



Undergraduate Programme Specification

Session	2025/26	Last Modified	11/07/2025
Named Award Title	BA (Hons) Business & Finance Single		
Award Title for Each Award	BA (Hons) Business & Finance BA Business & Finance Dip HE Business Cert HE Business		
Date of Approval			
Details of Cohort Applies to			
Awarding Institution	University of the West of Scotland	Teaching Institution(s)	University of the West of Scotland
Language of Instruction & Examination		English	
Award Accredited by		Chartered Institute of Management Accountants	
Maximum Period of Registration		Normally 4 years for Full Time; 8 years for Part Time	
Duration of Study			
Full-time	Full Time	Part-time	Part-time
Placement (compulsory)	None		
Mode of Study	☒ Full-time ☒ Part-time		
Campus	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)
School	Business and Creative Industries		
Divisional Programme Board	Accounting Finance Law		
Programme Leader	Nasir Kolade		

Admissions Criteria

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admission requirements of the University of the West of Scotland as specified in Chapter 2 of the University Regulatory Framework together with the following programme requirements:

SQA National Qualifications:

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admission requirements of the University of the West of Scotland as specified in Chapter 2 of the University Regulatory Framework together with the following requirements:

SQA National Qualifications:

Grades BBBB @ Higher including English. Mathematics at least at standard grade.

Or GCE

GCE Equivalents are accepted.

Or SQA National Qualifications / Edexcel Foundation

An appropriate HNC/HND award in a suitable subject area commensurate with the programme being followed, with the level of entry and/or credit being awarded being subject to the content of the HN programme.

Other Required Qualifications/Experience

Applicants may also be considered with other academic, vocational or professional qualifications deemed to be equivalent.

Direct Entry is possible to the Business & Finance programme at SCQF Levels 8 and 9, with the necessary qualifications or pre-requisites. Support arrangements are in place to assist the integration of those students joining the programme in this way.

An applicant whose qualifications do not conform to the general entrance requirements but who presents other evidence which indicates an interest in personal educational advancement and an aptitude for academic study at the level concerned may be admitted to a programme of study at the discretion of the University. School Admissions Officers, Central Admissions Staff or Education Guidance Advisors will assess potential entry qualifications and their suitability for individual programmes of study. Guidance on qualifications can be found in UCAS publications on UK and International Qualifications. Students may be offered a programme of study that includes pre-sessional English language training in addition to their formal academic programme. The University also subscribes to the National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC) which provides definitive information on the equivalence of international qualifications in relation to those of the UK.

See University Regulations 2.12 for English Language Requirements and 2.13 to 2.25 for Recognition of Prior Learning and Recognition for Credit. See 2.26 to 2.36 for Admission with Prior Learning.

To support the admission of students from a wide and diverse backgrounds, UWS considers a range of additional contextual indicators as a means of assessing candidates suitability for entry to programmes. For example, applicants who have care experience; applicants that live in priority postcode such as SIMD 20/40; applicants that are progressing from Schools for Higher Education or similar; and applicants that have successfully completed access and participation programmes (see UWS website for Admissions procedure).

Further desirable skills pre-application

None

General Overview

Students studying for a single title in Business & Finance are expected to achieve all the learning outcomes in this programme specification.

The programme is one of four pathways that students can follow:

BA (Hons) Business

BA (Hons) Business & Finance

BA (Hons) Business & HRM

BA (Hons) Business & Marketing

Each pathway is developed around the core BA (Hons) Business, but each pathway will offer its own distinct core modules which will differentiate them from each other. A key component of the programmes and their Unique Selling Point (USP) is that each will offer professional institute exemptions or recognition. Every degree within the pathway will allow students either to gain an institute qualification whilst studying or on completion of their degree opportunities to claim exemption(s) from key institute examinations.

The degrees have been designed to deliver up to date practical and professional skills, underpinned by appropriate academic theory which will produce 21st century graduates who are ready for the workplace; or who, where appropriate can expand their education into post graduate studies.

Each programme develops the students' intellectual and imaginative understanding and judgement, the ability to resolve problems effectively and the ability to recognise the relevance of a wide variety of approaches fundamental to business. Each programme will engender an analytical and creative approach, encourage independent judgement and critical self-awareness all directed towards continual improvement in the business and/or pathway sector.

In addition, each programme provides students with opportunities to acquire and develop generic and specialist transferable skills relevant to their chosen career paths.

On completion of an Honours degree, graduates may follow a variety of routes at post-graduate level both within the University and elsewhere. Many may pursue professional qualifications in their chosen specialist area of study.

Students taking a degree in any of the pathways, will follow a common framework with pathway specialist modules. In agreement with their PL students will have the opportunity at levels 8, 9 and 10 to select any available modules at the University of the West of Scotland. Individual modules will normally offer a blend of lecture, tutorial, presentations, practical session, workshops and/or site visit. Lectures are used to introduce and develop the principles of the subject areas, while tutorial and practical sessions are used to confirm and enhance the understanding of the material presented in lectures. The classes are divided into smaller groups for tutorial and practical work to allow greater interaction between students and tutors. Assessment methods include formal examination, academic essays, formal reports, seminar discussion, participation and presentation of papers and preparation of business and project plans. Specific assessment methods are detailed in the module descriptors. Skills are developed through practical workshops, seminar discussions, industry visits, interactive group exercises, case study analysis and feedback. Professional Practice Skills are achieved through case study analysis, scenario development, role play and practical demonstration, guided practice of relevant techniques and behaviour. Achievement of such skills is assessed through a variety of means including but not limited to coursework, tutorial participation and presentations. Transferable skills are developed through; for example, group working interaction and team leadership exercises. Ability to the use of IT is developed through tutorial

and seminar work and directed self-study. Assessment techniques used to gauge attainment of transferable skills include personal projects, individual and group assessments, presentations and interaction in class.

The programme will be structured over the 4 academic years each of which will follow a common conceptual approach:

1st years – Introductory Year

2nd year - Operational Year

3rd year – Managerial Year

4th year – Strategic Year

Typical Delivery Method

The BA (Hons) Business with Finance program is offered on campus, creating an immersive and engaging learning environment. Full-time students can anticipate 3 hours of contact time per module each week, typically enrolling in three modules each term. This structure enables students to establish a solid foundational knowledge and engage thoroughly with the course content, bolstered by face-to-face interactions with faculty and peers. The on-campus format ensures students benefit from a collaborative learning experience and have immediate access to campus resources, enhancing their understanding and application of key business and marketing concepts..

Any additional costs

None

Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning

Learning outcomes throughout the programme have been designed to ensure that, in addition to the development of knowledge and understanding of the business and its components, students will have the opportunity to develop these skills and attributes that are most valued by employers. The programmes have employability embedded into the core curriculum, thereby ensuring that all students are exposed to the development of their key skills and have the opportunity to reflect on their own personal development. Employability skills development is continually reinforced throughout the programme.

Although the general policy is that PDP should be embedded into the curriculum, it is also proposed that Personal Development Planning should be supported by students' reflection on key points within the programme. A diagnostic on-line toolkit will be used to enable students to self diagnose abilities in areas such as numeracy, languages, study skills, writing skills, time management skills etc.

Our Graduates

The University puts you, the future graduate, at the heart of everything that it does. The BA (Hons) Business & Finance programme has been designed to ensure that you, on completion of your degree, have all the necessary attributes required of a modern graduate in a professional workplace.

Your modules are designed to develop a range of skills that are academic (developing your knowledge, skills and abilities to a high-level for academic study), personal (ensuring that your qualities and characteristics result in you being a well-rounded, developed, responsible individual, both in the workplace and in life), and professional (developing the range of skills that you need in a modern and constantly changing working environment). These are the keystones in modern business and finance.

Your modules, both in terms of content and assessment, are professionally focussed to develop:

Your academic skills (critical thinking, analysing, inquiring, improving knowledge, being digitally literate, problem solving, autonomy, being incisive and being innovative);

Your personal skills (being emotionally intelligent, being ethically-minded, being culturally aware, communicating effectively, being influential, being motivated, being creative, being imaginative and being resilient), and;
Your professional skills (collaborating, being research-minded, being socially responsible, becoming a potential leader, being enterprising, being ambitious, being driven, being daring, and being transformative).

Work Based Learning/Placement Details

Representatives from, Chartered Institute of Securities and Investment, The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) regularly provide sessions on personal development and employability. Graduates may also return to UWS to complete Accounting and Finance modules to gain further professional exemptions.

Attendance and Engagement

In line with the [Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure](#), Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this programme, academic engagement equates to the following:

- Attendance at taught classes must be in excess of 75%, except in cases of illness and other authorised absence
- Students must engage with non-classroom based activity at least once per week on average (e.g. accessing Moodle or Library resources)
- Submission of all assessments, except in case of extenuating circumstances

For the most recent Academic Engagement Procedure (Sep 2020) see <https://www.uws.ac.uk/media/6473/academic-engagement-procedure-061020.pdf>

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: [UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code](#).

Professional Services and the School's Disability Coordinators ensure that students receive adequate academic support. For students with disability needs, materials are available in advance of classes via MyUWS/Moodle sites in formats that ensure the University's Equality and Diversity policies are met.

Programme structures and requirements, SCQF level, term, module name and code, credits and awards ([Chapter 1, Regulatory Framework](#))

Learning Outcomes

SCQF LEVEL 7	
Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	
A2	
A3	
A4	
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	
B2	
B3	
B4	
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	
C2	
C3	
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	
D2	
D3	
D4	
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	
E2	
E3	
E4	
E5	

Level 7 Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☒	☐	
				☐	☒	☐	
				☒	☐	☐	
				☒	☐	☐	
				☒	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Level 7 Modules**OPTION**

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 7**Criteria for Progression and Award**

Please refer to [UWS Regulatory Framework](#) for related regulations

SCQF LEVEL 8	
Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate an understanding of the scope, defining features, and key areas of business and finance.
A2	Demonstrate a discerning understanding of a range of core theories, concepts, principles and terminology relating to business and finance.
A3	Demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the legal implications associated with the business and finance sectors.
A4	N/A
A5	N/A
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Apply knowledge, skills and understanding in using a range of professional skills, techniques, practices and materials associated with the business and/or finance sectors, some of which are more advanced.
B2	Apply knowledge, skills and understanding to some professional level problems and issues.
B3	N/A
B4	N/A
B5	N/A
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced skills associated with business and/or finance to convey some complex information for a range of purposes.
C2	Use a range of standard ICT applications to process data.
C3	N/A
C4	N/A
C5	N/A
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Undertake some critical analysis and/or synthesis of ideas, concepts, information and issues that are within the common understandings of the business and/or finance sectors.
D2	Use a range of approaches to formulate and evaluate routine problems and issues.
D3	N/A
D4	N/A
D5	N/A
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Exercise autonomy and initiative in some activities with appropriate guidance.
E2	Take continuing account of own and others' roles, responsibilities and contributions in carrying out and evaluating tasks.
E3	Systematically identify and address own learning needs

E4	N/A
E5	N/A

Level 8 Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
8	ACCT08019	Financial Management for Business	20	☒	☐	☐	
8	ACCT08021	Introduction to Investment	20	☒	☐	☐	
8	BUSN08062	Creating Sustainable Business	20	☒	☐	☐	
8	ACCT08022	Business Law	20	☐	☒	☐	
8	ACCT08013	Business Statistics	20	☐	☒	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Level 8 Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
8	BUSN08066	Workplace Health and Wellbeing	20	☐	☒	☐	
8	BUSN08067	Business Information Technology	20	☐	☒	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 8

Criteria for Progression and Award

Please refer to [UWS Regulatory Framework](#) for related regulations

Criteria for Progression and Award

Students obtaining 240 credits of which at least 90 are at SCQF8 or above from any programme are eligible for the exit award of the Diploma of Higher Education in Business.

For information on progression with credit deficit please refer to University Regulations 3.13 to 3.14.

For information on Grade Point Average please refer to University Regulations 3.18 to 3.19.

For information on Distinctions please refer to University Regulations 3.25 to 3.26.

SCQF LEVEL 9	
Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate and work with an understanding of the scope and defining features of business with finance, and an integrated knowledge of the key areas and boundaries.
A2	Demonstrate a critical understanding of a range of the principles, principal theories, concepts and terminology relating to risk in financial services, the global financial compliance, and the financial sector within business.
A3	Demonstrate a critical awareness of the role and purpose of research and research methods.
A4	N/A
A5	N/A
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Apply knowledge, skills and understanding in using a range of the principal professional skills, techniques, practices and materials that are specialised and/or advanced in relation to business and/or finance.
B2	Use skills, techniques, practices and materials that are specialised and/or advanced.,
B3	Demonstrate an ability to practise in a range of professional level contexts.
B4	N/A
B5	N/A
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Use a wide range of routine and some advanced and specialised skills relating to the business and/or finance.
C2	Use a range of ICT applications to support and enhance work.
C3	N/A
C4	N/A
C5	N/A
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Undertake a degree of critical analysis, evaluation and/or synthesis of ideas, concepts, information and issues relating to business and/or finance.
D2	Draw on a range of sources in making judgements.
D3	N/A
D4	N/A
D5	N/A
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Work in groups or teams as a participant in a way that contributes effectively to the group's tasks.
E2	Interact effectively with others.
E3	N/A
E4	N/A
E5	N/A

Level 9 Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
9	ACCT09017	Risk in Financial Services	20	☐	☒	☐	
9	ACCT09016	Global Financial Compliance	20	☒	☐	☐	
9	ACCT09005	Management Accounting 3	20	☒	☐	☐	
9	ACCT09010	Research Design & Methods	20	☐	☒	☐	
9	ACCT09018	Financial & Banking Markets	20	☒	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Level 9 Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
9	ACCT09092	Project Management		☐	☒	☐	
9	BUSN09042	Enterprise Creation		☐	☒	☐	
9				☐	☒	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 9

Criteria for Progression and Award

Please refer to [UWS Regulatory Framework](#) for related regulations

Students who obtain at least 360 credits, including all core modules, of which a minimum of 90 are at least SCQF9, are able to progress to Year 4; or can exit with the BA Business & Finance, should they choose not to progress to Year 4.

The award of distinction can be made to a student obtaining a pass degree as stated in the University Regulations 3.25 to 3.26.

For information on Grade Point Average please refer to University Regulation 3.18 to 3.19.

SCQF LEVEL 10	
Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding that covers and integrates most of the principal areas, boundaries, terminology and conventions that relate to business and/or finance.
A2	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the principal theories, concepts and principles relating to business and/or finance.
A3	Demonstrate an understanding of how the business and finance sectors have developed, including a range of established techniques of enquiry or research methodologies
A4	N/A
A5	N/A
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Apply detailed knowledge, skills and understanding in using a wide range of the principal skills, techniques, practices and/or materials associated with the business and finance sectors
B2	Apply knowledge, skills and understanding in using a few skills, techniques, practices and/or materials that are specialised, advanced and/or at the forefront of the business and/or finance sectors.
B3	N/A
B4	N/A
B5	N/A
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills in support of established practices in relation to business and/or finance to convey information about specialised topics.
C2	Communicate with peers at a professional level.
C3	Use a range of ICT applications to support and enhance work at this level.
C4	Interpret, use and evaluate a range of numerical and/or graphical data to set and achieve goals/targets for research purposes.
C5	N/A
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Critically identify, define, conceptualise and analyse complex or professional problems and issues.
D2	Offer professional insights, interpretations and solutions to problems and issues.
D3	Demonstrate some originality and creativity in dealing with professional issues.
D4	N/A
D5	N/A
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Exercise autonomy and initiative in completing professional or equivalent activities.
E2	Exercise responsibility for the work of others and for a range of resources.

E3	Practise in ways that show awareness of own and others' roles and responsibilities.
E4	N/A
E5	N/A

Level 10 Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
10	BUSN10086	Honours Project	40	☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Level 10 Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
10	ACCT10014	Finance in a Digital World	20	☒	☐	☐	
10	ACCT10015	Accounting & Society	20	☐	☒	☐	
10	ACCT10021	Sustainable Finance	20	☒	☐	☐	
10	BUSN10076	Enterprise with Creative Media	20	☐	☒	☐	
10	BUSN10079	The Common Good	20	☐	☒	☐	
10	ACCT10016	Personal Finance	20	☐	☒	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 10

Criteria for Award

Please refer to [UWS Regulatory Framework](#) for related regulations

Criteria for Award

Students obtaining 480 credits, with a minimum of 200 in the subject at SCQF 9 and SCQF 10, of which a minimum of at least 90 are at SCQF level 10, are eligible for the exit award of BA (Hons) Business & Finance.

For information on the award of Honours classification please refer to University Regulations 3.20 to 3.24.

For information on Grade Point Average please refer to University Regulations 3.18 to 3.19.

