

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Masters Degree programme, Postgraduate Diploma and Certificate in Accounting and Financial Management**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2018**.

The aims of this Masters programme are:

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

The programme 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 two mandatory courses in accounting: the mandatory courses in International Financial Accounting and International Management Accounting (each worth 30 credits) in the autumn and the dissertation and Dissertation Preparation (together worth 60 credits). In addition, each student will take three options in the spring term (each worth 20 credits).

Further information

[Learning outcomes](#)

[Teaching, learning and assessment](#)

[Details of the programme structure\(s\)](#)

[Award Requirements](#)

[Student support and guidance](#)

[Admission requirements](#)

[Further learning and career opportunities](#)

[Indicators of quality and standards](#)

[List of programmes, with details of awards, degree titles, accreditation and teaching arrangements](#)

This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme(s), and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

### Learning outcomes

Teaching and learning in the programme are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

- an analytical and practical understanding of accounting and financial management;
- a thorough grounding in advanced financial accounting and accounting-related corporate governance;
- a thorough grounding in advanced management accounting and accounting-related management control;
- a thorough grounding in financial management and finance related topics
- a profound grasp of important matters in sustainability and accounting and in corporate social responsibility (for those who choose this option);

- an advanced appreciation of rapidly developing issues of communication and impression management in accounting (for those who choose this option);
- advanced knowledge and understanding of major current issues in contemporary accounting research (for those who choose this option);
- advanced understanding of management research methods, including underlying assumptions, ethical considerations and practical factors in their application.

#### *Skills and other attributes*

- an ability to place accounting in its broader context;\*
- the facility to evaluate and employ a variety of accounting-based techniques;\*
- an ability to assess the implications of accounting policies and frameworks in the context of sustainability and social responsibility (for those who take the Sustainability and Accounting option);\*
- an aptitude for decoding the broader messages in financial reporting documents (for those who take the Creative Accounting and Impression Management option);\*
- an awareness of comparative issues in international accounting across countries (for who take the Comparative International Accounting option);
- a capacity to distinguish between a range of theoretical frameworks in contemporary accounting research (for those who take the Contemporary Accounting Research option);\*
- an ability to evaluate critically the relevant academic literature;\*
- a capacity to employ different research methodologies, and to undertake research into international accounting in society and organizations;\*
- a range of skills in writing, analytical and numerical work, presentations, group work and IT.\*

\* *transferable skills*

[Back to top](#)

#### **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 three-hour examinations for the taught courses, worth 60% of the final mark for each course. Course assignments (ranging from essays, reports, case studies and assessed presentations, depending on the course) produce 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](#).

[Back to top](#)

#### **Details of the programme structure(s)**

The duration of the full time programme 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 MN5555 *Foundations of Modern Management* is offered as an integral, though non-assessed, part of the programme for Master's students at the School of Management.

The brief outline of the programme is shown below; however students can obtain further details from the Handbook. Where weightings are indicated in brackets, these refer to weightings within the MSc PG Dip and PG Cert classification grade. Students are required to pass courses worth 120 credits for the PG Dip. The programme structure for the PG Dip is as below, with the exception that students will not undertake the dissertation, while for the Postgraduate Certificate, students are required to pass courses worth only 60 credits.

The programme includes two mandatory courses, which are delivered during the Autumn term. In the Spring term, students must choose two courses from a range of elective courses. Students will also study a mandatory course on research methods to support the writing of a dissertation over the summer.

#### *Optional Induction week course*

MN5555 *Foundations of Modern Management*

#### *Mandatory courses*

MN5901 Financial Accounting and Reporting (20 Credits)

MN5902 Management Accounting for Decision-making (20 Credits)

MN5908 Foundations in Financial Management (20 Credits)

MN5445 Dissertation Preparation and Research Methods (20 Credits) (mandatory non-condonable)

MN5906 Dissertation in an accounting-related area (40 Credits) (mandatory non-condonable)

#### *Elective courses (students must choose three from the following, subject to availability):*

MN5903 Sustainability and Accounting (20 Credits)

MN5904 Creative Accounting and Impression Management (20 Credits)

MN5905 Contemporary Accounting Research (20 credits)

MN5907 Comparative International Accounting (20 Credits)

MN5909 Topics in Finance and Investment Management (20 Credits)

Please note that not all courses run each year. A full list of courses including optional courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the [Department](#).

#### Part-time programme structure

The programme can be taken part-time over two to five years beginning in September of year one. Part-time students studying over two years normally take MN5901, MN5902, MN5908 in their first year, and MN 5445 and optional courses in their second year. Students who take courses over more than two years should discuss with the department the order in which to take mandatory and optional courses. The dissertation/ project is normally taken in the final year of study.

#### Examination details and dates

Examinations will be held in the summer term (normally May).

The Dissertation is submitted at the end of the academic year (the beginning of September).

[Back to top](#)

#### **Progression and award requirements**

All students on the MSc programme will be eligible to submit a dissertation. Students who have failed a number of taught courses are to be counselled by the Programme Director whether progressing to the dissertation stage is likely to be in their best interest.

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 end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

#### **Requirements for the award of Master of Science, Postgraduate Diploma and Certificate and Graduate Diploma**

Please consult the Postgraduate Taught Regulations for progression and award requirements: <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/staff/teaching/aqpo/academic-regulations-and-policies/academic-regulations.aspx>

[Back to top](#)

### **Student support and guidance**

- Dissertation Supervisors. All students are allocated a Supervisor who is available by appointment. The Supervisor's role is to advise on the Dissertation.
- Programme Director.
- Staff will be available via their e-mail addresses, which are published on the web.
- Detailed student handbook and course resources will be available both in the Management Office and on the dedicated website.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources are available in College libraries and via Moodle.
- The College Careers Service and School Careers Service Liaison Officer can offer individual careers advice and support.
- Students have access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, the Centre for the Development of Academic Studies (CeDAS), Health Centre and Disability and Dyslexia Services for students with additional needs.
- The Postgraduate Staff-student committee meets three times per year with elected representatives from all Management postgraduate courses. Minutes of these meetings are posted in the School and communicated by e-mail.

[Back to top](#)

### **Admission requirements**

For details of admissions requirements please refer to the [Course Finder](#).

[Back to top](#)

### **Further learning and career opportunities**

The programme will offer an internationally focused and theoretical grounding in various aspects of accounting which would benefit students intending to work in accounting, business and management, in the for-profit, not-for-profit and public sectors. Areas of subsequent employment might, for example, include private companies, charities or arts administration. A PhD in Accounting would be a natural progression for those interested in pursuing further research, for which good supervision is available within the School. The Management School at Royal Holloway has a strong research culture and a growing number of M Phil and PhD students. For more details on further learning and career opportunities please refer to the [Careers Service](#).

[Back to top](#)

### **Indicators of quality and standards**

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The scoring system for the REF 2014 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4\* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour and 3\* indicating research that is internationally excellent. 81% of the College's research profile was deemed to be within the 4\* or 3\* categories, an increase of over 20% since 2008. The results for the quality of our research outputs placed Royal Holloway 15<sup>th</sup> in the UK based on an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) score and 20<sup>th</sup> in the UK for 4\* and 3\* research. The School of Management is ranked 14<sup>th</sup> out of 101 Business and Management Schools in the United Kingdom for the quality of research outputs, based on both GPA and on the proportion of our research that is of 3\* and 4\* quality. Several of the lecturers in the programme have direct links to practice in accounting and financial management through participation in standard setting, regulatory, and corporate governance practices.

[Back to top](#)

### **List of programmes with details of awards, teaching arrangements and accreditation**

The programme is taught entirely by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and the Masters leads to an award of the University of London. The Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma lead to an award of Royal Holloway and Bedford New College. The Banner programme codes are given in parentheses.

#### **Masters Degree programme in Accounting and Financial Management**

MSc Accounting and Financial Management (3358)

#### **Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting and Financial Management**

PgDip Accounting and Financial Management (3359)

#### **Postgraduate Certificate in Accounting and Financial Management**

PgCert Accounting and Financial Management (3360)

#### **Graduate Diploma in Accounting and Financial Management (exit award only)**

Grad Dip Accounting and Financial Management

[Back to top](#)