriate channels.

Your programme

This section aims to provide you with some key information on your degree programme. Generic information relating to undergraduate degrees can be found on the Business School Undergraduate Canvas Community <https://canvas.ncl.ac.uk/login/> in the PG Study Guide.

What will my teaching programme be like in 2020/21?

We want you to get the most out of your teaching and learning and will do everything we can to support you to do so. Your learning opportunities will be made up of a mixture of online and in-person, on-campus activities. In Semester one, as a result of physical distancing requirements, lecture materials will be delivered online as will many tutorials, seminars, workshops and labs. Our plan, where it's possible and safe to do so with 2 metre physical distancing in place, is to deliver up to three hours of in-person labs, seminars and tutorial teaching per week. We will review this at key points in the Semester and these reviews will inform our approach to Semester two teaching.

We recommend you regularly check the University website for the most up to date information at:

<https://enquire.ncl.ac.uk/>

Induction

There will be a two week Induction for your Undergraduate programme at the start of Semester 1, including sessions with your Degree Programme Director (DPD) and/or your Student Stage Co-ordinator (SSC), your designated Personal Tutor,. This period is also your opportunity to familiarise yourself with the University, the facilities available and check details such as your timetable. A full schedule will be available on the relevant programme pages in Canvas and published on the Business School Website <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/business/>

About the Programme

The Accounting, Finance and Strategic Investment MSc is a one-year, full-time, intensive modular programme. The programme consists of two parts: a taught component that runs during the first and second Semesters; and a research project that runs during the third Semester, for which a dissertation is submitted.

Strategic planning is an organisation's process of defining its strategy, or direction, and making decisions on the allocation of resources to best pursue this strategy. An organisation's senior management team must therefore have a detailed knowledge and understanding of this process and the respective interactions of managerial functions within their own organisation. Using their analytical skills and abilities to interpret and understand key financial and other information, senior managers are able to make the key strategic managerial decisions to maximise advantage within the competitive corporate environment. This programme is designed to prepare you for senior financial and managerial positions within organisations, by providing a strong foundation of financial knowledge, analytical skills and an appreciation of managerial decision-making.

The Accounting, Finance and Strategic Investment MSc provides an integrated programme of study, covering both the necessary knowledge base and the development of the relevant skills required. The taught component of the course is split across Semester 1 and Semester 2.

The award of the Accounting, Finance and Strategic Investment MSc provides holders with exemptions from two global accounting professional bodies, Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA- <http://www.cimaglobal.com>) and the Associate of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA- www.accaglobal.com)

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

From 1st October 2020, being CIMA Accredited University Partner, Newcastle University graduates from AFSI MScs will have 11-paper exemptions from CIMA, improving from previous 6-paper exemptions. You will enter directly to management case study exam then to strategic level exams.

This high level of exemptions will help accelerate your career in your chosen fields.

Associate of Chartered Certified Accountants

You will also be eligible for the following exemptions from:

- F1 Accountants in Business
- F2 Management Accounting
- F3 Financial Accounting
- F5 Performance Management (upon passing Performance and Decision Management (NBS8224) and Managerial Decision Making and Planning (NBS8233))

Programme Structure

There are two distinct phases of the programme:

Phase 1

This is the core element of the programme representing 120 credits of study and provides you with an in-depth understanding of creativity and creative business and prepares you for later phases of the programme. These **compulsory** taught modules are detailed below:

Phase 2

Students are required to carry out 60 credits of study by means of an extended project.

Module code	Title	Semester	Credits
NBS8224	Performance and Decision Management	1	10
NBS8135	Introduction to Financial Reporting	1	10
NBS8001	International Finance and Capital Markets	1 and 2	30
NBS8233	Managerial Decision Making and Control	1 and 2	20
NBS8235	Financial Planning and Investment	1 and 2	20
NBS8301	Managerial Economics and Organisational Architecture	1 and 2	20
NBS8401	Business Context and Operations	1 and 2	10
NBS8223	Dissertation (Consultant Report)	3	60

Dissertation

The dissertation is worth 60 credits and is the opportunity for you to integrate and apply your learning to real-world situations and problems. Specifically, you will produce a detailed report – including in-depth analysis and future assessments – relating to a major corporation. The dissertation is a major piece of work (no more than 12,000 words), which will enable you to apply the knowledge and skills developed during the taught element of the programme to your chosen company. You will be expected to demonstrate evaluative and analytical ability. The dissertation will be completed by 1 September 2021.

Degree programme regulations

The Degree Programme Regulations detail the modules to be studied on your Master's degree and any progression requirements, such as the need to pass the taught modules of the degree before proceeding to dissertation. It is important that you read these and make sure you know the requirements of your Master's degree. Degree Programme Regulations are available at: www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programme/2020-2021/nubs.php

Programme specification

A detailed description of the programme structure, programme aims and learning outcomes can be found in the Programme Specification online at www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programme/2020-2021/nubs.php

This includes information on the knowledge and understanding, intellectual skills, practical skills and transferable/key skills which you are expected to develop and demonstrate during your studies.

University regulations

It is important that you familiarise yourself with the University Regulations, in particular the Postgraduate (Taught) Progress Regulations and Examination Conventions which detail the regulations for study and award of a Master's degree. This includes conditions for reassessment in failed modules and criteria for eligibility of a Master's award. You are expected to read these and make yourself aware of their implications. <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs>

Postgraduate research

Students who are successful in their Master's programme may wish to consider applying for a PhD with Newcastle University Business School. Newcastle University Alumni may also qualify for a discount on PhD fees. Further details of the research areas covered within the School and details of research programmes are available online at <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/business-school/courses/postgrad-research/>.

Your assessment

The assessment will depend on the individual module. You can expect to be assessed by a variety of means including:

- exams (including online take-home exams during 2020-21)
- assignments both individual and group
- presentations
- dissertation

The mix of assessment methods is to allow you to demonstrate your understanding of the knowledge outcomes of the programme and also your assimilation **of the skills developed during your Master's programme.**

The assessment methods used in individual modules are included in the module outlines. The assessments for the taught modules are summarised in the table below.

Details of assessment deadlines will be provided on the Postgraduate Canvas Community within the first two weeks of term to allow you to plan your workload. You should familiarise yourself with the assignment submission procedures available on the Postgraduate Canvas Community.

Please note that work submitted after the specified deadline, even by just a few minutes, will be treated as a late submission in line with University policy. Please see further details in the *Postgraduate Study Guide* on late submission of assessed work.

Occasionally, a module leader may change an assignment deadline (almost always to a later date). You will be notified of this in advance by e-mail by either the module leader or the relevant programme secretary. For all assignment deadlines, you should receive your marks and feedback within 20 working days. There may be certain exceptions to this turnaround time, but you will be notified of this at the time the deadline is set.

Please note that module leaders are reviewing the module teaching and assessment methods for Semester 2 modules, in light of the Covid-19 restrictions. Final information will be confirmed during the autumn term for Semester 2 modules.

<u>Module</u>	<u>Individual assessment</u>	<u>Group assignment(s)</u>	<u>Examination</u>
NBS8224 Performance and Decision Management			100%
NBS8135 Introduction to Financial Reporting			100%
NBS8001 International Finance and Capital Markets	20%		80%
NBS8233 Managerial Decision Making and Control		20%	80%
NBS8235 Financial Planning and Investment			100%
NBS8301 Managerial Economics and Organisational Architecture		20%	80%
NBS8401 Business Context and Operations			100%

Your contacts

Below are details of key contacts for the Accounting, Finance and Strategic Investment MSc programme. The programme director has overall responsibility for the management of the programme. The programme secretary is responsible for general administrative issues relating to the programme.

Degree Programme Director:

Dr Lana Liu

lana.liu@ncl.ac.uk

+44 (0) 191 208 1703

The Degree Programme Director (DPD) oversees your Master's programme and can help you with questions about the programme as a whole.

Programme Support:

pgaccfin@ncl.ac.uk

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, in person queries can be directed to ground floor reception, Business School @ Barrack Road, 10am-2pm, Mondays to Fridays. This will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and you will be notified of any changes. The programme support team is your main point of contact for administrative queries relating to your programme, such as information about procedures or deadlines.

You will be allocated your own personal tutor who is there to help you with matters of a more personal nature. In addition, you can contact the senior tutor who has overall responsibility for pastoral matters and is chair of the staff-student committee for your programme.

Business School Careers Adviser: Jen Simpson

jen.simpson@ncl.ac.uk

Careers Service, King's Gate

Our careers adviser can help you with information and guidance on careers and employment, both during and after your studies.

Details on the teaching team will be provided in the first lecture for each module.

A complete list of Business School academic and professional support staff, along with contact details, can be found online at www.ncl.ac.uk/business-school/staff. Staff profiles are also available via this link illustrating the research and teaching interests of academic members of staff.