

Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for a postgraduate award
MSc in Accounting and Financial Management (2129)

Section 1 – Introduction to your course

This course specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your course and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

The course is delivered in a single stage, equating to one year of full-time study (52 weeks) or up to five years of part-time study (260 weeks). All students will take three mandatory modules in accounting and financial management: Financial Accounting and Reporting, Foundations in Financial Management and Management Accounting for Decision-making (each worth 20 credits). Furthermore, each student will take three options in the Spring term (each worth 20 credits). Additionally, all students will take a research methods module in Autumn term and write a dissertation in Summer term (together worth 60 credits).

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, courses and the availability of individual modules, especially optional modules are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific course. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

Degree course – Also referred to as 'course', this term refers to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies. 'Courses' were formerly known as 'programmes' at Royal Holloway.

Module – This refers to the credits you will study each year to complete your degree course. Postgraduate taught degrees at Royal Holloway comprise 180 credits. On some degree courses a certain number of optional modules must be passed for a particular degree title. 'Modules' were formerly known as 'course units' at Royal Holloway.

Section 2 – Course details			
Date of specification update	February 2022	Location of study	Egham Campus
Course award and title	MSc in Accounting and Financial Management	Level of study	Postgraduate
Course code	2129	Year of entry	2022/23
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department/ School	Accounting and Financial Management/ School of Business and Management	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	N/A
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time / Part-time	Duration of the course	One year (52 weeks) full-time Two to five years (104 - 260 weeks) part-time
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A	For queries on admissions:	study@royalholloway.ac.uk
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/		

Section 3 – Degree course structure				
3.1 Mandatory module information				
The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study				
Module code	Module title	Credits	FHEQ level	Module status (see section 6)
MN5901	Financial Accounting and Reporting	20	7	MC
MN5902	Management Accounting for Decision-making	20	7	MC
MN5908	Foundations of Financial Management	20	7	MC
MN5912	Research Methods for Accounting and Financial Management	20	7	MC
MN5906	Dissertation in an Accounting-Related Area	40	7	MC
<p>This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory modules on your degree course. These modules are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree course will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these modules. Mandatory modules fall into two categories; 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.</p> <p>In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module to successfully graduate with a particular degree title, or before you can proceed to the next year of your course where studying part-time. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) modules, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them (see Academic Regulations on condonable fails). Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree course may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example; where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.</p>				
3.2 Optional modules				

In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. The following table lists a selection of optional modules that are likely to be available. However, not all may be available every year. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example; where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision. There may be additional requirements around option selection, so it is important that this specification is read alongside your department's Student Handbook, which you can normally access via Moodle.

Three Optional modules of 20 credit each selected to the total value of 60 credits

Module Title	Credits	Module Title	Credits
MN5903 Sustainability and Accounting	20	MN5910 International Financial Markets	20
MN5909 Topics in Finance and Investment Management	20	MN5911 Financial Statement Analysis	20
		MN5555 Foundations of Modern Management	0

3.3 Optional module requirements

The choice of modules a student can take is subject to the following rules:

- Optional modules are chosen from the list provided by the Department to complete each term to a total of 60 credits (full time students). Pre-requisites based on prior study or academic background may apply. The list of electives for each student must be approved by the Course Programme Director in advance. In exceptional cases when timetabling or other administrative reasons prevent them from taking courses worth 60 credits in each term, students will be allowed to take modules worth 50 credits in one term and 70 in the other term.
- Please note that not all optional modules run each year. The full list of modules available for the current academic year can be obtained from <http://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/computerscience/>.

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree course

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's [Academic Regulations](#).

All postgraduate taught students are required to take and pass the non-credit bearing Moodle-based Academic Integrity module SS1001 in order to be awarded. The pass mark for the module assessment is stated in the on-line Academic Integrity Moodle module. Students may attempt the assessment as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who otherwise meet the requirements for award as stipulated in the [College's Postgraduate Taught Regulations](#) (Section 15: Consideration and classification of candidates for the award) but fail to pass the Moodle-based Academic Integrity module will not be awarded.

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in summative or formative coursework assignments. Please note that if you hold a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

The duration of the full time course is approximately 52 weeks, beginning in September, and teaching is spread over the Autumn and Spring Terms. Examinations are held in the Spring and Summer Term, after which students complete a Dissertation.

The first week of the course is dedicated to postgraduate student induction, including registration and an introduction to College and School of Management facilities. During this week MN555 Foundations of Modern Management is offered as an integral, though non-assessed, part of the course for Master's students at the School of Management.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this Masters course are:

- the development of specialist knowledge and interpretative skills relating to accounting and financial management in the context of society and organizations; and
- the enhancement of graduates' employability and the production of research expertise

Section 6 – Course learning outcomes

In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (*Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*)*)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge and understanding 2. an analytical and practical understanding of accounting and financial management (K); 3. a thorough grounding in advanced financial accounting (K); 4. a thorough grounding in advanced management accounting and accounting-related management control (K); 5. a thorough grounding in financial management and finance related topics (K); 6. advanced understanding of management research methods, including underlying assumptions, ethical considerations and practical factors in their application (K); 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. an ability to place accounting in its broader context (S); 8. the facility to evaluate and employ a variety of accounting-based techniques (S); 9. an ability to evaluate critically the relevant academic literature (S); 10. a capacity to employ different research methodologies, and to undertake research into accounting and financial management (S); 11. a range of skills in writing, analytical and numerical work, presentations, group work and IT (S).
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Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching will be through a combination of traditional lectures, and seminar groups. The seminars will take a variety of forms, such as student presentations and group discussions of pre-distributed material.

Assessment is by means of two-hour or three-hour examinations for the taught courses, worth between 60% and 80% of the final mark for each course. Course assignments (ranging from essays, reports, case studies and assessed presentations, depending on the course) produce 20% to 40% of the final mark. The dissertation will be 12-15,000 words. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the Department.

Section 8 – Additional costs

There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this degree course.

These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree course at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our [website](#).

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards	
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	7
Your course is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent programmes of study.	
QAA Characteristics Statement (Master's Degrees) – September 2015	https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/supporting-resources
Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of courses in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.	

Section 10 – Further information

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate when taking full advantage of the learning opportunities that are available. More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online [module catalogue](#). The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies.

Your course will be reviewed regularly, both by the university as part of its cyclical quality enhancement processes, and/or by your department or school, who may wish to make improvements to the curriculum, or in response to resource planning. As such, your course may be revised during the course of your study at Royal Holloway. However, your department or school will take reasonable steps to consult with students via appropriate channels when considering changes. All continuing students will be routinely informed of any significant changes.

Section 11 – Intermediate exit awards (where available)

You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the course as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory modules, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.

Award	Criteria	Awarding body
PG Diploma	Passes in at least 120 credits, with fails of between 40% to 49% for up to 40 credits condonable (with the exception of any course specific requirements)	
PG Certificate	Passes in at least 60 credits with no condonable fails	

Section 12 - Associated award(s) with Banner Codes

MSc in Accounting and Financial Management (2129)	PgDip Accounting and Financial Management (3359) PgCert Accounting and Financial Management (3360)
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