Summary of programme commitments

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 the below summary is to help you locate further details about this key information. In the Business School, the information will either be included in your Programme Handbook or in the PG Canvas Community under “PG Study Guide”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Information Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average number of contact hours for this stage / programme:</td>
<td>Please see PG Study Guide in PG Community on Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode of delivery:</td>
<td>Please see “Your Programme” section of your Programme Handbook on page 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal notice period for changes to the timetable, including rescheduled classes:</td>
<td>Please see PG Study Guide in PG Community on Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal notice period for changes to the curriculum or assessment:</td>
<td>Please see PG Study Guide in PG Community on Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal deadline for feedback on submitted work (coursework):</td>
<td>Please see PG Study Guide in PG Community on Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal deadline for feedback on examinations:</td>
<td>Please see PG Study Guide in PG Community on Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Accreditation:</td>
<td>Please see your programme Canvas Community for up-to-date information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment methods and criteria:</td>
<td>Please see your programme Canvas Community for up-to-date information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic guidance and support:</td>
<td>Please see PG Study PG Community on Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Please see “contacts” section of your Programme Handbook on page 9.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use of Programme Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with an overview of your Master’s degree programme. This 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 by the School and wider University. They 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 postgraduate degrees can be found on the Business School Postgraduate Canvas Community in the PG Study Guide.

What will my teaching programme be like in 2022/23?

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. You will be learning through a blended approach of:

- **present-in-person (PiP)** – on campus activities which show on your timetable

- **synchronous** – ‘live’ online sessions via Zoom or Teams which show on your timetable. When taking part in online sessions, please observe the digital communications etiquette - available here Digital Etiquette (PDF).pdf

- **non-synchronous** – recorded content available online which you can access at any time, such as certain lecture materials. These will not show on your timetable, but Module Leaders will inform you about these activities.

Our 2022/23 modules are built with flexibility in mind if we are required to reduce or suspend the on-campus and in-person teaching. The University is reviewing the situation regularly and will inform you if the public health situation requires changes to delivery are necessary.

We recommend you regularly check the University’s Covid FAQ web page for the most up to date information.

Induction week

Your induction will include a combination of pre-arrival materials available online via Canvas and a main Induction Week with activities in person and online during 19 – 23 September 2022. This will be followed by extended induction activities to support you settling into your studies as Semester 1 teaching gets underway. Induction Week will include sessions with your Degree Programme Director (DPD) and your designated Personal Tutor. This period is also your opportunity to familiarise yourself with the University, the facilities available and to check details such as your timetable. A full schedule will be available on the relevant programme pages in Canvas and published on the current student section of the Business School Website.

About the programme

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

The changing business environment is mainly driven by technological changes, globalisation and customer preference. This requires organisations to respond effectively and efficiently with extreme
situations like global pandemic bringing an urgent need to fulfil this requirement. An organisation’s senior management team must therefore have a detailed knowledge and understanding, as well as respective interactions of managerial functions within their own business. Using their analytical skills and abilities to interpret and understand key financial and other information, senior managers can make the key strategic and advantageous within the competitive business 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 directive 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. It consists of seven compulsory taught modules that are split across Semester 1 and Semester 2, plus a dissertation in Semester 3.

The award of the Accounting, Finance and Strategic Investment MSc provides holders with fast-track career prospects with exemptions from two global accounting professional bodies, Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) and the Associate of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NBS8224</td>
<td>Performance and Decision Management</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBS8135</td>
<td>Introduction to Financial Reporting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBS8001</td>
<td>International Finance and Capital Markets</td>
<td>1 and 2</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBS8233</td>
<td>Managerial Decision Making and Control</td>
<td>1 and 2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBS8235</td>
<td>Financial Planning and Investment</td>
<td>1 and 2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBS8301</td>
<td>Managerial Economics and Organisational Architecture</td>
<td>1 and 2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBS8401</td>
<td>Business Context and Operations</td>
<td>1 and 2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Non-credit module**

You are required to take the following non-credit module designed as part of the Extended Induction to help you transition and succeed in this programme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NBS8999</td>
<td>Academic Skills in AFSI MSc</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Phase 2

Students are required to carry out 60 credits of study by means of a research project on a listed company, for which a dissertation is submitted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NBS8223</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dissertation

The dissertation is the capstone module for the programme, worth 60 credits. This module provides the opportunity to articulate and apply knowledge and skills developed in Phase I into evaluating real-world situations and problems. Specifically, you will produce a detailed consultant 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) where you will be expected to demonstrate your evaluative and analytical ability. The dissertation will be completed by 1 September 2023.

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 before proceeding to dissertation. It is important that you read these and make sure you know the requirements of your Master’s degree.

Programme specification

A detailed description of the programme structure, programme aims and learning outcomes can be found in the Programme Specification. 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.

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 Postgraduate Research Programmes are available online.
Your assessment

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

- exams
- 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 your assimilation of the skills developed during your Master’s.

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 Accounting, Finance and Strategic Investment Canvas Community within the first two weeks of term to allow you to plan your workload. You should also familiarise yourself with the assignment submission procedures available on the 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 Support Team. 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.

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

At the start of the academic year early in Semester 1, we will be seeking student representatives from your degree programme to join the postgraduate Student-Staff Committee (SSC).

If you are interested in being a representative on the Student-Staff Committee, please contact the Programme Support Team pgaccfin@ncl.ac.uk

The SSC is a meeting of the student representatives from your subject group with key academic staff and takes place usually four times a year.

If a student (or group of students) has a particular issue or concern regarding the teaching on their degree programme, the best and quickest route is for students and staff to resolve any issues informally.

For any other issues, the SSC is the forum where students (via student representatives) can present their views, issues and concerns. Issues raised by students at SSC are often then considered by the relevant Board of Studies.

Student representatives will also be invited to attend the Board of Studies meetings. These meetings look in detail at the structure, content and quality assurance of small groups of programmes and student representatives are invited to participate in discussions at these meetings with the teaching teams for their degree programme.

Learning community communications etiquette

In accordance with the student charter, it is important that as a community, we communicate with each other in a respectful and professional manner.

The student charter sets out the standards of behaviour expected from our students and the sanctions that can be imposed if these standards are not met. The charter makes specific reference to communications and states that students must undertake to demonstrate high standards of personal conduct and respect in their interactions with the University and the local community. Whilst on this programme you are therefore expected to

- express your opinions in a mature and constructive way
- treat fellow students, University colleagues, neighbours and other people in the community with courtesy, fairness and respect regardless of their personal circumstances, race, ethnic origin, age, gender, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, religion and belief, disability or political views and respect the privacy of students and University colleagues
- demonstrate the above standards in all verbal and written communication, including via social media and e-mail.

Read more on our student charter webpages.

Further information about digital safety and digital etiquette is provided on Canvas as part of your induction materials.
Contact information

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 Support Team is responsible for general administrative issues relating to the programme.

Address:

Newcastle University Business School
5 Barrack Road
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4SE
Telephone: (0191) 208 1500

Degree Programme Director:

Dr Dylan Che bo.che@newcastle.ac.uk
+44 (0) 191 208 1658

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@newcastle.ac.uk

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:

Cian O’Sullivan

Email: nubs.employability@newcastle.ac.uk

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. here. Staff profiles are also available via this link illustrating the research and teaching interests of academic members of staff.