**Course Information Sheet
MSc Accounting and Financial Management
Modules**

Full time Year 1:

**PSR MOD009372 Postgraduate Study Skills, Research Methods, and Ethics**

This module provides an opportunity for students to secure their academic skills at the outset of postgraduate study, and to understand empirical and conceptual methods appropriate for independent research, related to a topic of the student’s choice, within a specific chosen area of study. The module aims to demonstrate the strengths of relevant research methodologies and provides the opportunity for students to enhance the skills needed to work effectively with academic and practitioner literature, primary and secondary data sources.

Extensive coverage of the ethical implications of different ways of gathering and processing data is provided, including balancing harm to self and others, risk and proportionality, GDPR and regulatory constraints, as well as the University’s expectations as to the ethical conduct of research by taught postgraduate students.

The module also teaches students how to demonstrate methods of supporting arguments in texts, with reference to the views of leading authorities within a theoretical structure. Attention will also be given to academic writing and academic referencing. As part of the postgraduate skills syllabus, and in addition to research methodologies and ethical considerations, students will also benefit from guidance on developing postgraduate careers, and developing their critical thinking and argumentation skills, both verbally and in written format.

**CRC MOD009389 Corporate Reporting, Budgeting and Control**

The Corporate Reporting, Budgeting & Control module is designed to provide students with a comprehensive grasp of corporate reporting, its legal and regulatory environment as well as the methods and tools employed in budgeting and financial control.

In the first half of the module, students will explore the principles of corporate reporting, including the different types of financial statements, the accounting standards used to prepare them, ratio analysis and cost identification and behaviour in order to evaluate companies’ financial and operational performance. Students will then identify and critically evaluate emerging issues in corporate reporting such as integrated reporting, climate change and sustainability reporting in relation to transparency, accountability, risk management, competitive advantage, regulatory compliance and long-term value creation. In the second half, the significance of strategic planning, budgeting and control will be covered by learning and applying different types of budgets, budgeting processes and the tools and techniques that are used by companies to make informed operational and business decisions. Students will then critically analyse and evaluate the importance of stakeholder involvement in strategic planning, budgeting and control, corporate governance and transparency as well as in preventing corporate fraud and financial misstatement in corporate reporting.

In summary, the module prepares students for careers in accounting, finance and business management by providing them with a comprehensive understanding of key financial management concepts and practices and emerging issues in the field.

**CFV MOD009390 Corporate Finance and Valuation**

The Corporate Finance and Valuation module is designed to provide students with a thorough knowledge and understanding of corporate finance and firm valuation as well as practical skills to make informed investment and corporate structure decisions.

The module begins with an introduction to the theoretical and practical aspects of capital structure and cost of capital calculations. Emerging issues in corporate financing will are identified and discussed such as sustainable finance, corporate activism and shareholder engagement. Students will then investigate the concept of time value of money and its applications in valuing investments and calculating potential returns. Various investment appraisal techniques will be taught and applied, which will be necessary for the second half of the course, firm valuation. In the second half of the module, students will learn and apply different techniques of firm valuation, including discounted cash flow analysis, price-to-earnings ratio and comparable company analysis. Students will then gain an understanding of Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A), including the due diligence process in M&A. At the final stage of the course, students will critically evaluate the significance of using non- financial company data for a more comprehensive and accurate company valuation.

Overall, the module gives students a thorough understanding of the principles and practices of corporate finance and firm valuation with various practical skills and prepares them for careers in finance, investment banking, corporate finance, and other related fields. Modular assessment is via an exam and a written coursework.

**TAA MOD009391 Taxation, Audit and Assurance**

The Taxation, Audit and Assurance module is designed to provide students with a knowledge and comprehensive understanding of the taxation system, the auditing processes, and the principles of assurance.

The module begins with an overview of the UK tax system, types of taxes, tax policy and its objectives. Students will assess the importance of tax strategy, planning and compliance in business decision-making. The importance of behavioural aspects of taxation such as the business response to tax incentives and disincentives, sustainable decision-making and financial reporting will be investigated. Emerging issues including corporate governance and transparency as well as cryptocurrencies and their tax implications will be explored. In the second half of the module, students will investigate the nature and objectives of auditing and assurance and will gain a comprehensive understanding of key principles and practices. Students will then critically evaluate the audit and assurance of sustainability information in corporate reporting, greenwashing, professional ethics and independence.

In summary, the module prepares students for careers in taxation, audit and related areas by providing them with a thorough understanding of key concepts, principles and practices as well as critical evaluation of emerging issues in the field.

**IRM MOD009392 Investment and Risk Management**

The Investment and Risk Management module is designed to provide students with a strong foundation of asset pricing models, investment strategies, risk identification and management techniques as well as the impact of risk on investment returns.

The module begins with an overview of the financial landscape and capital markets and introduces numerous investment vehicles and their characteristics. Students will investigate various asset classes and alternative investments as well as risk- return relationships and diversification. The module will teach active and passive investment strategies as well as how to build and measure an investment portfolio while considering risk and return. Students will examine theories such as behavioural finance, framing effects and prospect theory as well as discuss emerging issues in investing such as sustainable investing, impact investing (ESGs) and socially responsible investing (SRI). In the second half of the module, students will identify and analyse various risks and apply risk management and control techniques. Students will gain skills on how to integrate climate change considerations into risk management practices. The role of sustainability, climate change and technology will be critically discussed for a better decision-making process and outcomes for investments.

On the whole, the module provides students with the principles and practices of investment and risk management and control. The module prepares students for careers in finance, investment banking, asset management and related fields.

PMF MOD009393 Postgraduate Major Project (Finance)

Students enrolled in the MSc Accounting and Financial Management programme are required to complete a discipline- specific capstone project in their final trimester of study under the supervision of a member of academic staff with relevant expertise in the field. The project is designed to develop analytical, critical, problem-solving, decision-making, professional, ethical and communication skills based on a real-world setting. There are two stages to the project: an individual oral presentation and a written report. Students are expected to create compelling presentations on their stock portfolio simulations and effectively communicate it with various stakeholders.

Students will be able to attend six workshop sessions on a voluntary basis during the trimester to receive additional guidance.

The Postgraduate Major Project (Accounting and Finance) is a stock portfolio simulation. To successfully complete the discipline-specific project as part of their degree, students are expected to design and manage a virtual stock portfolio by using the Wall Street Survivor website. A minimum of 20 stocks will be self-selected by students from the US stock markets by utilising equity market research. Students will utilise their prior knowledge from various modules in their degree, in particular, Investment and Risk Management, to explain and apply risk, return and diversification. They should then start tracking and recording their portfolio returns for a minimum period of 10 weeks. At the end of this period, after analysing the overall stock portfolio return using various techniques as well as comparing them to a suitable benchmark, they should determine the possible tax implications of their investments and report their findings. The report should also include a discussion of any insights gained from the simulation including the impact of market conditions and explain how the constructed portfolio could have been optimised for a better return while minimising risk. Students should consider emerging issues during their portfolio construction, including behavioural finance and sustainable investing (e.g., ESG investing, impact investing, green investing, ethical investing and socially responsible investing) as well as critically evaluate their applications and implications for their stock portfolio.