

MSc in Professional Accounting

Course Aim and Title	MSc in Professional Accounting
Intermediate Awards Available	Postgraduate Certificate in Accounting Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting
Teaching Institution(s)	UEL
Alternative Teaching Institutions (for local arrangements see final section of this specification)	
UEL Academic School	Royal Docks School of Business & Law
UCAS Code	
Professional Body Accreditation	Chartered Institute of Management Accountant (CIMA)
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	Master's Degrees in Business and Management Type 1 Specialist
Additional Versions of this Course	N/A
Date Specification Last Updated	9 April 2019

Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

The MSc Professional Accounting is a specialist academic course developed around the professional level papers of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the ACA qualification from the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). It provides the opportunity to obtain a Master's degree which can lead to postgraduate employment whilst simultaneously preparing you for some examination papers at professional levels of relevant accountancy bodies. If students choose to take advantage of this "fast track" career development route towards a professional accounting qualification, they will be responsible for arranging and taking the relevant examination papers externally, as the accountancy bodies do not currently offer accredited exemptions from papers at professional level.

The course is based on the recognition that international and global accounting and finance skills are required in order for businesses to compete effectively and efficiently. The main emphasis is on strategic finance and management accounting. Students will be exposed to leading theoretical frameworks in Accounting, challenged to extract the practical applicability of such theory and to apply this to accounting practices and processes. The course is designed to offer specialist, holistic knowledge and understanding of accounting and finance in areas such as: Governance & Accountability; Business Strategy; Corporate Reporting; Advanced Auditing & Assurance; Advanced Taxation.

The MSc Professional Accounting is a flexible credit-based course leading towards a higher degree in accounting and finance with a strong focus of the application of theory to practice. The course:

- Offers the opportunity/choice to study for a postgraduate degree and simultaneously prepare for sitting externally, some of the professional level examination papers set by the ACCA and ICAEW.
- Offers an accelerated route to qualify for CIMA membership.
- Gives the opportunity for accounting practitioners to become familiar with current academic discourse and accounting and finance related research.
- Provides training in research methods and methodology; the underpinning research in accounting and finance will enable you to critically evaluate accounting and financial research literature and understand recent trends and new developments.
- Incorporates a distinctive skills curriculum that is designed to develop your interpersonal and transferable skills for work and life, enhancing your future career and employability prospects.
- Offers opportunities for further employment.
- Is available on a full time or part time mode of study to suit the needs of busy practitioners.
- Gives the option of interim awards at certificate and diploma level, if you do not wish to, or are unable to, complete the course.

What will students learn

This course is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Master the theoretical concepts, principles and techniques of Accounting and Finance and their role within organisations by exploring the balance between theory and practice.
- Explore how these concepts can be applied to a range of complex situations in practice, with the use of traditional and more sophisticated analytical tools, models and decision-making techniques to successfully operate as practitioners of Accounting and Finance;
- Acquire specialist analytical and research skills needed in Accounting and Finance related methods and strategies, either as an academic or as a practitioner;
- Equip you with the necessary knowledge and skills (including thinking and general skills) to achieve the appropriate level of postgraduate award and to continue your lifelong learning and career development

On successful completion of the course students will have:

Knowledge

- Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of accounting and finance concepts and techniques including current reporting standards and a range of contemporary issues
- An understanding of the application of accounting theories in the context of how they contribute to strategic financial decision-making, planning and control within business organisations.

- Enhanced knowledge of governance and risk in the context of ethics and social responsibility
- Applied knowledge of modern approaches to a range of complex business situations in practice.
- Critical awareness of the main accounting issues and their potential implications for financial management and stakeholder needs.
- Current developments, issues and debates in accounting and finance at both theoretical and applied levels

Thinking skills

- Develop analytical and numerical thinking skills
- Analyse and interpret data from collected research
- Critically evaluate relevant literature surrounding accounting issues
- Demonstrate competencies in critical and creative thinking to key issues

Subject-Based Practical skills

- Use ICT tools to search for, retrieve and analyse financial information
- Reflect on and evaluate accounting and financial data and information
- Select and apply appropriate financial tools and models to identify, diagnose and resolve financial and management accounting problems
- Possess a range of financial skills to become an effective financial manager with relevant knowledge of accounting and finance issues
- Complete a major problem-solving exercise either within a specific accounting area or a particular company

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- Communicate research findings in a clear and logical manner
- Work effectively and sensitively with peer's wither on an individual basis or in groups
- Develop capability for completing independent research within time constraints through management of own time and group time, where appropriate
- Enhance interpersonal and communications skills, including presentations and written reports
- Develop an aptitude for lifelong learning

Strengthen competence in lifelong learning and continuing professional development

Learning and Teaching

The proposed course incorporates a range of approaches to teaching and learning to take into consideration the variety of learning styles among students.

All modules consist of a combination of the following learning approaches: scheduled lectures and seminars which may include class discussions and debates, case studies, group work activities, presentations and legal problems based on written and audio-visual leaning materials. In order to support and complement the development of student's skills, selected Accounting professionals will be invited to provide guest

lectures on the course. There will be guided and independent learning activities such as the revision of lecture material; preparation for lectures, seminars; the completion of formative and summative assessments and guided and independent reading and research. Formative assessments will be designed to reflect the types of summative assessment which you will experience on each module and will be timed appropriately so that you receive feedback on the formative assignment in adequate time to use the feedback to improve their performance on the summative assignment.

Increased emphasis is placed on higher thinking skills, criticality and deeper learning. Teaching and learning activities are supported by the Moodle platform allowing students to access and engage with lecture notes, core and recommended reading materials, moderated online discussions and formative quizzes.

Teaching takes place in classrooms which are all equipped with computers and visualizers. Students will be able to access these facilities to practise their presentation skills in preparation for assessments. The course is designed to be highly participative and encourages the sharing of information, ideas, experiences and values.

Assessment

Students' progress in each individual module will be examined by at least one and a maximum of two assessment tasks. A range of different types of assessment will be used throughout the course to reflect the learning outcomes in each module and to assist in developing a range of skills – subject based, cognitive, transferable and lifelong skills.

Some assessments may require students to work individually or in groups and can include types of assessments such as essays, reports, case study analysis, time constrained assignments, presentations, closed book examinations etc. The form of assessment for each module will be identified in the module handbook at the beginning of each term.

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Course Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the course.

Course Structure

All courses are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 3 Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree course.
- 4 Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 5 Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 6 Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 7 Equivalent in standard to a Masters degree.

Courses are made up of modules that are each credit weighted.

The module structure of this course:

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Weighting	Core/Option	Available by Distance Learning? Y/N
7	AC7020	Strategic Business Leader	30	Core	N
7	AC7021	Strategic Business Reporting	30	Core	N
7	AC7232	Advanced Taxation	30	Core	N
7	AC7234	Advanced Auditing and Assurance	30	Core	N
7	HR7004	Professional Exchange: Mental Wealth and Applied Research	30	Core	N
7	SG7002	Applied Business Project	30	Core	N

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, in order to create the best learning experience.

Additional detail about the course module structure:

A core module for a course is a module which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award. An optional

module for a course is a module selected from a range of modules available on the course.

The overall credit-rating of this course is 180 credits. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit you have accumulated. You can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

Typical Duration

It is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period.

The expected duration of this course is one year full-time or two years part-time. There are two intake points, in October and in February.

A student cannot normally continue study on a course after three years of study in full time mode unless exceptional circumstances apply and extenuation has been granted.

The limit for completion of a course in part time mode is four years from first enrolment.

Further Information

More information about this course is available from:

- The UEL web site (www.uel.ac.uk)
- The course handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website)
- UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website)
- School web pages

All UEL courses are subject to thorough course approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our courses by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors.