

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### KEY FACTS

<b>Programme name</b>	<b>Quantitative Finance</b>
Award	MSc
School	Cass Business School
Department or equivalent	Specialist Masters Programme
Programme code	PSQUAF
Type of study	Full Time
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90
Partner (partnership programmes only)	KAIST
Type of partnership	Articulation

### PROGRAMME SUMMARY

You are required to take nine core modules in term 1 and term 2 as outlined in the module list. Eight of the nine core modules are 15 credit modules and one is a 10 credit module.

The core modules in term 1 are *Asset Pricing*, *Derivatives*, *Foundations of Econometrics* and *Stochastic Modelling Methods in Finance*, plus the 10 credit Applied Research Tools module on *Matlab and VBA Programming* which prepares you for research activities.

They provide you with the core knowledge about financial markets and financial instruments as well as mathematical, statistical and programming tools to pursue a career in a wider range of quantitative positions in the financial service industry. Those skills also provide you with a good foundations to pursue an academic career and continue your studies at PhD level.

In term 2 you will build on those core term 1 modules by focusing in more details on specific areas with a heavily quant content. In particular *Fixed Income* and *Risk Analysis* which are in common amongst the three quantitative programmes. The other two MSc Quantitative Finance specific term two core modules are *Numerical Methods: Applications* and *Econometrics of Financial Markets*. You will have to use your maths, stats and programming skills, acquired in term 1, for those more subject specialist core modules.

In term 3, you have three options to complete the Masters.

#### **Option 1:** Electives.

You can complete your studies by taking 5 x 10 credit specialist elective modules. Those electives are being chosen from a large pool of electives being most suitable for

the MSc Quantitative Finance.

**Option 2: Business Research Project**

A 'Business Research Project' with a credit value of 40 and a maximum of 10,000 words, plus one 10 credit elective.

**Option 3: Applied Research Project**

An Applied Research Project with a credit value of 20 credits and a maximum of 5000 words, plus three 10 credit electives forms the third route.

Aims

The aim of the programme is to produce an informed, knowledgeable, confident individual who can interact with non-specialist and work in teams. We would expect that the individual can work under pressure and has obtained the skills required to be successful in the global financial world. This contributes to the University's strategic aim of providing high quality education which makes a significant contribution to the success of London as a world city and enhances its international scope and reputation.

Throughout the course, where possible, lecturers will emphasise the many ethical issues that arise in the context of finance, trading and generally working in the financial environment. In doing so you will be encouraged to share your views with your lecturers and with your class mates, where a diversity of opinion is to be welcomed and encouraged.

The programme aims:

- To develop a good knowledge and understanding in the statistical techniques, and methodologies used in various areas of quantitative finance such as valuating, modelling and management.
- To develop a good understanding of the importance of forecasting in the decision making process required in financial market.
- To help you in acquiring the theoretical foundations of finance and the statistical skills needed to pursue successful careers in quantitative areas of finance, including quantitative analysts, risk management, asset management, pricing financial assets or other specialist tasks.
- To help you to work in teams, to manage projects and to compile reports.
- To help you in understanding the links between the theoretical frameworks of their practical applications.

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## **WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?**

**On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:**

### Knowledge and understanding:

- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and understanding of the financial markets and products, their risk and returns characteristics and their use in hedging and speculation.
- Obtain the knowledge of understanding the theory and theoretical developments in the field of finance, econometrics, forecasting, asset valuation with practical applications
- Demonstrate a rigorous knowledge and understanding of the existing valuation models used in finance, their assumptions, their weakness, an ability to propose efficient alternatives and their applications
- Demonstrate understanding of the use and importance of statistics and forecasting in asset pricing, asset management and risk management

### Skills:

- Conduct research into quantitative areas of finance, such as pricing financial assets, risk management, asset management as well as the use and applications of sophisticated statistics applied to different problems in finance.
- Apply the financial theory and use statistics to help in understanding how the theory complies to data.
- Collect data, work with data and to be able to use specialist software in analysing data, including programming.
- Communicate technical information to a non-specialist audience
- Apply the knowledge acquired in the programme to test theoretical models and to understand how the theory works in practice.
- Advise on the use of financial securities or statistical techniques by institutional investors such as banks, asset management companies or financial companies in general for conducting their business
- Critically analyse existing valuation models and to apply sophisticated statistics in testing the validity of the models.

- Carry out independent research work leading to the write a clear, well-structured and well-argued reports
- Work effectively in groups to manage projects.

Values and attitudes:

- Understand the relationship between risk and return
- Appreciate the importance of financial risk and ways how to measure risk and deal with it.
- Appreciate the importance of programming in quantitative finance
- Appreciate the use of statistics and mathematics in financial modelling

This programme has been developed in accordance with the QAA Subject Benchmark for Business and Management

### **HOW WILL I LEARN?**

Teaching and learning methods include the opportunity for you to apply your knowledge and expertise to problems beyond those generally encountered. A range of teaching and learning strategies are used to help you meet the different learning outcomes and to cater for the varied backgrounds and experiences.

- Lectures and directed reading are used to you to achieve an understanding of the current level of knowledge in the relevant areas.
- Mini case studies, the use of specialist software package, problem sheets and real life projects as well as contributions from outside speakers and visiting lecturers are used to achieve integration between theory and practice.
- Substantial pieces of individual work such as a Business Research Project or Applied Research Report will provide you with the opportunity to acquire research and report writing skills on an individual basis and you will also work in small groups in order to benefit from peer interaction.

The assessment of the course will also support your learning:

- Coursework provides ongoing feedback on your programme. It allows very often the interaction between theory and real work data.
- Tests will assess the knowledge gained.
- Examinations provide a more in-depth assessment of knowledge gained and also assesses your problem solving abilities.

The MSc in Quantitative Finance is designed and structured to allow for intellectual progression through core modules taught in terms 1 and 2. Modules taught in term 2 normally build on the knowledge and skill acquired in term 1. Term three allows for further progression by choosing specialist elective modules or a dissertation/project, where you can apply knowledge and skills acquired earlier in the programme.

A minimum of 10 teaching and learning hours (both contact and non-contact) are required for each credit awarded. The precise weighting of different types of teaching and learning depends on the modules you take and the breakdown is therefore provided within the appropriate module specifications.

Non-contact hours are for self-directed study and account for the **minimum** amount of time you should spend studying independently, including subject research, reading, working in groups and completing assignments and other homework.

**Overall teaching and learning hours: approx 1800 hours**

**Contact hours: approx 360 hours**

## **WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?**

### Assessment and Assessment Criteria

This programme is assessed by coursework and examinations and applies standard MSc grade related criteria.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade- Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

### Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy and will be provided in a variety of ways throughout your course, both formally and informally, in order to support your learning.

You will normally be provided with coursework feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. The timescale for feedback on final projects or dissertations may be longer. Examination grades will be provided once they have been agreed by an Assessment Board.

More details about the feedback you can expect from individual modules and assessments will be provided by your lecturers.

The full policy can be found at:

[https://www.city.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/68921/assessment\\_and\\_feedback\\_policy.pdf](https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68921/assessment_and_feedback_policy.pdf)

### Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits. The programme is weighted according to the number of credits awarded for each module. Pass / Fail modules are excluded from this calculation.

The pass mark for each module is 50% and there are no minimum qualifying marks for individual components.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

1. Compensation: where you fail up to a total of 20 credits at first or resit attempt (15 for a postgraduate certificate), you may be allowed compensation if:
  - Compensation is permitted for the module involved (see the “What will I Study” section of the programme specification), and
  - It can be demonstrated that you have satisfied all the Learning Outcomes of the modules in the Programme, and
  - A minimum overall mark of no more than 10% below the module pass mark has been achieved in the module to be compensated, and
  - An aggregate mark of 50% has been achieved overall.

Where you are eligible for compensation at the first attempt, this will be applied in the first instance rather than offering a resit opportunity.

If you receive a compensated pass in a module you will be awarded the credit for that module. The original component marks will be retained in the record of marks and your original mark shall be used for the purpose of your award calculation.

2. Re-Sit: where you are not eligible for compensation at the first attempt you will normally be offered one re-sit attempt.

If you are successful in the re-sit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a re-sit will be capped at the

pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the component(s) that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the pass requirements for a module and do not complete your re-sit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:

[http://www.city.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/word\\_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc](http://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc)

## WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

### Master's Degree:

	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>
Degree	7	180	100

<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
With Distinction	70
With Merit	65
Without classification	50

### Postgraduate Diploma:

You must achieve 120 credits with a minimum mark of 50%.

	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>
Degree	7	120	100

<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
With Distinction	70
With Merit	65
Without classification	50

If you are joining the programme mid-cycle as part of a dual degree programme, where modules are exempted from term one, credit for the exempted modules will be added to your student record (further details on assessment rules and regulations and calculations of awards will be available in the course / student handbook).

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The programme is taught over three terms. You must complete five core modules in term one, four core modules in term two, and either five elective modules, a Business Research Project and one elective, or three elective modules and an Applied Research Project in term three.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
Applied Research Tools (Matlab and VBA Programming)	SMM277	10	C	Y	7
Asset Pricing	SMM265	15	C	Y	7
Derivatives	SMM254	15	C	Y	7
Stochastic Modelling Methods in Finance	SMM302	15	C	Y	7
Foundation of Econometrics	SMM270	15	C	Y	7
Fixed Income	SMM269	15	C	Y	7
Risk Analysis	SMM272	15	C	Y	7
Econometrics of Financial Markets	SMM271	15	C	Y	7
Numerical Methods: Applications	SMM313	15	C	Y	7
Business Research Project	SMM527	40	C	N	7
Applied Research Project	SMM799	20	E	N	7
Behavioural Finance	SMM274	10	E	Y	7
Hedge Funds	SMM121	10	E	Y	7
Intro to Python	SMM283	10	E	Y	7
Investment Strategy	SMM140	10	E	Y	7
Technical Analysis and Trading Systems	SMM529	10	E	Y	7
Trading and Hedging in the Forex Market	SMM620	10	E	Y	7
VBA with Applications to Finance	SMM238	10	E	Y	7

During term three you will be able to choose from a range of electives to personalise your experience.

This list of electives is an indication of the range of modules that can be on offer and is subject to change due to circumstances such as: enhancing or updating the quality and

content of educational provision; responding to student feedback; academic staffing changes; the number of students in each programme; a lack of student demand for certain modules; or factors beyond the institution's reasonable control, such as meeting the latest requirements of a commissioning or accrediting body. For these reasons, not all the electives listed will be offered every year. New (additional or replacement) modules may also be added for these reasons.

There may also be pre-requisites for joining a module, and space and timetable availability restrictions may also apply.

The list of electives offered in a given year will be confirmed by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?**

<http://www.cass.city.ac.uk/more-about-cass/careers-services> - **Careers Service**

Students from this programme have entered various careers often in quantitative roles of finance where skills covered on this programmes are required. Those companies could be large financial institutions (i.e. investment banks) or smaller specialist finance companies (i.e. hedge funds). The career opportunities are similar to the ones from the MSc Mathematical Trading and Finance.

<http://www.cass.city.ac.uk/more-about-cass/alumni-services> - **Alumni Service**

#### **WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?**

Placements are not an official part of the programme. However, there are opportunities for students to write their Business Research Report as part of a company sponsored project.

#### **HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?**

To be accepted on to a Cass MSc degree you will need a good Bachelors degree. This usually means a UK 2.1 or above, or the equivalent from an overseas institution. Some level of previous study in the specific subject area may be required.

Applicants will need to submit two references, one of which must be an academic reference if the candidate does not have previous work experience. Previous work experience is not a requirement of our full time MSc courses.

We require all students who have not previously studied at in English to take an IELTS exam. The IELTS requirement is 7.0 with a minimum of 6.5 in writing.

Version 5.0

Version date: February 2017

For use from: 2017-18